



Vestal District Council
February 17, 2021

Present: Amy MacDonald, Krista Soltis, Mark Browning, Mehreen Khan, Regina Felice, Sheri Esteban-Elie, and Sue Wendell.

Minutes: January minutes were approved.

President's/Treasurer's Report:

- Dr. Laura Lamash, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, retired at the end of January.
- We have received District Council dues from Vestal Hills, Tioga Hills, Vestal Middle School, and Vestal High School. If you have not already done so, please mail member unit dues to Kate Lynch, 17 Overbrook Dr., Apalachin, NY 13732. Thank you!
- Our current balance is \$1,275.75. After Kate deposits four more checks, it will be \$1,875.75.
- We will be awarding one scholarship this year for \$1,000.
- Member Units need to choose their District Council honorees for this year.

Administration: (Regina Felice)

- The District continues to look for ways to increase student attendance safely, and provide student services to help recovery and instruction.
- The search for a new Assistant Superintendent for Instruction has begun. The position was posted last week.
- Vestal Hills is going fully remote for the next two days.
- Two more snow days are left.
- The Locker Room 345 Program, affiliated with DICK'S Sporting Goods, will donate their surplus merchandise to students in need at the end of the season. Please inform the building principals about any student who might require clothing and shoes.
- Three Vestal High School alumni have joined the Vestal Police Department.
- A Tioga Hills elementary student, Ben Cucci, received Senator Akshar's All-Star Award. He started Nathan's Butterflies, a non-profit that does acts of kindness throughout the community. His award celebration was on Zoom.

Board of Education: (Mark Browning)

- Budget information has started to come in. We will receive more information from NY State in the coming weeks and months.

Member Unit Reports:

AFRICAN ROAD: (Marla French)

- We had Tastes of ARE virtually this year.
- The Mindfulness Program for our students and families will be held next week.
- Planning is underway for our Science Fair.

CLAYTON AVENUE: (Krista Soltis)

- We have not had a meeting since November.
- Our Blaze Pizza fundraiser took place in January.
- We have started to put our yearbook together.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY: (Aimee Szwalla)

- Our Wonder Explore Create Fair is coming up.
- We will have a Virtual Family Trivia Night in collaboration with AP Entertainment.

TIOGA HILLS: (Jessica Zwierzynski/ Becky Kaiven)

- Students enjoyed a virtual Lip Sync Battle.
- Our Chat-A-Wyle fundraiser was a hit!
- We will have a Virtual Trivia Night with AP Entertainment for all our families in March.

VESTAL HILLS: (Sue Wendell)

- We had a couple of fundraisers.
- We had to reschedule School Photos because of the snow days.
- Planning for a Scavenger Hunt is underway. It will take place in March.

VESTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: (Amy MacDonald/Marla French)

- Modified sports are now live-streamed on YouTube and Twitter. Thank you, Josh Gannon!
- The VMS musical will be virtual this year.
- We scheduled a virtual Scholastic Book Fair at the end of April.
- As part of the Capital Improvement Project, construction is on track at the middle school.
- Middle school eighth-grader Raghav Pallapothu received an Honorable Mention for his critical essay.

VESTAL HIGH SCHOOL: (Kate Lynch/Sheri Esteban-Elie)

- Registration for Spring and Fall Sports is open.
- We are co-sponsoring two Blood Drives on April 29 & 30. They will be held at a hotel and a church in Vestal.
- VHS musical, *Les Misérables* will be virtual this year.
- Freshman Ian Chung was awarded a Gold Key award in the Scholastic Writing Awards. He is also a nominee for the American Visions Award.
- Shruti Venkatesh received a Silver Key Award for her Personal Essay/Memoir.
- Carlin Reyen and Shruti Venkatesh received recognition in the Tri-Cities Women's Club Youth Poetry and Short Story Contest. Carlin's poem will move up for judging by the Central District of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.
- VHS Music Boosters have drafted a letter for our representatives to advocate the opening of their music programs safely. They are requesting people to write to the representatives in their support.
- The All-Nighter committee is hosting a virtual Trivia Night next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

Officers for 2020-21: President:	Amy MacDonald
Treasurer:	Kate Lynch
Secretary:	Mehreen Khan

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.