

Manual PTSA General Meeting Minutes November 28, 2017, Senior Cafeteria

Attending: 67 members attended, which is well over the quorum required by our bylaws. While VPs working check-in in the hallway confirmed membership, roll was not taken and name tags were intentionally not used so that members might feel more free to discuss difficult topics in relative anonymity.

Meeting was called to order by President Robin Weiss at 6:40pm.

It was moved by Vidya Ravichandran and seconded by Debbie Rowe that the PTSA utilize the compression planning model to process issues that are affecting the culture and climate of our school.

Motion passed by a unanimous raised hand vote of the members in attendance.

Announcements - My School Anywhere third party software had glitches with RSVPs for tonight; volunteers are needed to research fixes and/or other options.

Appreciation was expressed to attendees for joining us on a night that had many other school events scheduled as well as the work and family commitments of our members.

Guest Marian R. Vasser, Director of Diversity Education and Inclusive Excellence at UofL, was introduced as our session facilitator. Ms. Vasser gave an overview of compression planning, shared the group norms we would be utilizing, and shared our goals for the session.

Listening Sessions - 13 PTSA Board members who were trained by Ms. Vasser served as objective facilitators of small groups in which all attendees were asked to write a short, succinct response to the following three questions:

- 1) How are you feeling right now about what is going on at Manual?
- 2) What do you want to happen or what action do you think needs to be taken?
- 3) What role should the PTSA play?

Responses were anonymous unless the participant wanted to share that a particular response was theirs.

Q & A

How do we talk to our kids about this?

Why is there silence from the administration?

Why is the PTSA involved?

Why would it not be involved? PTSA is an advocacy organization with communications as one of its pillars. Although the vast majority of participants expressed appreciation for PTSA in holding this forum and working to communicate around these issues, this question about PTSA's purview was a welcome opportunity to communicate PTSA's founding mission as an advocacy organization.

FOLLOW UP TASKS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

PTSA Leadership will send a letter to Dr. Pollio and the Board of Education requesting process/details/timeline of the investigation (Robin, Delene, Judith, Pinky, Rob?)

Ms. Vasser will also request that the PTSA be given process/details/timeline of the investigation for distribution to its membership. (Marian)

Results of our group work will be compiled into a comprehensive document. (Kent)

Members who were not able to participate in the live forum will be provided an online opportunity to also respond to these questions. (Judith, Pinky)

Online responses will be added to forum responses (Judith, Kent)

A comprehensive document will be created and distributed to the PTSA Board (Marian)

PTSA Board will distribute final report to membership and school administration (Robin, Pinky)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm