

**Huntington High School
PTSA Meeting
April 17, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 7:40 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome: Alice Marie Rorke

Approval of Minutes

President's Report: Alice Marie Rorke

- The PTSA membership is at 333 members (96 men, 104 teachers, 60 students).
- The HHS/Finley Fashion Show was a huge success, raising approximately \$2,200 for each school.
- HHS Drama Club performed "The Sound of Music" on April 12th and 13th...it was an amazing show.
- The last Board of Education meeting was on April 15th in which the Budget A was adopted. The May 6th meeting has been changed to May 13th and will be the Budget Hearing and the Budget Vote is Tuesday, May 21st. Meet the Candidate Night is Wednesday, May 1st at Finley Middle School at 7:00 pm.
- The PTSA will be giving Dr. Leonardi \$250 to be used for ESL students to attend the College Fair at Suffolk Community College.
- Volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee. The Committee consists of 3 PTSA Board Members and 2 members from the general PTSA population. Technically every position is available however there are openings for 2 Council Delegate positions. The new slate will be presented at the June PTSA meeting where they will be sworn in.
- HHS Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is Thursday, May 23rd. Volunteers are needed, especially with serving.
- HHS Graduation is Friday, June 21st. Flowers will be sold at graduation and the PTSA will be serving refreshments. Volunteers are needed.

Principal's Report: Mr. Cusack

- The Math Pride Awards are on Thursday, April 18th.
- The Huntington Music Idol Final is on Friday, April 19th at HHS.
- Preparations for the Distinguished Senior's Dinner are being finalized and the dinner is Thursday, April 25th in the HHS gymnasium.
- The World Language Honor Society Induction will be Tuesday, April 30 in the HHS auditorium.
- Relay for Life is scheduled for Friday, May 17th- Saturday, May 18th at HHS's track.
- This has been a record year for HHS. Over 800 AP Exams will be administered this year.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Knowles

- We met our budget for the Fashion Show.
- Engraved Bricks can still be purchased for the walkway in front of the High School. Orders that are submitted in the next week will be ready for the next installation of bricks by the end of the school year.

LICADD Presentation: Steve Chassman

LICADD (Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) gave a very informative and thought provoking presentation. Steve Chassman, the Clinical Director at LICADD, along with Lisa Ganz, LICADD's Student Assistance Program Coordinator, shared statistics and vital information in "passing the message on that we are in the midst of a current drug and alcohol epidemic". Also on hand to add support to the evening was Rick Migliore and Nancy Durante from The Gift at the Rose Center, an Adolescent Treatment and Wellness Center, soon to be opening in Huntington.

The following is information that was shared that evening:

- We have become a prescription drug nation.
- Young people are making more unhealthy choices than ever before. If left untreated, the problems get progressively worse.
- Alcohol and marijuana are the "gateway drugs".
- There is "polysubstance abuse"...especially involving Adderall, Ritalin, Ecstasy and Molly (MDMA).
- Substance abuse and dependence is 100% preventable.
- Alcohol is the leading cause of death among adolescence.
- Today's marijuana is genetically engineered so it is a very potent drug.
- Beer Pong = Binge Drinking
- Mind and Mood altering drugs include: alcohol, amphetamines, cannabis, hallucinogens, opiates, benzodiazepines, sedatives and stimulants.
- Legislation was recently signed into law to help New York State crack down harder on prescription drug abuse. The new **I-STOP Law** includes a series of provisions to overhaul the way prescription drugs are distributed and tracked in New York State.
- The current drug crisis is being fueled by opiates. An example was given illustrating dopamine surges the brain will experience in the following instances: eating ice cream gives you a 10% surge in dopamine...acing a test and receiving praise gives you a 15% dopamine surge...using and opiate gives you a 500,000% dopamine surge.
- The roots of experimental or recreational drug use are almost always in the teen years.
- Reasons for drug use are: self medication, recreation and poor coping skills.
- Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who abstain until age 21.
- "If you're not working on something, something is working on you".

Important Dates to Remember

- Parent University for Common Core Learning Standards will be on Monday, April 22nd at HHS at 7:00 pm. There will also be a Barnes and Noble and Scholastic Book Fair in the cafeteria.
- The Distinguished Senior's Dinner is Thursday, April 25th at 6:30 pm in HHS's gymnasium.
- Meet the Candidate Night is Wednesday, May 1st at Finley Middle School at 7:00 pm.
- The next PTA Council Meeting is Tuesday, May 7th at 9:45 am in HHS's Heritage Room.
- Relay for Life is Friday, May 17th - Saturday, May 18th at HHS's track.
- SEPTA's Fundraiser "Sunset and Sounds on the Bay" is Friday, May 18th at the Bay Club 7:00 pm.
- The Budget Vote and Board of Education Election is Tuesday, May 21st.

Flower of the Month Winner: Nancy Shivers

Next PTSA Meeting is Wednesday, May 15th at HHS at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15 pm