



Vestal District Council
January 20, 2021

Present: Aimee Szwalla, Amy MacDonald, Becky Kaiven, Jessica Zwierzynski, Kate Lynch, Mark Browning, Marla French, Mehreen Khan, Regina Felice, Sheri Esteban-Elie, and Sue Wendell.

Minutes: November minutes were approved.

President's/Treasurer's Report:

- We have received District Council dues from ARE and Clayton Avenue. Please mail member unit dues to Kate Lynch, 17 Overbrook Dr., Apalachin, NY 13732. Thank you!

Administration: (Regina Felice/Laura Lamash)

- K-12 transition to Phase 3 went well.
- Jane Hashey is now serving as the interim principal at the Vestal Middle School. VSD will be posting the position and looking for qualified candidates.
- COVID numbers have been high following the Winter Break. The District has been fortunate in controlling the numbers and keeping the buildings open. The majority of cases are due to community spread.
- Budget preparation is beginning. There are concerns about potential cuts to this year's aid, particularly in transportation and UPK.
- Reggi will be sending out the District Council directory electronically. Thank you, Reggi!

Board of Education: (Mark Browning)

- New York State canceled Regents examinations for January 2021. More information is yet to come regarding the status of State Testing and June Regents this year.
- School employees are now eligible to sign up for the vaccine.

Member Unit Reports:

AFRICAN ROAD: (Marla French)

- Our Book of the Season is *The World Needs More Purple People* by Kristen Bell and Ben Hart.
- We are having a virtual concert featuring Jared Campbell on January 29.
- Tastes of ARE will be held virtually this year.
- Our fifth-grade girl scouts made and distributed masks to all the elementary schools for their Bronze Award. Thank you, Girl Scouts!

CLAYTON AVENUE: (Krista Soltis)

- No Report.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY: (Aimee Szwalla)

- We are focusing on Kindness at Glenwood.
- Students in K through 2 are reading *The Rabbit Listened*.
- Grades 3-5 are collecting shoes for kids who forget theirs or do not have any.
- Picture retakes are done.

TIOGA HILLS: (Jessica Zwierzynski/ Becky Kaiven)

- Our membership voted to switch to a PTO.
- A virtual Lip Sync Battle is at the end of this week.
- We booked a Virtual Trivia with AP Entertainment for all our families.

- The Teacher Appreciation event at the end of December went well.

VESTAL HILLS: (Sue Wendell)

- Picture Day is coming up in February.
- We had a Blaze Pizza fundraiser last week.
- Our membership is lower than usual.
- We have received 11 entries for our Reflections Program.
- The PTA sponsored Festival of Lights in December was a huge hit.
- We are planning more events geared towards families.

VESTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: (Amy MacDonald/Marla French)

- Kate Lynch is our new building secretary.
- Students took part in the simulation for the computer-based testing last week.
- Today was the material pick up for the middle school. People can pick up between regular school hours.
- A monitor position is open at VMS.
- As part of the Capital improvement project, construction is on track, and they are now working on the ARE entrance.

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

- We are planning to have a Staff Appreciation Luncheon in February or March.
- VHS will have a virtual School Musical.
- We had a virtual Orchestra Concert.
- Daniel Knipscher was selected for All-National Honor Ensemble.
- Three Vestal High School students have been selected by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) for its All-State Conference. More information is available on the high school webpage on the district website.
- Three students were selected for the NY State Band Directors Association.
- Eight students received the Regional Scholastic Art Awards.
- Anna Bishop received a Gold Key, a Silver Key, and an Honorable Mention.
- Freshman Orientation and IB Information Night took place.
- Student Recognition Evening was held via Zoom.
- The seniors are hoping to have some celebration at the end of the year.
- Takeout Tuesdays fundraiser is ongoing.
- There was a Trivia Night for seniors on what would have been KB weekend.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.