

**ALBERT LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTA MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2017**

Meeting was called to start by Co-President Kim Castellano at 7:04 pm in the ALMS library.

I. **Welcome:**

Introduction of the 2017-2018 ALMS PTA executive board:

- Kim Castellano and Anne Todd, Co-Presidents
- Kamili Bell-Hill, Treasurer
- Kat LoConte, Secretary

Thank you to last year's board for all your hard work and dedication.

II. **Mission of the PTA:**

Collaboration, commitment, diversity, respect, accountability

- Why join?
 - Four main program areas:
 - Student and school success
 - Health and safety
 - Arts and culture
 - Advocacy
- ALMS PTA supports:
 - principal luncheon, book fairs, field trips, graduation, art/teacher nights, STEM events, teacher grants, health and safety issues, district support, parent workshop, etc.
- Volunteers needed for the following upcoming events/committees:
(sign-up sheets by the beverages table)
 - Book fair December 4-8th
 - STEM committee
 - Apparel sales
 - School beautification committee
 - Corporate fundraising
 - Advocacy
- Karaoke night is this Friday, 10/13, 7:00-9:00 pm. Tickets are available for sale during lunch as well as \$20 T-shirts

III. Committee reports

- Membership: Michelle Pottinger
 - This year's membership goal is to have 500 members
 - Currently, ALMS PTA has 315 members
 - Families can still join either by check and envelope or via link on ALMS' website, (no additional fee for online registration)

- PTA Council: Karen Selman
 - Mission comprises all New Rochelle schools and SEPTA
 - Topics this year include academics and formation of 2 committees:
 - health and safety committee - website to file an awareness/complaint is NRED Rescue.org
 - Long term solution for before/after school programs
 - Ken Valenti is the new PR representative for the school district. He welcomes pictures for any NR school events to post on the district e-newsletter, kindly email photos to kvalenti@nredlearn.org

- Board of Education: Tracy Hill
 - Health and safety/ recommending all schools have radon testing
 - Issued a resolution to protect the DACA "dreamers" will protect their personal information on school records
 - Mr. Williams came in to discuss how staff is hired, a lot of steps, and measures they take to keep a diverse staff

- Teacher Grant Committee: Sara Cremins and Randye Zerman
 - Granted \$4,500 last year to 14 different grant applications
 - Some programs include: inside scoop, happy healthy heart, ladybug cameras in art, rocket makers, academic support in special education classes, lego robotics, etc.
 - Four members on this committee; they will attend an upcoming faculty meeting to promote the grant application process and offer a coffee morning with applications in early November. All applications are due before December 3rd. On December 15th, the committee will meet to vote on awarding grants.
 - Hoping there will be \$6,000 to grant this year pending tonight's budget approval

- SEPTA: Jackie Spiegel
 - She encouraged anyone to reach out to her and/or SEPTA regardless of membership. She's willing to meet for coffee or chat.
 - Amy Goodwin is the interim active head, former Director of Special Education, Yvette Goorevitch, resigned.

- Don Johnson software package – a program, that can plug into Crome, for students with qualifying needs to read anything words/books/documents, including pictures, and helps with writing.

IV. Treasurer's report: Kamili Bell-Hill

- Projected budget review and actual budget review
- All revenue comes from fundraising (**save the date for March 14th: A Taste of New Rochelle**)
- Expenses, most line items stay the same each year
- Additional funding for highlighted programs: enrichment program for each grade, bonus faculty grant, outside equipment fund, school beautification project
- Motion, second, budget passed, no attendee said “nay”
- Every month there will be a budget review

V. Principal Barnes

- The goal is to start PTA meetings at 7:00 pm and end by 8:30 pm
- 2 staff members attended: Mr. Dan Goldberg and Mr. Pat Keevins, Assistant Principals
- Welcome- this is Principal Barnes' 5th year as principal at ALMS
- New this year are:
 - Schedule enhancements:
 - There are 3 houses in 6th grade, in 7th grade there becomes 4 houses (add Wykagyl), in 8th grade back to 3 clusters;
 - 8th grade has de-clustered to allow for advanced classes, meeting new friends, more opportunities
 - 7th grade, programming all students for studio in art (9th grade course) by having the students start at a 7th grade level for the first half of the school year and continue at an 8th grade level course level for the second half of the school year. This “frees up” students when in 9th grade with a lighter course load to proceed with more advanced course
 - 6th grade continues with Writers Workshop and Balance Literacy Components (I do, We do, You do) This familiar program among the 6th graders help with the culture shock of middle school
 - Color-code of core content areas (i.e. green folders and green notebooks for science, red folders and red notebooks for math, etc.)
 - Departmental work with Accountable Talk (high-leverage practice) - critical dialogue between teacher and student, students build off each other in thoughts and ideas

- Supporting faculty with newly acquired chrome books / working on having all staff attend professional development to have google classroom set up, etc.
- School vision and mission statements for ALMS, on Election Day, will work with staff to revise
- New floors in the gymnasium
- Listed the new district staff members, including Mr. Miller - district transportation director (half day bussing went a lot smoother than previous years)
- PBIS enhancements - Mr Goldberg spearheads:
 - Safe, Trustworthy, Accepting, Respectful
- Red Ribbon week: substance abuse awareness
- Nov 1 – Principal Barnes will be presenting at Board of Ed meeting and welcomes ALMS parents to be present and support his initiatives
- Partnerships with Stomp our Bullying, Stand Up, Be an Upstander, Change the Culture

VI. **Q&A session:**

- Progress reports are currently available on Home Access
- STAR reports should be online. If you have any questions, kindly start by emailing your child's counselor and cc Mr Keevins

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.