



## **YORKTOWN PTSA MEETING NOTES**

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

**Meeting: 7:30pm**

Attendance: Juan Carlos Vargas, Eva Irwin, Aaron Barnes, Tia Alfred, Joanna Day, Maurine Fanguy, Rena Cutlip-Mason, Julie Pandya, Jill Gaspar Sgt Smithgall, Lt Eliseo Pilco, Josh MacFarland, James Miller, Melissa Matthews, Cristina Marcus, Paukovits, Danielle, Shana Rothman, Jennifer, Carly Rubenstein, Nicole Hobbs, Kevin Clark, Karen Kamholz, Renee Gibson, Claire N, Tanya Schneider, Leigh Ann Lindquist, Christine Purka, Cara Voth, Rodrigo B, Erin Baynham, James Meenan, Tony C, Janet Pence, Amy Stitzel Brooks, Jill Cooper, Jen, Laurie, Angela Cocker, April Maddox, Scott Marcus, Cortney, Windgate, James Meenan, Michele, CB, Jill Cooper

1. Welcome from new PTA President, Maurine Fanguy
2. Approval of June 2024 Minutes
  - a. Motion by Julie Pandya to approve, second by Josh MacFarland
  - b. Minutes approved
3. Introductions - 2024-2025 PTA Board Members and Committee Chairs
  - a. Maurine Fanguy, President
  - b. Jill Gaspar, Internal VP
  - c. Josh MacFarland, External VP
  - d. Julie Pandya, Treasurer
  - e. Cristina Marcus, VP of Communications
  - f. Rena Cutlip-Mason, Secretary
  - g. Tia Alfred, CCPTA

#### 4. 4. Principal's Update

- a. Thank you to the PTA for teacher appreciation brunch
- b. Testing day tomorrow for 9/10 grades and some 11/12 grades tomorrow starting at 8:20. All other students will report at 11:20am.
- c. Working still on finalizing schedules. There is one further milestone on October 4, which is the deadline for students to drop a level in a class.
- d. The gas leak from last Thursday is resolved.
- e. Patriot period curriculum programming and the learning center will be available starting on Sept. 23.
- f. Picture day will be this Wednesday and Thursday.
- g. On September 25, 2024, YHS will host back-to-school night from 7 - 9pm. Parents can meet with TA teachers and walk all 7 classes. Counselors will also be available.
- h. YHS will be working staff this year on equity. Teachers are encouraged to know each student by name, strength, and need. The new DEI coordinator at Yorktown is Ackesha Patrick, [Ackesha.Patrick@apsva.us](mailto:Ackesha.Patrick@apsva.us).
- i. The back-to-school BBQ is this Friday before the football game, located in the bus loop. The football game will be immediately after. The entrance is off 27th St. Ticket prices have been raised to \$7, and all are encouraged to purchase tickets online
- j. October 4 is the Homecoming game and October 5 is the Homecoming dance. Parents are encouraged to speak with their children about their activities and to understand where they are.
- k. There will be over 40 clubs present during lunch on Sept. 11 for the activities fair.
- l. YHS is starting a girls' flag football team this Fall. Winter sports are starting soon, and they will need to make sure that you get physicals if needed.
- m. Communications:
  - i. Regular communication is the weekly newsletter via ParentSquare.

- ii. Also notify parents via text, phone, and email if there are irregular activities at the school.
    - iii. However, cannot share names of students in a medical emergency, during a police investigation, or disciplinary matters, except to the parents of the child. There is a discipline framework that describes the infractions and possible disciplinary consequences.
      - 1. Here is the [code of conduct](#):
      - 2. Here is the [Leveled Interventions](#)
      - 3. And the [framework for responses by category](#)
  - n. Senior updates:
    - i. Senior lunch privileges are available. Parents may submit the permission for that privilege.
5. Guest Speaker - Lt. Eliseo Pilco and Sgt Smithgall, Arlington County Police Department Partnership with APS
- a. Sgt Smithgall is the supervisor of the Community Engagement Division of the Arlington County PD provided an overview of the partnership between APS and the Arlington County PD. To reach him please email [Psmithgall@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Psmithgall@arlingtonva.us)
  - b. Introduction of Lt. Eliseo Pilco who is the liaison with APS.
  - c. James Miller, APS Asst Director of Safety Management, was present.
    - i. Working to create strong and robust relationships with the students.
    - ii. Conduct threat assessments, please review <https://www.apsva.us/ssrem/>.
    - iii. Continuously advocate for increased resources. You can provide feedback on the “Your Voice Matters” survey to highlight concerns that can lead to additional
  - d. After the removal of the SROs, an updated MOU was recently approved with the APS and Arlington PD.
  - e. Question regarding behavior outside of school - APS is not responsible for behavior outside of school unless it impacts the school

day. For example, if there is behavior outside of school that when the students are in school have an impact then counselors may provide support to the students. Additionally, if there are videos outside of school, the counselor would notify the parents where there are concerning behavior. There is a substance abuse counselor on hand at the school 5 days a week. Those meetings are confidential except if there is a danger to self or others.

