

PIC MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 10, 2017

1. **District Update**

- **[Chain of command](#) revisited: how are we facilitating our children acting as self-advocates? - *Tom Olausen*** - At the previous meeting a discussion on the Chain of Command ensued. Further clarification was requested in terms of students and the role of the Middle Schools in fostering self advocacy by children. In the Middle Schools, self advocacy is encouraged informally but constantly by counsellors, administration, and teachers. An example was addressed relative to how our current teacher evaluation model contains indicators that acknowledge student self monitoring and independence. Teachers are encouraged to provide students with such opportunities as it reflects a highly effective practice rating in their evaluation.

- **Lunchtime revisited: addressing some concerns at the elementary school level - *Ted Bridges (732-706-6111 ext 2148) and team***. Line speed was a big concern. Ted suggested practicing the account numbers with students especially at the elementary level, and stressed the need to engage paras and others to make the process go more smoothly. He discussed how menu items are chosen. These included forecasting, production, point of sale, and waste reporting systems. These are evaluated each day to determine what to make, how much of each to make, etc. Vegetarian choices: he said he's not getting any requests, however he is willing to look into it more and work with dieticians to develop meals if there is demand. Butter can be brought to school a la carte and kids can request butter when they select the bagel bag. Any special dietary needs of individual students can be addressed, and he directed parents to go through the school nurse. There is a second entree option at a reduced price available and will continue to be an option. The students need to simply select entree option 2 on the screen. Dr. George mentioned the concern that the children are not getting enough time to eat, and felt that this could be best addressed off-line with the Bayview PIC rep, and the Bayview principal, but felt it was important. It was suggested that parent volunteers be allowed to come in to assist with lunch. It was suggested that there be an informal, anonymous survey that parents can access to give feedback to the lunch process. Dr. George said he'd look into this possibility. A suggestion was made to add Ted's contact information to the chain of command list.

- **Update on security at larger functions - *John Maguire, Mary Ellen Walker*** -The district held an inter-agency meeting which included Middletown Police Homeland Security Liaison, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Director of Homeland Security, and NJDOE Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Management, as well as Dr. George, Superintendent, Mrs. Walker, Asst. Superintendent and Mr. Maguire, Supervisor of Security. Security procedures for functions beyond the school day by all class users were reviewed. Each expert at the meeting indicated that Middletown School's procedures are in line to best practice. We are continuing to implement and monitor implementation of our security procedures, and are moving forward with a training program for our user groups as planned. The training will educate the groups on the importance of our security procedures and ensure they understand their role is essential to maintain security.

- **[HIBster](#) software to track HIB incidents - *Jessica Shaw*** - Presentation regarding *HIBster*: an online tool for warehousing our harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) incidents. Allows for streamlined, efficient reporting and compliance with timelines/requirements of the law. Common Sense Media initiative discussed by Dr. George in response to question regarding digital citizenship.

- **English Language Learner (ELL) Program - *Natalie Franzi*** - At the last board meeting a resolution was passed to adjust English as a second language (ESL) instruction to an hour every other day at the elementary level. This will help provide more intensive services for the students across the elementary schools. The school district is currently investigating the creation of magnet or centralized programs. This would allow services to be more concentrated for the ELL students and it's proposed that these students be concentrated at two specific elementary schools (possibly Fairview as one of them). Ms. Franzi said that there will be meetings with the general public as well as transportation audits to best determine the next course of action.
- **[MTPS Community Connects Wifi Initiative](#) - *Natalie Franzi*** - The district is working to identify businesses that the schools can partner with in the community that offer free Wifi to provide more access to all MTPS students.
- **General Update - Dr. George**
 - **Pension Liability**
The appellate decision came in on 12.22.16. The district is filing a motion for certification to the NJ Supreme Court. We expect a decision within 6 weeks.
 - **Busing**
We are working with busing companies whose routes are not servicing the district satisfactorily. This impacts primarily 4 elementary schools and less than 10 routes. We are actively pursuing the contractual provisions to rectify this concern.

2. **MTFODL - *Magaly Milton, Dr. Saffert*** - New buddy bench made and installed at Bayview in memory of Christopher Prefer. The bench was purchased for under \$200 by the PTA and a parent donated materials and labor to paint and waterproof the bench. The school is talking to students about how to use the bench so that no one feels left out at recess. There is new 504 guidance issued this past December by the U.S. DOE and Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that is important to inform parents about. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/504-resource-guide-201612.pdf>

Some brief highlights on Section 504:

- includes a broad definition of disability that may include psychological disorders and various medical issues and even students who are do well academically
- covers evaluation and placement
- provides equal opportunity for athletics and extracurricular activities
- prohibits serious disability-based harassment by peers
- protects students civil rights from discrimination

Upcoming dance sponsored by local mom's group [Dancing with Special Friends](#)

Upcoming Arc of Monmouth [Presentation on Transitioning to Adulthood](#) at the next MTOFdL meeting on Jan 19, 2017, 7 pm at the MT Library

3. **Board of Education - *Ernie Donnelly, Danielle Walsh*** - Margie recognized Danielle Walsh for her past dedication and service to the PIC, and thanked her for her work. The group congratulated Danielle on her appointment to Board of Education President. Margie welcomed Sue Griffin as the new rep to PIC. The [2017-18 School Calendar](#) was approved at the last BOE meeting.

4. **New Business** - Kortney Rose Foundation seeking volunteers for their fundraiser at the Turning Point restaurant in Holmdel February 25 and 26. Margie will be volunteering. Reminder: \$10 donation to discretionary fund. **Next President's Council Meeting set for January 23 at 6:30**

Next meeting – Tuesday, February 7, at 9:15 AM. Topics to be discussed include:

- Introduction to Next Generation curricula - *Marjorie Caruso*