

ALBERT LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTA MEETING
APRIL 18th, 2018

Meeting was called to start by Co-Presidents Kim Castellano and Anne Todd at 7:07 pm in Room 218. Approximately 20 attendees, in addition to Principal Barnes, Assistant Principal Keevins, and Assistant Principal Goldberg.

PTA Co-President's report:

- I. The PTA nominating committee has created a proposed slate for the 2018-2019 school year. A list of the proposed nominees was distributed. There will be a vote to approve the slate during the next PTA meeting.
- II. Power of Peace program is under way. The PTA has sponsored 3 Power of Peace workshops per grade to a select group of students (selected by ALMS school counselors). The purpose in offering this program at ALMS is in hopes that the participating students will bring what they learned back to the student body to promote acceptance, empathy, kindness, etc. Statistically, students who speak up to stop bullying are over 80% effective in stopping meanness. The PTA hopes to sponsor additional workshops per grade next school year.
- III. New Rochelle's Fund for Excellence Gala is tomorrow evening, April 19th at The Fountainhead. This is their biggest fundraiser which provides numerous scholarships, grants, and educational programs for New Rochelle students. ALMS has received grants this school year from The Fund for Excellence.
- IV. February minutes were approved. In March, the PTA hosted its largest fundraiser, Taste of New Rochelle, instead of holding a general meeting.
- V. Taste of New Rochelle – was a huge success. This fundraiser exceeded the projected money raised. To date, the event raised over \$14,000.
- VI. The PTA had a robust grant season by distributing almost \$5,000 in grants to ALMS teachers, staff, etc.
- VII. The 8th grade festivities are about to begin:
 - a. The night before graduation will be the traditional dance party, at VIP Club, on June 19th, \$40 per student, casual attire and atmosphere. There is more information on the ALMS website

- b. ALMS website - a newly created link is available for just 8th graders. This includes forms, permission slips, more detailed information regarding events, etc.

VIII. Committee updated:

- a. Board of Education – (Tracy Hill) At the last Board of Education meeting the budget was presented; 7 voted “no” to the 3.89% increase. The proposed increase includes hiring more school counselors, social workers, psychologists, etc. There may need to be a second vote, which costs money. The final budget does not include a break down by school. There was a fiscal discrepancy between the 2 middle schools. ALMS Co-Presidents will work on asking Superintendent Dr. Osborne and/or Assistant Superintendent Mr. Jeffery White to attend an ALMS PTA meeting to present the budget and explain what each line item means.
- b. PTA Council – (Karen Selman) On May 9th there will be a candidates’ forum. You may submit a question for the candidates to Karen Selman or the ALMS Co-Presidents
- c. SEPTA - We are One dinner is on May 3rd. ALMS Home and Career teacher, Jane Gersh, will be honored.
- d. STEAM - Science Festival date has moved to June 5th. This is open to all in our community.

Principal Barnes - Vision update

- I. This past week has had an adventurous start. Principal Barnes highly complimented Assistant Principals Mr. Keevens and Mr. Goldberg on being 100% collaborative and on point throughout crisis management.
- II. On Monday, April 16th, the building was about to begin period 5th:
 - a. 400 8th graders in cafeteria during lunch because it was raining outside
 - b. The entire 7th grade, about 400 students, were traveling to lunch
 - c. The entire 6th grade were in the CAMPEL wing, traveling back to their houses via the main lobby
 - d. At 11:40 am – a transformer explodes near the school building, ends up on the long white metal fence on ALMS property, this becomes very dangerous with the live wires, near where the buses line up
 - e. Police and Fire Departments are immediately present and turn off the building’s power, assuming the generator would come on. Generator did not go on. The community at ALMS rallied. In addition, the radios went out because the antenna died. Back up battery for intercom went out at 1:30 pm.
 - f. He understands kids text their parents sooner than he can make a robo call. His immediate response is to be in crisis management

mode. His priority is student safety first. Parents, kindly understand he will communicate with families as soon as all students are in a safe environment.

III. On Tuesday, April 17th, a car drove into a city bus at dismissal that had ALMS students on it. The school and city immediately came with medical attention, and again there was an incredible collaborated effort among the staff. Principal Barnes and staff members called every students families live to make sure they were contacted and aware.

IV. What's going on at ALMS?

- a. Stomp out Bullying; 100 ALMS students went to this, the only middle school in the country to be invited, with a high school from NYC. Students were asked to be ambassadors of change. PTA sponsored a lunch back to ALMS that afternoon for a working session: Embrace diversity, do we really or do we co-exist? Are we looking at someone on how they are different or what is the commonality? Do we include kids during lunch?
- b. Power of Peace - Youth Voices Center to empower 225 middle school students. Founder is a New Rochelle resident and ALMS graduate. Counselors select a group per grade.
- c. New Rochelle's Assistant Superintendent is bringing Safe School Ambassadors program to ALMS on May 8-9th. Power of Peace participants will be grandfathered in and will add new students Kids can stop the subtle bullying. They are powerful and underutilized. Evidence supports that when a peer speaks up, 80% of the time the meanness stops. Rick Phillips founder of Safe School Ambassadors. There will be 30-40 students and 8-9 adults. The purpose is to reduce bullying and cyber bullying, increase students talking with adults, reduce suspensions and expulsions, improve student retention, and more.
- d. April 24th: Addy and Uno – this assembly is for the entire 6th grade which talks about autism. There will be a link on ALMS website.
- e. Visit ALMS website for other upcoming events including on 4/26 will be 7th grade career day and 8th grade NRHS visit
- f. Principal Barnes has been working on re-writing ALMS vision and mission statements.
 - i. How to write a mission statement?
 1. 5 questions:
 - a. What evidence can you think of that we are meeting a current vision?
 - b. What kind of school do we hope to be?
 - c. What do you think should be reflected in our vision statement?

- d. What do we need to do differently to achieve this vision?
- e. How are we different from other schools?
- ii. Meeting attendees broke into small groups to write key words in responding to these questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.