

Huntington PTA Council: January 2012 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Bari Fehrs, Council President, at 9:53 am January 10, 2012.

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, approval of the minutes from the December 2011 meeting. A template for Council Delegate reports was distributed to better assist delegates. They can either use the form itself or use it as a guide.

Treasurer's report by Jen Reda, Council Treasurer, who states that expenses this month include deposits into a Sunshine Fund, a HFEE journal ad, and refreshments.

Superintendent's Update: Mr. Jim Polansky. The budget process is in full force. Information about state aid should be given to schools very soon and we will move from there. He will be available at each building's upcoming PTA meetings to answer questions and provide information. Mr. Polansky answered questions about the Triboro and Taylor laws. He also asks us to help spread the word about upcoming budget meetings. A post card with dates is to be sent out to all district residents.

Mr. Polansky discussed his position as a committee co-chair (with Dr. Shea, Superintendent of the South Huntington schools) on Huntington Station Action NOW. This will improve communication between the schools and the town. He has been working with Senator Marcellino regarding state mandates and which ones will have the greatest impact on our schools. Mr. Polansky also provided insight into how funding is determined (combined wealth ratio and assessed values).

President's report and announcements: Mrs. Fehrs discussed Governor Cuomo's State of the State address as well as the NY State PTA presidents response to it. He needs to be made aware of PTA's role in advocating for students. She suggests a letter writing campaign, to both the media and the politicians. The Governor can be emailed going to the NY State Government website.

Susan Ligefelter, of Long Island Blood Services, spoke about the Blood Drive on February 7th and how to increase the number of people donating. The location of the blood drive is to be announced, but it will either be at JAI or the High School.

Unit Reports: Reports of current events at each school are submitted by the Council Delegates and are on file with the Council Secretary.

District Reports:

Arts In Education: On Friday January 13th, there will be an author visit at Woodhull from the person that writes the "39 Clues" books. Other events are in the planning stages as well.

Booster Club: The Booster Club is encouraging new membership. The Trailer will be at winter concerts at Finely and the High School. A spring fundraiser is being discussed. More participation is needed.

HFEE: currently planning the gala January 20, 2012 at the Woodlands. Southdown Primary principal Michelle Marino is to be honored. Accepting money today for tickets. Any schools that did not turn in their raffle baskets, need to do so as soon as possible.

Final Business:

Syosset High School will be holding a symposium on teenagers and the abuse of prescription medications on January 26th. More information will be made available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45. The next meeting is February 7th, at 9:45. The location is to be announced.