



Hastings High School
PTSA Parent Meeting Minutes
Title 1 - Parent Engagement
May 26, 2021, 6:30 PM

Title 1 Engagement - Melissa Szymanski

Ms. Melissa Szymanski gave an overview of Title 1 funding. Under Title I, schools hold an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I participation and explain the program requirements. The District supports the informed participation of parents in student education through a variety of means, including PTSA meetings, parent meetings, and communication with parents. Title 1 parent and family engagement guidance supports home and school collaboration, through a collaborative process with a variety of stakeholders, and a focus on equity and access for all students. Ms. Szymanski reviewed some of the ways the District is involved in Title 1 efforts.

During her discussion, it was noted that the Title 1 language the District is using is out of date as it still uses the word “liaison” with respect to the PTSA. Ms. Szymanski will, during the Board of Education policy discussions, make sure this is updated.

Comments were made in appreciation of the Superintendent’s Chats.

HHS Staffing Update

Ms. Rudd will continue to work as a part time English teacher. She will cover .4 FTE (SUPA English) for one more year. Mr. Marciano will reduce his schedule to .6 FTE and together they will cover 1.0 FTE. Mr. Scotch will be trained to cover the SUPA class.

The District is close to hiring an additional English teacher. An announcement about the Superintendent position should be coming shortly. Ms. Munger will be leaving as Dr. Zelmanowicz (the teacher she was a leave replacement for) is returning.

HHS Full Remote Status Update

Not including seniors as they started their internships on May 14th and are not in school, approximately 20 students are still fully remote.

Per Mr. A. students are leaving during the day to be vaccinated. In fact, the prior Friday 70 kids left for vaccinations.

Barrier Update

Barriers are now optional, except in certain situations where distance cannot be maintained (some lab tables, in Media Arts, etc.).

Finals/Regents Exams

June 16th is the last day of classes. June 18th the Student Union will run a Field Day which will involve activities including sports, chess, etc. There will be no final exams. Post June 16th there will be opportunities for students who need to make up work to meet with their teachers.

Re Regents exams, which are optional, Mr. A. cautioned parents to not think of the Regents as a “practice” exam as they are scored and reported to the NYS Department of Education. Students can decide if the score is reported on their report card, so the score SHOULD not be public, but there will be some record of the score.

If parents are looking for structured activities or projects after classes end, Melissa Hardesty suggested that there might be volunteer opportunities within the Hastings community and she supplied the following contacts:

Joann Stokes Reed - 478-3400

Lisa O'Reilly - 478-3400

Hastings Public Library - 478-3307

Pinar O'Flaherty - 347-612-8039

Haven Colgate - haven.colgate@gmail.com

In addition, students are welcome in the building to sit and read in the library or to meet with teachers if they have work that needs to be made up.

Project Lead the Way

With the assistance of HEF (who funded the materials needed), the HS is able to offer an Intro to Engineering course (part of Project Lead the Way) next year. This is a full year class for students in 10th-12th grades. Faye Barenfeld is teaching the class and will undergo training during the summer. This will be the first in a series of courses in the engineering/physical sciences field. There are still spots available. The hope is to expand this program to other areas as well.

PTSA Announcements

The PTSA's annual general meeting is June 7th at 6:30. Please join us as we need a quorum to vote on the candidates for next school year. This will precede the Hillside Parent meeting and will be very short. The link will be provided in the Daily.

Mr. A opened a discussion about having "multi-access" meetings next year that include both in-person and virtual options. Virtual has been convenient and there has been more interaction than previously when it was all in person.

Thank you to Toby who is retiring from the PTSA Board!

Thank you to Mohin Shapero-Arditi and the SEPTA Board for being our partner in these parent meetings.