

Haverford Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes 3/11/14 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), Lou Montessor, Peter Monteleone, Anna Cohen, Catherine Frank, Beth Zukowski-Dougherty

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

Opening of Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Monteleone made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/11/14 PTO meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Newby and passed unanimously by acclamation.

Old Business

- **IMPACT Update** – Ms. Bethel reported that the majority of respondents to the survey she sent out twice were in favor of offering the IMPACT to all students. During the discussion that followed, Ms. Bethel clarified that the PTO (not HMS) pays for IMPACT for the athletes. If the PTO were to offer the evaluation to all students, non-student-athletes being evaluated would pay a \$5 fee to help offset the cost (about \$10 per child). Ms. Zukowski-Dougherty made a motion to offer IMPACT to all HMS students. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion which passed unanimously by acclamation. Ms. Bethel suggested starting by offering two dates and seeing if they fill up and will add more dates if needed.
- **8th Grade Career Awareness Day 2014** – Ms. Bethel shared that there are 22 speakers confirmed and they are looking for more speakers in the fitness, culinary and medical professions. Some potential speakers were suggested. Ms. Bethel and Mr. Horan will follow-up.
- **Market Day** – Mr. Monteleone provided a separate detailed report “Market Day Brief”. He informed the PTO about the history of Market Day, and how the deliveries and profit plan work. He also provided a projection for our potential profits based upon our population and average sales numbers from Market Day. Based on Mr. Monteleone’s projection, the PTO could earn a profit of \$1,206/month (\$12,060/year assuming 10 deliveries). He also provided contact information should the PTO decide to pursue this. Ms. Bethel thanked Mr. Monteleone for his doing the research and reporting back to the PTO. There was an extended discussion about what other schools in the area participate in Market Day; changes in how Market Day handles deliveries (they now provide on site support staff and orders come presorted); how the additional funds could be used (Mr. Horan shared many ideas about programs that could be expanded and benefit from sustained funding). Ms. Purdy made a motion to bring Market Day to HMS; Ms. Cohen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by acclamation.

New Business

- **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** – Ms. Cohen said that the luncheon will be on 3/28 and the theme is spring. Everything will be colorful and bright. There is a caterer (Paul McCormick) for most of the menu and a sign-up genius will be sent out for drinks and desserts. Volunteers are needed to decorate, set-up and clean-up and for three lunch shifts. Ms. Hufnal offered to help create decorations. Ms. Purdy made a motion to provide \$200 in additional funding to help cover the cost of decorations; Ms. Zukowski-Dougherty seconded the motion which passed unanimously by acclamation. Ms. Bethel suggested the times be double-checked since that day’s schedule is following a two-hour delayed start.
- **March Activity Night** – There will be a dodge ball tournament at the next Activity Night on 3/28 from 7 to 9pm. Twenty more volunteers are needed for that night. Ms. Campbell

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said they are really encouraging 8th graders to sign up and make teams. She said there's been a lot of excitement.

Teacher's Report

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

- **Save A Heart**: This event will run from April 9-11. Last year HMS was 3rd in the country for the amount of money raised. They are looking to raise the bar again this year.
- **Mrs. McGlone's Science Class**: Learned about bones to aid in identification of rodent bones during owl pellet dissection. They are also debating the advantages and disadvantages of alternative energy sources.
- **Science Olympiad Team**: The team worked many hours after school in preparation for the competition on March 5th at Neumann University. Students competed in 23 events against 30 other middle schools. HMS medaled in two events but did not qualify to continue on to states. RoboCross came in 4th and Astronomy placed 2nd. There were many new members this year. Many thanks to the parents and school administration for all their support.
- **Philadelphia Zoo Grant**: In 2013, a group of HMS students were awarded a grant from the Philadelphia Zoo to be used for environmental education. This spring, they will use the money to transform a courtyard on school grounds into an environmental learning area featuring: raised flower bed, classroom compost bin, rain barrel, bird bath/boxes, sun dial.
- **National Latin Exam**: The Latin 1 students will take the National Latin Exam on March 12. Test results will be available in April. On March 14th, the Latin 1 class will celebrate the Ides of March and the life of Julius Caesar with a toga party.
- **Teacher Wish List**: The teachers have two requests as follows: 1) Two picnic benches/tables (it's a combined bench/table) to place outside near the faculty dining area (\$620 total); 2) Ten wireless presenters (remotes) to use with the smart boards (\$350 total).

Principal's Report

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

- **High Stakes Testing** – Mr. Horan briefly discussed the various instruments being used: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Keystone, World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), ACCESS testing for English Language Learners (ELL) and National Assessment of Educational Progress. He said that our PSSA's have been pushed back by a week (with the State's OK) due to the many snow days.
- **Weather Days-Instructional Calendar** – Mr. Horan said to check the web site for the latest.
- **Scheduling** – Mr. Horan explained that leveling is done by ability level, not performance. They are working on improving the scheduling process all the time. They estimate that we have 420 students leaving and 470 entering; projections are for continued growth over the next few years.
- **Jazz Season** – The jazz bands have lots of events coming up. Check the web site for details.
- **Lockdown Drill with a Variable for April** – Mr. Horan informed the PTO that there will be a lockdown drill with a variable sometime in April.
- **No Place for Hate School**—Mr. Horan said the HMS has applied to be a No Place for Hate School. The Anti-Defamation League has responded. There will be meetings this coming year. HMS must have three initiatives during the year. They are planning to recommend a school-wide book to read over the summer (considering *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio) that will be discussed in advisory next year. They are planning to do more school wide events next year and are planning to pick a new book each year.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Mr. Horan shared plans for next year. They would like to provide a menu of service opportunities for students and would like to promote it heavily to

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encourage participation next year.

Questions/Comments

There were no additional questions or comments.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th at 7 PM in the HMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merri Lee Newby
Secretary