

## Overlook PTO Meeting Minutes April 26, 2018

Welcome

Laura Ramsay, *Co-President*

### Safety Presentation

Lt. Chris Porter of the Abington Police Department and Mr. Steven Hochwind of the Abington School District (formerly of the APD) joined Mr. Perlman for a presentation about school safety. They used a presentation that was previously given at a school board meeting and can be found here:

[https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/abington/Board.nsf/files/AWDT927635DD/\\$file/Working%20in%20Partnership%20for%20Safer%20Schools%20Presentation.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/abington/Board.nsf/files/AWDT927635DD/$file/Working%20in%20Partnership%20for%20Safer%20Schools%20Presentation.pdf)

A lot of great information was presented. Here are some highlights:

- All 3 stressed how closely the APD and the ASD work together & provided assurance to the parents in attendance that student safety is a top priority.
- Mr. Perlman told parents that if there was ever an emergency, parents would be notified in a variety of ways – Skyward, E-mail, Social Media, etc.
- Mr. Perlman spoke briefly of the emergency plan in place for the school and the district. It is not public knowledge, but he shared the table of contents of the plan just to show that it exists and that it is comprehensive.
- Mr. Perlman discussed drills. The students have many different types of drills – fire, weather, lockdown, etc. At this time, they are all announced ahead of time & parents are notified afterwards that a drill happened during the school day. Mr. Perlman informed parents that we will see an increase in drills in the future and that is simply a way to be better prepared and not in response to any one concern in particular.
  - A parent expressed concern about how her child's teacher had to tape a cover on the classroom windows during a lockdown drill. During a lockdown, teachers are taught to cover the windows in their doors, turn off the lights and lock the doors. The doors should have roller shades on them to do that quickly.
  - A parent expressed concern about the children not knowing what to do in the event of an emergency should they not be within a classroom with a teacher at the time of the emergency. Mr. Perlman indicated that students should be taught what to do in the event they are in the bathroom, hallway or other common space in an emergency & he will follow up to make sure this is the case.
- Mr. Perlman reviewed a couple of safety items in place currently:
  - There are school resource officers assigned to the Jr & Sr High who are always available to Overlook in an emergency.
  - The school has two sets of walkie-talkies – one that is used internally for staff within the building and one that is a direct line of communication with the APD.
  - There is an emergency button in the school that will immediately notify the APD of an emergency. This button's location is not public knowledge.
  - The school has go bags & trauma bags that are always available, including out at recess when the children are outside.
- Mr. Perlman also presented a list of the mental health services the school district offers and the activities that are already going on at Overlook to address mental health issues.
- Lt. Porter spoke highly of Overlook from the days he spent as our DARE officer. He presented on the ways that the APD is always working to ensure a safe environment
  - The police officers who have Overlook as part of their beat are encouraged to stop by the school often. It is not uncommon to see police officers at the school and it is normally

- nothing to be concerned about. Mr. Perlman also indicated that should there be a safety incident in which the police were actually called to the school, parents would be notified.
- Lt. Porter shared the Tip Line information with the group & also encouraged the group to communicate (non-emergent concerns only) via social media.
  - Lt. Porter cautioned the group that the 911 call center is now a Montco county wide center and is located more than 20 minutes away. There is a slight delay when calling them as a result. However, the direct lines of communication Overlook has with the APD (the emergency call button, walkie talkies, etc) will always be answered by someone in the police station, 24/7.
  - The APD has a dedicated, well trained tactical SWAT team that is ready to respond in the case of emergency. They are one of the few departments in Montco that still has its own team.
  - Lt Porter discussed typical response times – the first squad car would be typically be at the school in under a minute if called with an emergency.
  - The APD has many effective procedures in place (including ones recognized by the FBI as role models) but they are constantly looking for ways to improve.
  - Lt Porter concluded by reiterating his commitment to our school and the entire district and said he is always available if needed.
- Mr. Hochwind spoke about ways the school district works with the APD to ensure student safety.
    - The APD will conduct a participation drill at school where they will actually be part of the drill & simulate more “real world” situations.
    - Mr. Hochwind emphasized the philosophies about the importance of training, mental preparation and quick response times.
    - Mr. Hochwind reminded parents that they need to constantly be aware of what is going on at the school and with their children. If you see something, say something. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
    - Mr. Hochwind spoke of how the APD & ASD are constantly working to identify students in crisis and helping them. He gave several examples of how quickly the team was able to mobilize in response to a variety of situations in the past.
    - Mr. Hochwind wrapped up by discussing the new philosophy with regards to active shooter situations – ride, hide, fight. Instead of simply sheltering in place, staff are encouraged to supervise their students in fleeing the scene if safe to do so. And in the case of a breach of a classroom, students are encouraged to “fight” by throwing things at the intruder. The exact strategy used in a particular situation is left up the discretion of the teacher but typically, the younger students at the elementary level will be encouraged to simply hide.
  - Both Lt. Porter & Mr. Hochwind spoke of typical response times and assured parents that all officers are trained to be first on scene & would enter the building immediately by any means necessary.

