

5-23-24 PTA Zoom meeting minutes
By: Emily Slutsky, Recording Secretary

This was our final PTA meeting of the year. It was a Zoom meeting, run by Mrs. Sanpietro, the Coordinator of Student Services. She was here to discuss "Erin's Law."

As quoted from the NYSEd.Gov website... "Erin's Law requires public schools to teach child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention classes to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Erin's Law is named for Erin Merryn, an abuse survivor and activist against child sexual abuse who has advocated for similar laws nationwide for over a decade. Erin's Law is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State schools identify sexual abuse, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, or resource information for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse."

Mrs. Sanpietro explained that our school personnel are taught about school safety and knows how to handle these situations if students make a disclosure to an adult. 1 in every 4 girls, and 1 in every 6 boys are sexually abused in some way. The school personnel are taught to empower students to feel safe. Students can show trauma in various ways like bedwetting, mood swings, fears of certain things or depression. We have a full mental health staff that is available 5 days a week to handle such incidents and disclosures, if need be. Mrs. Sanpietro opened up the floor for any questions.

One parent questioned the impact that social media has on students/children and inappropriate content. Mrs. Sanpietro said that parents/guardians should monitor what children are watching on their devices because one webpage sometimes leads to another etc.

Another parent questioned cultural arts, wanting to know if the school could get more assemblies on different holidays. And if she wanted to propose an event/speaker on a cultural arts event, how could she go about it? Jamie Shiner explained it is done through BOCES and has to be approved.

Jamie concluded our final meeting for the year!!