

P. J. Gelinus Jr. High School
General PTSA Meeting in Minutes
May 9, 2023, 7:00 pm

1. Welcome and Pledge – PTSA President

- Shamma Murphy led the pledge.
- Quick introduction to our new board members PTSA 2023-2024

2. Deputy Superintendent report - Jeffrey Carlson

- Mr. Carlson discussed this year's budget cap which is 2.65%
- Sources of district revenue are taxes and state aid.
- The district is looking into Universal Pre-Kindergarten in the future. Currently, it is not in the budget.
- Most of the budget goes to staffing.
- Included in the budget are the school district's capital projects. All the school buildings are beautiful but need some maintenance, especially the cupolas, bathrooms, and handicapped access structures.
- Question from Shamma Murphy regarding state requirements on busing: Mr. Carlson replied: The state requires students at least 2 miles from school to have a bus but the community decides on busing protocols. The Community voted a few years ago that all students should be eligible to take the bus. Parents may not sign off to say they will not use the bus.

3. Superintendent report: – Dr. Kevin Scanlon

- Graduation class this year is less than last year.
- Incoming kindergarten classes also have a decline in numbers.
- Overall, there is a population decline in our district.
- We hired more staff during the pandemic.
- Administration has been reduced by 6% and teaching positions went up.
- All principals are doing a great job in managing staff in their schools, especially during the pandemic.
- Minimum wages and all expenses are going up. We need to keep up with the salaries to keep good staffing in our schools.
- The community is still discussing START TIME in schools. If you are interested, come to our meetings on Monday nights in North Country.
- We're not done with CSC and testing regarding the student population on the elementary level.
- Question by Kate Puopolo: If there are any plans to close one of the elementary schools? Dr. Scanlon replied: There is a potential of closing one of the elementary schools but we're continuing to analyze the utilization capacity of the other schools and other factors to consider before deciding.

4. Principal's Report: Mrs. Corrine Keane

- 7th Grade Portal is open this month to check the students' schedules and a letter was sent out to the parents for placement instructions.
- ELA and Math assessments finished, and many students opted out.
- Science assessments for 8th grade are coming up as well.
- There will be computer assessments done next year.
- Final exam schedules will be posted in and out for review.
- Regents' exams and bus information will be posted on our website.
- A lot of end-of-year events, concerts, art shows, Jr. Honor Society, Art Honor Society
- Student Govt and PTSA will be hosting a 6th-grade celebration with a DJ. A little socialization with our incoming 7th graders. It should be fun.
- Science Olympiad Team made it to Nationals and will be traveling to Wichita, KS
- Announced Helen Stein book winners and Walt Whitman poetry contest winners
- Promising young writers' awards will be given.
- 9th-grade events- coming up -Great Adventure trip, moving up ceremony, and 9th-grade dance.
- Shamma mentioned planting a tree around the building.

Board of Education President Report – Ms. Sue Rosenzweig report:

- Two Board of Ed positions are going to be available and there are 6 people who will be running for the positions.
- Budget discussion will be up for our next board meeting.
- Please VOTE!

5. Vice President's Report – Heather Fortner

- New board members for next year will be helping with 6th-grade celebrations.

6. Treasurer's Report –Yiming Xu

- Presented Treasurers Report
- Kerry Gitto will take over the school store, spirit wear, and membership.
- Keep stuff in the store until school ends and it will be going to Kerry's basement.

7. PTA Joint Council Report – Kate Puopolo

- Nothing to report.

8.. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn 1st motion Sue Rosenzweig 2nd Kate Popuolo