

**Haverford Middle School PTO
Meeting Minutes 10/8/13 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), Ray Betz, Lillian Mittleman, Steph Oberlin, Stephanie Wingate-Gardner, Peter Monteleone, Beth Zukowski-Dougherty, Linda Short, Renee Lawler, Elaine Lamberto, Tricia Mazzella, Betsy McElveavey, Kathy Kerns-Phillips, Dawn Gray

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

Opening of Meeting and Greeting/Introductions

Ms. Purdy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/13/13 PTO meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Monteleone and passed unanimously by acclamation.

Update on Membership Drive and Directory

Ms. Bethel and Ms. Purdy provided an update. The directory is at the printers and will be ready for distribution early next week. They are bound, not stapled and were printed at the District Office for \$703. The breakdown by grade was: 6th grade-204 families, 7th grade-233 families, 8th grade-243 families. The PTO will continue to collect dues from families that are still interested in a directory since there are extra copies available.

Budget for the 2013-2014 School Year

Ms. Purdy reviewed updates to the budget that were discussed at the 9/13/13 meeting. Ms. Bethel shared follow-up to a question that had been raised at the 9/13/13 meeting re: IMPACT (the Pre-Concussion Evaluation Program, Line Item #18 on the budget). The program will cover up to 600 student athletes. Mr. Horan added that the program is offered to all student athletes; it is not mandatory. A number of parents expressed a desire to have the program extended to include all students since there is a danger of concussion to non-athletes as well as athletes while at school. Ms. Bethel said there are many considerations involved with potentially expanding the program (budget, scheduling). Further discussion was tabled pending research needed so that an informed discussion of the options can take place at a future PTO meeting. Ms. Mittleman made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 budget; the motion was seconded by Mr. Betz and passed unanimously by acclamation.

Upcoming Events

- Box Tops Incentives – Ms. Kerns-Phillips will be promoting an in-grade competition to increase participation in the program. Amy Gattone will be collecting and counting. The first deadline is 11/1/13.
- 6th Grade Halloween Dance – Ms. Zukowski-Dougherty and Ms. Mazzella

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reported that plans are coming along well. They have lots of volunteers, food and a DJ. Invitations and tickets have been printed. Cost is \$5 per student. They are looking for help with raffle prizes and securing donations. Parents were encouraged to send in donations if possible (such as gift cards). An e-mail will go out shortly regarding this.

- Harlem Wizards – Ms. Bethel updated the PTO. There will be an assembly about the game on 10/21/13. The game will take place 11/9/13 from 7-9 PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. There is an order form on the PTO website and tickets can also be ordered on the Harlem Wizards website. There is a “will call” available. Team Hurricane (the teacher team) has already started practicing. The event needs more sponsors and they are looking to increase group tickets sales. An ad will go out soon on the Patch and education channels as well as weekly blasts.

President’s Report

- Back-to-School Nights – Ms. Bethel reported that there was great feedback on the new format for Back-to-School Night. The three events were successful and the PTO will continue with that next year. She thanked everyone for their help and participation.

Teacher’s Report

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

- 8th Grade English Classes: Students completed a grade-wise basics skills unit and are beginning a multi-media research project which will incorporate citations, research analysis and technology.
- Cooking Club: Mrs. Barber had over 100 students at the first meeting. They will be broken into smaller groups and assigned days/weeks to attend.
- Teaching Tolerance’s Mix It Up Day: This will take place 10/25 at lunch and is intended to help students identify, question and cross social boundaries. Adult and student leaders will facilitate. Students are also encouraged to “mix up” their outfits by wearing clashing and unusual clothing combinations to school.
- Activity Nights: The first activity night will be 11/1/13 from 6:45-9:15. Mrs. Young (tyoung@havsd.net) and Mrs. Still (still@havsd.net) are in charge and looking for volunteers to help work different stations. Please contact them if interested. Ms. Bethel forwarded them the names of 18 parents who volunteered for this via PTO Manager.
- Math Club: Mrs. Riley is sponsoring math club to promote excitement, enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards mathematics through collaboration, computation and competition.
- Yearbook Club: The club begins this month and online sales will begin in November.

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New Business

- Garden Club – Ms. Hufnal asked PTO members about their interest in starting a garden club to plant bulbs in the fall and perennials in the spring. Mr. Horan said that the club and Bob Lester, the new head of maintenance, just need to be on the same page as far as a designated space. There was a lot of interest and agreement that this would enhance the school's environment. Ms. Bethel made a motion to provide the Garden Club with an initial budget of \$400; this was seconded by Ms. Kerns-Phillips and passed unanimously by acclamation.
- Giant/Target Rewards Programs – Ms. Hufnal reported that a school administrator must sign up HMS for the Giant reward program. Giant could have a table at next year's Back-to-School night to encourage people to register their cards for the program. Giant allows two schools to be registered per card but this must be done annually. Target offers 1% of the value of purchases toward the school that is registered. There are many ways to sign up including an in-store kiosk and on-line. Target is also offering a Principal's Challenge [details? Principal challenges the general manager to what??] which could win \$1,000 for the school. Mr. Horan is thinking about it.

Principal's Report

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

- Pennsylvania School Performance Profile – This past Friday the school profiles were released on the Department of Education website. HMS scored a 94%. There will be a lot of discussion about the new scoring system which includes indicators such as academic performance, academic growth and attendance. Districts can opt to suppress their score and several nearby districts have done just that including Lower Merion and Radnor.
- Unified Arts – New Class/Curriculum – A number of changes have been implemented that came out of the parent/student surveys that were conducted. There is now a cooking club in the Family and Consumer Science area, personal finance course in Technology, choice days in Phys Ed and digital photography in Art.
- Middle School Committee – This committee has accomplished a lot in the past year. Ms. Mittleman asked about having six 6-week courses rather than 4 quarters. Mr. Horan responded that they rebuilt the schedule from December 2012 – August 2013 and that this was a first step. Other possible changes will come out of the committee work and consideration of six class cycles will piggy back discussions of teaming, homework and other issues. The committee is still meeting and working. This year's 6th grade science and social studies classes are larger than the 7th and 8th grades due to how scheduling is done. There is more flexibility in 7th and 8th because the teachers only teach one content area. Still looking at this for 6th grade with an eye towards keeping class size as small as possible. Mrs. Finnegan is the Foreign Language Chair and is looking at how other schools offer

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- foreign language.
- Haverford Township School District Education Foundation – A grant has been allocated for HMS for the 2013-2014 school year and will be awarded pending the submission of a written plan for the grant’s use. Ideas include expanding after school activities and technology offerings.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th at 7 PM in the HMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merri Lee Newby
Secretary