- f. Will ACPD refer students to restorative justice instead of the criminal justice system? This is an option for the schools and businesses that may be impacted. Currently evaluating data. Will be an alternative considered. Examining the recidivism rate and effectiveness up until now. There is an MOU with ACPD and CYFA.
- g. Given the increase in school shootings , why doesn't YHS/APS have in-school SROs or armed security, so they can more quickly respond to security threats? Or metal detectors to prevent weapons from entering, like many schools have?
  - i. There is not discussion of bringing the SROs back into the schools
  - ii. Information about the decision to remove the SROs from the schools:  
<https://www.apsva.us/engage/engage-past-initiatives/schoolresourceofficer/>
- h. Wondering if there is any training given to Officers on dealing with students with special needs such as Autism
  - i. Yes, there is training. The police can put alerts on a residence if needed where certain stimuli that trigger residents in certain ways. Also, ACPD partners with ARC to have two community safety events a year.
  - ii. APS has been working to have better training and resources for emergency situations to address the needs of staff and students who have special needs.
- i. What is the safety and security strategy for the building at the start

and end of the day when I'm guessing you see the most foot traffic entering and exiting? For example, can students enter and exit the school from all doors and is anyone on duty to monitor at these locations?

- i. Yorktown has an administrator and SSC (security guard) at doors 1, 8 and 13. We monitor students entering.
- j. Have metal detectors been installed?
  - i. No metal detectors have not been installed.
  - ii. Active participation in the threat assessment program is the best defense to violence.
- k. Is there anything that ACPD is doing with regard to the traffic around the school, especially at the beginning and end of the day? Eg, is there any heightened oversight from the police department to watch for aggressive driving?
  - i. There have been many improvements and safety enhancements installed last year. Speed camera, crossing lights, lowered speed limit, among others. Police do circulate, but we have Security staff in parking lots in the morning.
- l. What are the requirements of parent notification of an interrogation on behalf of the police?
  - i. Administrators will address disciplinary matters per the APS code of conduct. There are severe infractions when the police could be notified. Once the police are notified, the police conduct their own investigation. APS will assign the discipline that is appropriate via the framework. Information that is permissible to share with the police will be shared, and it will no longer be a school matter. However, the principal emphasized that parents would be called and that administrators of the school are not agents of the police. This is addressed in the 2021 MOU.
- m. Substitute teachers asked if APS could provide them with the safety training too.

- i. Visit the staff central page.
  - ii. There is training available through Frontline too.
  - iii. Ask the administrator for the school safety plan at any school a substitute is assigned.
6. Introduction of Eva Irwin, Dean of Students
  - a. Ms. Irwin joins YHS from Alexandria City Public Schools where she taught English.
  - b. Her role is to promote a positive school culture. Identifying barriers to
  - c. Ms. Irwin is also the Title IX Coordinator
  - d. Her email is Eva.irwin@apsva.us
7. Internal VP Update (Jill Gaspar)
  - a. Volunteer Needs
    - i. Movie night
    - ii. Senior Send Off
  - b. Event Notes and other items:
    - i. Upcoming Pregame BBQ- September 13 - 7 volunteers needed, signup in the newsletter
8. Treasurer's Report (Julie Pandya, Treasurer)
  - a. YHS has been fortunate with a large budget surplus. Over the last 3 years, the PTA has done a great job of spending the surplus on school needs. However, for this year if we don't raise funds then we will not cover our budget.
  - b. Currently, have \$11,000, and to make the 2024-25 budget will need healthy fundraising.
  - c. We no longer have Amazon Smiles and Harris Teeter.
  - d. The PTA is seeking volunteers to help support planning community events to raise money.
  - e. The PTA funds go to:
    - i. Senior Send Off
    - ii. Student planners
    - iii. Science Fair

- iv. Teacher Appreciation
- v. Teacher Grants
- f. Vote on 2024-2025 Budget
  - i. Claire Nokes brought concerns about the Board and Principal discretion funds, as well as the line item that lists payment of PTA dues to the state and national PTA.
  - ii. The PTA commits to transparency on the budget, and feels strongly about keeping the discretion because of technology and unexpected needs. Additionally, Dr. Clark explained that the principal's discretionary fund has been used in the past for speakers and SCL curriculum.
  - iii. Motion to modify the Principal discretionary fund in support of professional development, family education and student support
    - 1. Motion did not pass
  - iv. Recommendation was provided regarding the reflection of state and national dues in the budget. PTA has been working to provide transparency and included it for full transparency.
- g. Motion to pass the budget as written by Cristina Marcus, Seconded by Jill Gaspar
  - i. Motion passed

## 8. Other Business

- a. Vote on Organizational Structure Form
  - i. Motion to pass by Cristina Marcus, seconded by Jill Gaspar
  - ii. Motion passed

## 9. Adjournment

- a. Cristina Marcus provided motion to adjourn and Jill Gaspar second
  - i. Motion passed

## 10. Open Q&A after adjournment

a. Further discussion of fundraising ideas.