



Vestal District Council September 22, 2021

Present: Amy MacDonald, Jessica Zwierzynski, Kate Lynch, Mark Browning, Mehreen Khan, Patrick Clarke III, Regina Felice, Shannon Matolka, Sheri Esteban-Elie, and Sue Wendell.

Minutes: May minutes were approved.

President's/Treasurer's Report:

- The Vestal District Council meets once a month and shares what is going on at each school. We share information, promote communication and cooperation among the member units, the Board of Education, and the Administration.
- Every year, the VDC hosts Meet the Candidates Night in May.
- We also host the Scholarship Dinner in June every year. This dinner is hosted by one parent group in the District on a rotating basis. This year it is Glenwood's turn to host the DC Scholarship Dinner.
- Member Unit dues for the District Council are \$150. Please make the check payable to the Vestal District Council, and mail it to Kate Lynch, 17 Overbrook Dr., Apalachin, NY 13732. Thank you!
- Our current account balance is \$ 471.66.

Administration: (Patrick Clarke, III / Regina Felice)

- We had a good start to the 2021-22 school year at all of our buildings, and our Transportation Department had a smooth start this year as well.
- Capital Project work has shifted to a night schedule. Our buildings are clean and safe. We posted photos of the hallways and other areas at ARE & VMS to Facebook, as well as opened the building for an hour to parents who wished to walk through on Monday (Sept. 20). Both of these were very well received.
- With the State at the high-risk level, outside user-group meetings are not being held in school buildings. At this time, we encourage virtual meetings. Your support of students and the District IS valued, and we would love to open the buildings to meetings once the COVID numbers go down.
- Last year, COVID-19 cases were predominantly adult cases. This year we are seeing a large number of students testing positive and/or being quarantined.
- An Instructional Plan for Quarantined Students is being developed through the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Patrick Clarke. We anticipate the details will be finalized later this week, in time for the inclusion of an article on this in the first 2021-22 District Newsletter. This article will also be posted on the website. In addition, the District is working on a testing program, as required by the State, for unvaccinated staff.
- Finally, NYS has authorized all school districts to go remote for school board meetings until January 15, 2022. We currently are still meeting in person; however, if a board member needs to remote in, we have that option.
- Another casualty of the uncertainty is the Holiday Craft Fair that was scheduled for December 5. It has now been canceled. The proceeds from this event usually went to support Dollars For Scholars. If any of your member families are interested in supporting scholarships for our graduating seniors, here is a link to the organization's donation web page: <https://vestal.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=donate&fwID=591> Or, checks can be mailed to Vestal Dollars For Scholars, P.O. Box 959, Vestal, NY 13851-0959. Thank you, Reggi!

Board of Education: (Mark Browning)

- No report.

Member Unit Reports:

AFRICAN ROAD: (Marla French)

- No report.

CLAYTON AVENUE: (Krista Soltis)

- No report.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY: (Shannon Matolka)

- Our first GSCA meeting for the school year is on Monday, September 27.

TIOGA HILLS: (Jessica Zwierzynski / Becky Kaiven)

- We have successfully transitioned from a PTA to a PTO. We are working on creating a website for our PTO.
- Our membership drive is starting.
- The Fund Walk and a Virtual Book Fair will take place in the next few weeks.
- Planning is underway for the Fall Festival.
- Fall Picture Day is also coming up.

VESTAL HILLS: (Sue Wendell)

- We had a great start to the school year.
- Scrip, Broome Books, and the Cider Mill fundraisers are currently going on.
- We will have a Virtual Book Fair in the fall.
- Our Family Photo Day is coming up. We will use the services of Sean Murphy Studios this year instead of Lifetouch.
- We received a \$ 400 check from Weis Markets.

VESTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: (Amy MacDonald/Marla French)

- We had a good start to the school year.
- Students have to quarantine due to COVID-19 and contact tracing.
- The Curriculum Night for VMS moved to October 1. It will be virtual.

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

- We had a Senior Social and Welcome Freshmen Breakfast right before school started.
- Curriculum Night is on September 28.
- The mask-wearing is going well.
- The Concession Stand at the Football games is starting again.
- The Freshmen Picnic was a big hit!
- We had Senior Night for Field Hockey.
- The Fall Sports are going on.

- The VHS Golden Circle of Bands performance is on Saturday, October 16.

OLD BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS:

- A letter from the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Patrick Clarke, outlining the District's Instruction Plan for Students in Quarantine can be viewed through the following link: <https://www.vestal.stier.org/Downloads/Quarantine-Instruction.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2KIr83YyoSDB4QhIjkxbczKH7Stxjx0YKAA5tIUVgRqrw3UV0JdlBfm-0>

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.