

TZHS PTSA Minutes
2/5/08

Principal's Report

Ed Bolan

- The major auditorium work has been completed enough to be used. It will be used for 8th Grade Orientation
- Smoking in the bathrooms is an issue. A female stationed in front of the bathrooms for each period has helped to stop the smoking
- The girls are feeling uncomfortable with the security guard in the girls' locker room
- The implementation of a no credit-bearing course in pre-algebra for 9th grade students who are not meeting with success in 8th grade. There won't be any budget implications since the class will reduce class size in algebra
- An honors class in the science program is being looked into
- Vacationing during midterms has become an issue. The staff is unhappy that so many kids are out. They feel it is not academically sound
- Tentative date for exams next year is the week of 1/26/09. A suggestion was made that this information should be shared at 8th grade orientation
- Drinking incident during midterms some students drank after an exam. 1 child had to go to the hospital. The 4 students were suspended because the incident took place on school grounds
- Prom- a question was raised as to whether there is a mandatory parent meeting. Currently, there is a packet that goes home and is signed by parents. There will be more discussion about the prom at the March meeting

AP Report

T. Castelli/S.Silverman

- College Info Night 1/17
- 8th grade orientation 2/7
- Spanish Honor Society Induction 2/28
- Sr. Citizen Valentine Dance 2/8
- Benefit for Emma Monahan 3/2
- Freshman Talent Show (audition times will be posted) 3/7
- Blood Drive 3/11
- SATs 5/3
- Wellness Walk (volunteers needed) 5/10

- Midterms ran smoothly.
- ECP is looking for high school student volunteers to run the ECP family picnic in May
- Wellness Committee is sponsoring a Wellness Walk on 5/10. All schools will be involved. It will end with a Health Fair at TZHS. Wellness Committee is asking each building to furnish water, restoration spots as well as walkers! Can/should we donate proceeds to SOAC, Amer. Heart Assoc., Amer. Diabetes Assoc. ?
- Recycling in SOCSO began on 2/4. Magazines, newspapers, paper, plastic, aluminum cans should be recycled. There are new receptacles in each building as well as in classrooms

Treasurer's Report – balance is currently 4666.53

President's Report

Denise Jensen

- Nominating Committee for '08-'09 officers
 - There are many open positions- pres., 2 vice pres., treasurer
 - Marion Gryzlo is on committee, 4 more volunteers are needed
- Founder's Day Update- nominations are closed. The committee is trying to meet next week to select a recipient
- Blood Drive is 3/11/08 – Volunteers needed to assist with phone calls

- Rockland County School Board Association Legislative Breakfast feedback from 1/26/08
 - Denise handed out a packet regarding Rockland County school districts budget information
- Rockland County/CHR PTA Legislative Breakfast-East Ramapo School District Admin. Bldg. Spring Valley 3/15- Denise and Marion Gryzlo will attend
- Parent/Senior workshops-
 - Parents of juniors and seniors will meet a Dean of students who is an expert on transition from HS Senior to college freshman if a feasible date can be determined
 - Junior/Senior students and parents- Michelle Phillips will speak to students about time management skills
- Senior Photos for Senior Slide Show- parents may submit 3 photos each. There will be a slide show at the senior breakfast on the day of the prom
- Fundraising-
 - Yankee candle fundraiser is out
 - Scholarship committee is finalizing the application form which is due back to Guidance by 3/12
 - Go Dutch! Is off and running- will be mailed to all families in SOCS and distributed to staff, and available to community at libraries, town hall or by contacting PTSA
 - Game Fest '08- 3/8 2:00-7:00. Tickets will be sold after the Feb Break

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Irizarry
Recording Secretary
TZHS PTSA

Important Information from Mike Kopunek, SRO at TZHS

Mike Kopunek, School Resource Officer, gave an informative talk about his role at TZHS. He was asked to speak because at the last PTSA there was much discussion and concern about recent events involving drugs and drinking around school. There was also concern expressed by parents regarding parental responsibility. The responsibilities of the SRO (according to Mike) are as follows:

Everything from getting to know the kids to someone that kids can come and talk to, bullying issues, party issues, driving rules, fights on campus, smoking on or off campus, drug and alcohol situations monitoring Facebook, MySpace etc. He works with the AP's on issues that arise. He is also the "party" link with school and home. It is a three part relationship- school, community, and home. The SRO works to keep senior issues "in house" rather than in the courts. He is also a key part in keeping a good relationship with neighbors across that street from TZHS.

Mike urged parents to get in touch with him if you are concerned about underage drinking and parties. If you have specific information regarding an upcoming party, talk to him.

The legalities for parents of the "party house" are as follows:

If parents are not home, they are not liable criminally, but they are liable civilly. Parents can lose everything in a civil suit! Kids can be arrested for serving alcohol to minors, even if they are minors themselves. The police need a specific reason to enter a home. In order to be arrested, a kid needs to be consuming, not just holding. However, a referral can be written to CPS (Child Protection Services).

If parents are home during a party in which minors are being served alcohol, they CAN be arrested.

The TZHS PTSA is contributing to a letter that all will be signed by Administration, the SRO, SADD & VAASA advisors and SOCASA stating that we are all in partnership. The hope is that everyone will no longer turn a "blind eye" to these situations. The hope is to send a message to all parents that we must be vigilant. A suggestion was again made that *all students* sign a code of conduct because all students must be held accountable, not just the athletes (athletes are currently the only group to sign a code of conduct). TZHS PTSA is hoping to partner with SOCASA to try to get the information out to as many families, in as many ways, as possible. SOCASA will be attending the March PTSA meeting.

A few questions and concerns were raised regarding the SRO:

Many kids want to come to the SRO, but are afraid of getting into trouble. How do we get the kids to understand that it is better to speak to the SRO than to be caught outside of school by a police officer?

- Parents are needed to come on board with the SRO to dispel the "scary" rumor.

It is hard to gain the trust of the kids if the SRO keeps changing every few years. It's hard to build a relationship with them.

- Officer Kopunek plans to stay in the position for the long run.

Can the school punish kids for something that happens off-campus?

-If the issue "makes its way into the building", the school can make an issue out of it. Consequences depend upon what the situation is.

Are there any parent education programs in the Orangetown Police Department?

-Currently, there aren't any such programs. However, if you have a topic that you feel would be beneficial, put a request in writing and Officer Kopunek will submit it.

-Rockland's Proposed Teen Party Law -C. Scott Vanderhoef. Parents should petition him to let him know that they will support it.

If a student has drugs/alcohol in his locker, can it be searched?

- The school can search the locker, but the SRO cannot.

If a student is suspended, does it go on his/her transcript?

- It does not go on the student's transcript. It is up to the student to let the colleges know.

Can there be a sub-committee formed with SOCASA to bring more information to the community?

- PTSA may be able to help "get the word out" to parents and community.

Officer Kopunek continually reassured parents that if they report something, it will not come back to them.

Officer Kopunek also stressed the importance of open communication. He can be reached by phone or e-mail.

mkopunek@socsd.org or 680-1777.

Chief Nulty can be reached by e-mail knulty@orangetown.com