

Haverford Middle School PTO
Meeting Minutes 1/14/14 HMS Library

A meeting of the Haverford Middle School (HMS) PTO was held in the HMS library.

In attendance: Dan Horan (Principal), Katie Campbell (Teacher Representative), Nichole Bethel (President), Jen Hufnal (Vice-President), Maria Purdy (Treasurer), Merri Lee Newby (Secretary), Lillian Mittleman, Dawn Roth, Angela Helfer, Helen Milligan, Carolyn DeLuca, Stephanie Wingate-Gardner, Beth Zukowski-Dougherty, Jenn Dixon, Siobhan Hawthorne, Sherri Leak

President Bethel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Opening of Meeting and Approval of October Minutes

Ms. Mittleman made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/13/13 PTO meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Wingate-Gardner and passed unanimously by acclamation.

Old Business

- **Book Fair** – There were no updates provided at the meeting.
- **Harlem Wizards** – There were no updates provided at the meeting.
- **Spirit Wear Winter Sale** – The winter spirit wear sale was successful with \$287 earned for the PTO. Heather at C&M will send the check when it is ready. A few orders still need to be picked up. Ms. Bethel and Ms. Ciarlante will follow-up. A spring sale is planned for the end of March with delivery at the end of April. Wind jackets, umbrellas and tank tops (with sleeve width that meets school standards) will be offered. An e-mail blast will be sent soliciting other suggestions.
- **IMPACT Update** – Ms. Bethel followed up with the company that does the IMPACT assessments. We currently pay for 600 assessments (500 baseline, 100 post injury) at a cost of \$750 (and we are locked into this rate already for next year also). The next package offered is \$1,000 (800 baseline assessments, 150 post injury) which could be considered for the 2015-2016 school year. Those present at the meeting discussed various considerations involved in potentially offering the IMPACT assessments to more students (it is currently only offered to student-athletes). Ms. Bethel shared that the representative at IMPACT stated that no school they are working with offers the assessment to all students. There are about 1340 students at HMS. Ms. Bethel said she will send an e-mail blast to see if there is interest in offering this assessment more widely and for a nominal fee. If there is sufficient interest, the planning, organization and logistics of carrying the assessments out would still have to be done by a special committee.

New Business

- **8th Grade Career Awareness Day 2014** – Ms. Bethel informed the PTO that 8th Grade Career Awareness Day will take place on May 9, 2014. The kids take a

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survey and identify areas of interest and are then grouped with kids with similar interests. They visit with four speakers: two from the list they are interested in and two not on that list. E-mail Ms. Bethel if you are interested in participating or would like to recommend someone. Five speakers are returning who spoke last year: they include an engineer, a sports writer, a reporter, a corporate professional and a musician. Student feedback is considered when deciding whom to invite back.

- Potter Cup – Ms. Bethel reported that we're good to go with this year's Potter Cup at Marple-Newtown High School. The PTO is adding a \$1,000 donation to whatever is raised for Alex's Lemonade Stand. About 1,100 kids are participating. Next year, we will host the Potter Cup.
- Teacher Wish Lists – Ms. Bethel will request a list from the teachers.

Teacher's Report

Ms. Campbell provided a separate written report for January covering the following topics (summarized here):

- Mrs. Dias's Exploratory Latin classes: The classes are using a multi-media approach to language learning.
- Anti-Drug and Alcohol Program: A group of trained 7th and 8th graders on the Peer Education Advisory Committee will present an anti-drug and alcohol program in 6th and 7th grade advisory in January.
- Girls R.U.L.E.: Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Cobb are running this eight-week girls group (**R**esponding with **U**nderstanding, **L**eadership and **E**mpathy) starting at the end of January. The group will meet once each week until 4 PM. It's open to all grades.
- 8th Grade Latin: Mrs. Henry's 8th grade Latin students recreated a cultural item from Roman history, researched it, and presented their work to the class in the library. Some of the projects will be submitted to the Philadelphia Classical Society competition at the Baldwin School in February.
- Yearbook: Yearbook price reduction and sales were extended through January 17th. After that date, yearbooks will be \$30. Sales end February 1st.
- Ski Club: Payments are due next week for grade level trips taking place the week of February 10th.

Principal's Report

Mr. Horan provided a separate agenda for his portion of the meeting.

- High Stakes Testing – Tests include PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment), PASA (Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment), Keystone (for 8th grade and 7th grade A1 math), World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), ACCESS testing for English Language Learners (ELL) and NAEP (National Association of Educational Progress). Mr. Horan discussed the scheduling, various factors that go into ratings and how results will be used by the

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Pennsylvania Department of Education. Testing will be taking place from February to April.

- Haverford Gifted Learning and Education Network – Mr. Horan informed the PTO about this group and its upcoming meeting January 30th at Manoa 7 pm (\$10 fee).
- Women’s Chorus Follow-Up – Mr. Horan provided follow-up on Mr. Monteleone’s question from the November PTO meeting regarding whether there could be a Men’s Chorus. Ms. Serratore informed Mr. Horan that all of the girls invited to form the Women’s Chorus had achieved a “Superior” rating in their audition for 7th Heaven but due to the limited number of spaces, could not be included in that group.
- No Place for Hate School – Mr. Horan informed the PTO about this group, an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League, which will be starting at HMS. There is an active club at the high school. Parents are needed to be involved with the steering committee which includes Mr. Horan, Ms. Alexander and Mr. Wagner.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. – Mr. Horan is looking for volunteers to help with planning for 2014-2015. He would like to see a menu of service opportunities offered. The school can help with bussing but would need PTO and parental support to organize and chaperone service activities.

Questions/Comments

- Ms. Bethel shared a report from Mr. Montessor who could not attend this meeting. At the November IDC meeting, they discussed Google drive and performance trackers. Dennis Gray will present next year’s school district budget at the January school board meeting.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 7 PM in the HMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merri Lee Newby
Secretary