### **Principal’s Report**      Mr. Perlman

- Mr. Perlman spent his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with us!
- He offered his thanks for all the special events the PTO has helped with over the last two months, such as Blingo.
- He encouraged everyone to keep an eye on the calendar as the end of the year approaches because there will be a lot going on.
- He gave a reminder that the spring concert will be at the sr. high school this year and not at Overlook.
- Lastly, he thanked the PTO for the large water jugs donated for field day (and other future events).

### **Teacher/Staff Update**      Mr. Staszkiw

- Mr. Staszkiw extended a thank you for the snacks for PSSAs. He said this was the highlight of the day for many of the kids & it was greatly appreciated.
- Mrs. Meyers shared thanks for all the PTO does for the library, especially One School, One Book, which was a big success again this year.

### **Treasurer Report**      Laura Ramsay on behalf of Karin Quinn

- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class kicked off their 6<sup>th</sup> grade fundraising by bringing in \$830 at Blingo night.
- The current 6<sup>th</sup> grade has done very well with fundraising & currently has a balance of \$3686 for the year.
- Field trips for all 7 grades have now been paid for – this cost the PTO about \$100 less than last year.
- Gertrude Hawk fundraiser was down more than \$1700 from last year.
- Blingo made \$5318, which was down over \$1000 from last year.
- One School, One Book cost about \$400 more than last year.
- Year to date, the PTO is at a negative \$2478 balance.

### **Nominations**      Jen Slotter

Jen Slotter presented the list of persons nominated who accepted their nomination. The slate for officers of the PTO for next year is as follows:

- President – Laura Ramsay & Meghan Biko
- VP – Lidia Bahn, Heather Chong, Jule Belton (2 of 3 can be voted in)
- Secretary – Courtney Hanrahan, Jennifer Thorpe, Amol Apte (2 of 3 can be voted in)
- Treasurer – Karin Quinn
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade rep – Sandy Jones

The bylaws of the PTO state that a person cannot hold the same position for more than 2 consecutive years. By vote of a majority of the people attending the meeting, it was approved that Karin Quinn may hold her post again next year.

No further nominations were offered and none more can be made after the conclusion of this meeting, so this is the list that will be voted on at the May meeting.

### **Discussion**

The recap of events was very short because of there were many things to get to on this evening. Talent Show, Blingo and Publishing Center were all big successes this year!

### ***Upcoming***

- May 8-May10: Teacher and Staff Appreciation – Heather Chong is chairing this. She sent a form to the teachers asking for their input on the menu. Once that is decided, envelopes will be coming home asking for money from each family to help pay for lunch.
  - We will be providing dessert on the 10<sup>th</sup> – there is a Sign-Up Genius so please sign up to help bring something in that day.
- May 10: Field Day – Mrs. Early did send a notice asking for volunteers so please sign up if you are able.

- May 12: 5K/Mayfair at Copper Beach – we are looking forward to a fun day on the 12<sup>th</sup> for the race and May Fair. Registration has been slow so please consider joining us! Deadline is May 5<sup>th</sup> to register for the race and still get a t-shirt and for the fair to pre-order tickets.
- May 23: Gold Card Night – this will be the last gold card night of the year & will be an ice cream social.

### **Questions/ Concerns/ Ideas**

No further discussion was offered by any of the attendees.

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 29 7:00PM in the Library***