

## **Haverford Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes 4/8/14 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, Catherine Fave, Angela Helfer, Zsolt Olah, Peter Monteleone, Linda Short

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

### **Opening of Meeting and Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Hufnal made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/11/14 PTO meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Purdy and passed unanimously by acclamation.

### **Old Business**

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Awareness Day** – Ms. Bethel reported that 24 speakers are confirmed for 24 classes with a few extras if needed for back up. \$100 is budgeted but \$250 was spent last year for this event. Ms. Bethel requested \$200 be allocated (in addition to the \$100 budgeted) for this year's event to cover the anticipated expenses. Ms. Newby made a motion to allocate an additional \$200 to Career Awareness Day. Mr. Monteleone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.
- **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** – Ms. Bethel reported that there was great feedback about this year's luncheon. Thank you notes were circulated; in one, Mrs. Flanders thanked the PTO and described the luncheon as "scrumptious". Ms. Cohen and the committee transformed the faculty lounge with beautiful wall decorations and table centerpieces. The teachers were very appreciative.

### **New Business**

- **Administrative Professionals Day** – It is on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Horan and Ms. Campbell will look into gift ideas and will follow-up.
- **Box Tops** – Totals are pending. Announcement expected on or by April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade T-Shirts** – There was some discussion about how the t-shirts are being done this year but no decision has been made. Mr. Horan and Ms. Campbell will check with Mrs. Hiller, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal, and get back to the PTO.
- **Spirit Wear** – The sale will be at the end of April with May delivery. Ms. Ciarlante will contact the elementary PTO's with a link for the order.
- **Senior Citizen Prom** – The prom will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Local senior attend and middle school students in any grade are encouraged to volunteer.

### **Teacher's Report**

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

- **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter** has begun!
- **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Jazz**: Wednesday, April 9 6:30 PM at the high school.
- **Save A Heart**: Coming up in the days ahead: 6<sup>th</sup> grade April 9, 7<sup>th</sup> grade April 10 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Spring Break**: April 14-21.
- **Senior Citizens' Prom**: Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5 to 7 PM. See HMS website for more details.
- **Activities Night**: The next one is Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 7 to 9 PM. \$5 per student. Dodge ball was great with about 200 kids attending.
- **Thank You!**: Ms. Campbell thanked the PTO for the "fantastic luncheon and the wonderful picnic tables and wireless presenters! The staff cannot wait for them to arrive and to be able to put it all to use!"

### **Principal's Report**

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

- Thank You – Mr. Horan thanked the PTO for the staff luncheon, teacher gifts and support for the Senior Citizen Prom.
- Scheduling – The scheduling is 90% done for next year. Mr. Horan mentioned that a parent waiver practice exists when there is a disagreement between the school's recommendation versus what the parents would like.
- Elementary School Orientation – A date hasn't been set but it will be at the end of May. A decision will be made after PSSA's.
- End of the Year Awards – Awards night is coming up. Students who are invited will get letters. Looking to streamline things so the evening goes more quickly while still recognizing the award recipients.
- Post PSSAs. Planning for next year is underway for the No Place for Hate School program including using Wonder by R.J. Palacio as the all-school book to be read this summer by all students and discussed throughout the year. HMS was recognized for the "Mix It Up at Lunch Day Program" by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance education project. 76 schools were selected out of 6,000 that participated in the event; these schools were designated "Mix It Up" Model Schools by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Planning is also underway for Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2015 with a menu of service opportunities expected to be offered.
- Lockdown Drill with a Variable for May – The lockdown drill will take place during a time that is not "controlled" (e.g., when classes are switching, during lunch). The goal is to get to a safe place. Homeroom will take place immediately following the drill to get feedback.
- Spring Break – Mr. Horan shared that everyone is really ready. "It's time," he said.

**Questions/Comments**

- Mr. Olah is taking over the website from Ms. Mittleman and is collaborating with students on the new design. He shared that it is a closed website right now while the students work on it. He expects to launch the new website in June.
- Mr. Monteleone asked about the upcoming dances. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance will take place May 30<sup>th</sup> 7 to 9 PM with a DJ. The committee chairs are starting to plan it. Attire is "relaxed". The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Dance will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> 7 to 9 PM.
- Ms. Mittleman had two Education Foundation updates: the Education Foundation raises about 25K to 30K each year. Next year there will be two 30K grants for which our district schools can apply. Also, the Education Foundation's Summer Academy is enrolling and more information is available on the Ed Foundation's website. Any amount raised by the Summer Academy in excess of expenses goes back into the Education Foundation fund.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the HMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merri Lee Newby  
Secretary