

Mark T. Sheehan High School

PTAC

Minutes of Meeting: April 6, 2017

In attendance: M. Altieri, C. Brozyna, L. Chapman, J. Conte, V. Coppola, T. Davis, G. Dirkson, R. Duthie, C. Frank, M. Harkins, M. Lee, D. Lombardozzi, K. Luxeder, L. Maiocco, C. Mansfield, J. Marciano, L. Miller, J. Morosky, M. Nehez, C. Palange, L. Petrucci, J. Seroski, M. Smolley, M. Sobolewski, M. Tyrrell, E. Ward, S. Whitehead, P. Wiesen

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

Minutes were accepted by Ms. Palange and seconded by Ms. Brozyna.

Ms. Nehez brought food, prepared by students in her cooking classes, to share with the parents and teachers in attendance. All were welcomed to enjoy chicken cutlets, roasted potatoes and vegetables, as well as strawberry shortcakes for dessert. Thanks to Ms. Nehez for having her students make food for the meeting.

Ms. Mansfield spoke about the birth of the idea for the leadership activity to capture the students with leadership qualities who were currently not in a leadership role.

Mr. Dirkson gave an update about the emerging leadership program. He talked about the positive feedback from the visit of Ed Gerety, the help from the staff to nominate the students who are part of the emerging leadership group, and the development of the day.

Students want to do more with the leadership opportunity provided to them. We are looking for more ideas to empower student voice. Mr. Dirkson spoke about the team building activities that were led by our upperclassmen for our freshmen class. Students designed such a great program.

Ms. Mansfield will bring the information to the next instructional meeting session to show how Sheehan has a very positive culture. Ms. Duthie said other students may want to join and attend, too.

Ms. Frank shared that her students felt very positive after the experience and it was well received by all. Mr. Conte explained how the message was great to hear for his son and for the students in his class.

Ms. Duthie shared a plan to continue to work with the emerging leaders during advisory so that the students can determine next steps and outline a plan moving forward. Because of the positive response to Ed Gerety, we plan on bringing him back on a bi-yearly basis.

Next steps: Continuing to meet with the students during advisory and creating a project for the group to create and/or participate in, such as an event for incoming 9th grade. Ms. Harkins shared that one of her Capstone students is looking to create a program for the incoming 9th grade students and that this would be a good group to work along with him. Additionally,

another student is working on creating a “mini-me” program where a student “match.com” survey is helping to build this community for the incoming students.

Ms. Mansfield recommended that contacting the media outlets in the town could be helpful.

Ms. Luxeder shared that her children complete a senior project, which is philanthropic, and the students all create ideas and projects that are helpful to all the students and the community.

Ms. Mansfield shared the update from SWPTAC. The majority of focus has been on budget.

Ms. Mansfield addressed some concerns about time management to alter the meetings so that the length of the System-wide meeting be limited to an hour as well as four times a year.

It was determined that there is no need for a June meeting, so the May meeting will be the last of the year where we will nominate office positions for next year.

Some teachers spoke about the board of education instructional committee meeting on Monday night, 4/3/17.

Ms. Mansfield shared the support of Sheehan parents to partner with the entire Sheehan staff and community.

Comments relating to trust, communication, roles of parents and central office staff, and teacher voice were made.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.