

**ALBERT LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PTA MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2018  
\*PROPOSED MINUTES\***  
*(Pending Approval at the next ALMS PTA Meeting)*

Meeting was called to start by Co-President Kim Castellano at 7:05 pm in the ALMS library.

**Welcome:**

Brief welcome and re-introduction of the 2017-2018 ALMS PTA executive board:

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

Approximately 70+ attendees.

I. **Principal Barnes:**

- Principal Barnes welcomed attendees and provided highlights of the topics he discussed with the students during Monday's ALMS Town Hall
  - i. Does any student not feel safe at ALMS?
  - ii. Upcoming events
  - iii. School safety – reviewed different procedures (lock down, lock out, etc.)
  - iv. Reviewed; When would ALMS call the New Rochelle Police Department?
  - v. Student Code of Conduct
  - vi. Hookah pen
  - vii. "See something, say something"
  - viii. Respect for all - what do the following mean: objectify, harass, intimidate
  - ix. Student rights, student responsibilities
  - x. Out of school suspension
  - xi. Behavior on a bus is an extension of the expected behavior in a classroom
  - xii. Community expectations
  - xiii. Review: This is what we do at ALMS ~ Character Education
    - Upstander, Stand Up!, goal setting, anti-bullying month, cause and effect of bullying, Red Ribbon Week and the dangers of substance abuse, "block it out" day regarding cell phone use, student elections, gratitude, Random Acts of Kindness, friendship and kindness

month, Power of Peace assembly, Rising STARS Club, HOPE's Door (discuss healthy relationships), New Ro Pride Day February 16<sup>th</sup>, emotional safety, difference between "ratting" and "reporting", confidential reporting system for both students and staff, making sure people know where you are, how to be helpful in a situation, and more...

xiv. He concluded with an "open mic" for the students. He will follow up on each question

## II. **PTA Co-Presidents report:**

- Apparel for sale:
  - i. \$15 #NewRoStrong t-shirts
  - ii. ALMS logo hats, water bottles, and magnets
- Volunteer sign-up sheets for Taste of New Rochelle, Science Fair, and various other committees were available
- 11/15/17 PTA minutes were approved and will be posted to the PTA website.
  
- **Committee Updates:**
  
- Board of Education: next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup>. February 8<sup>th</sup> will be a "community input forum" – suggestions on what should be written into next year's budget. A budget proposal is posted on their website. If you cannot attend this meeting, you can email your requests to the ALMS Co-Presidents.
  
- Nominating Committee – we need 3 PTA members on this committee. Election will occur during the February PTA meeting.
  
- PTA Grants have been awarded. During the February meeting, the co-chairs will present a list of the recipients.
  
- SEPTA: next meeting will be February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm in the NRHS Library. We are still seeking a Spanish speaking co-representative to work with Jackie Spiegel. The We Are One committee will be accepting nominations soon.
  
- Outdoor recess area survey: PTA has \$5,000 set aside for a grant to improve the outside recess area. Improvements will be made during Phase 3 of the Capital Improvement Project, scheduled for

this summer. Benches and bike racks are included in the Bond. In addition, a survey was distributed and tallied regarding additional equipment. Results:

- i. 75% replied "yes", improving the recess area will encourage students to go outside
  - ii. Most requested equipment: gaga pit, climbing structure, and tether ball
  - iii. Write ins included more benches and tables
  - iv. Next step will be to review the results with Principal Barnes and Director of Facilities, Carl Thurnau
- STEAM Committee: Science Festival, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the evening. This is a family event for all ages and interests. ALMS was one of very few schools in the country provided this grant. In addition, NR Fund for Excellence provided a grant for Math Night.
  - March 1<sup>st</sup>, NRHS Science Fair
  - ALMS PTA only fundraiser: Taste of New Rochelle, Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00 pm, adults only, at ALMS. This really fun event has approximately 15 New Rochelle restaurants providing delicious dishes while listening to a local jazz band. \$20 admission fee (online) or \$25 at the door.

### **III. Town Hall**

- Paul Warhit, Amy Moselhi, and Todd Kern, NR Board of Education Representatives joined ALMS parents and staff in a discussion on safety concerns and various New Rochelle leadership roles
- The board members opened the discussion by introducing themselves, commented that they are speaking as individuals and not on behalf of the Board of Education, and hope to offer clarification or insight on how the Board of Education works.
- Mr. Warhit started with commenting that the New Rochelle school system is excellent, and has a lot of improve
- Questions submitted via email prior to this meeting where asked first, followed by questions from attendees
- Dr. Osborne's role and several immediate priorities since joining New Rochelle's school district 3 years ago were explained
- The role differences between Administration and Board of Education representatives were discussed
- Policy vs. regulations were discussed

- A Task Force is being created within the community including Boys and Girls Club, My Brother's Keeper, Police Department, Criminal Justice, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm