

Haverford Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes 5/12/15 HMS Library

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

In attendance: Dan Horan (Principal), Katie Hoge (Teacher Representative), Jennifer Hufnal (President), Merri Lee Newby (Vice-President), Maria Purdy (Treasurer), Bernadette Lawson, Tricia Mazzella, Ruth Billebault, Renee Lawler, Angela Helfer, Kelly Kane, Peter Monteleone, Nichole Bethel, Yoonie Hong Lint, Kathy Kerns Phillips, Ellen Liven, Gina Kramern, Linda Short, Sherri Leak, Helene Conroy Smith, Gina Ranieri.

President Hufnal called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Opening of Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hong-Lint made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/14/15 PTO meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Kerns-Phillips and passed unanimously by acclamation.

Old Business

- Introduction of New Webmaster – Michelle Blickley, our new web master, was introduced and thanked for her willingness to step into this role. Thank you, Michelle!
- Administrative Professionals Day – The PTO gave Visa cards (\$50) and flowers to all of the secretaries.
- Thank You's – Thank you cards from the teachers and staff to the PTO were read aloud and passed around, in appreciation for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, water cooler, water bottles and Administrative Professionals Day gifts.
- Box Tops – At the time of the meeting, Ms. Kerns-Phillips reported that the box tops were still being counted. [Ms. Kerns-Phillips provided a follow-up report by e-mail on June 8th: The Spring Box Tops challenge made \$958.80. The winning teams in the challenge were: 6th Grade – Beluga Whales, 7th Grade – Giant Pandas, 8th Grade – Bengal Tigers. The winning teams were rewarded with a water ice party.] Angela Helfer will be the new chairperson for Box Tops – thank you, Angela! And Amy Gatton plans to continue counting – thank you, Amy!
- 8th Grade Career Awareness Day – The event was held May 1st. There were 24 speakers. The day went very smoothly with speakers reporting back to Nichole that they enjoyed it. This year they are collecting student feedback. Mr. Cohen is the teacher liaison.
- HMS Gardens and Planters – Gina Ranieri presented several different options for planters at the front of the school. 1) Trex: not guaranteed by the company so not a good option, 2) Concrete: made to look like crate boxes, would be black, last forever, \$299 each; 3) Resin/Concrete: 12-14 year lifespan, \$250/each. Ms. Ranieri recommended option 2 as the most cost effective in the long term. The plan is to order 11 to start. Each planter is 29” long x 20” high x 21” wide. There is a \$125 delivery fee (for all 11) with three-week lead-time. She estimates that it would cost approximately \$40 to fill each planter and experience is not required; a watering plan would be drawn up to keep the plants going over the summer. Nichole Bethel made a motion to allocate \$4,000 towards the purchase, delivery and filling for 11 concrete planters as described by Ms. Ranieri; the motion was seconded by Ms. Hong-Lint and Ms. Lawler. The motion was unanimously approved by acclamation. The motion passed is subject to Mr. Horan's approval.
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon – Ms. Hong Lint reported that the luncheon went really well. Paul McCormick was the caterer again this year. Ms. Hoge said the luncheon was “absolutely awesome.” She said that “being able to eat together was the best part.” The teachers cheered when presented with the water cooler and water bottles that said “Thank you for quenching our children's thirst for knowledge.” Brava, Yoonie on a fantastic luncheon for the staff and teachers!

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- Teacher Wish List – The teachers showed their appreciation for their wish list items with many wonderful thank you notes which were passed around and read. Wish list items included a Toshiba Chromebook; Chromecast projector and apps; books; radius desktop organizer; framed 8th grade t-shirt; front facing book displays; wireless presenters with laser pointer and memory; shredder.
- Activity Nights – Jen Hufnal reported for Catherine Frank. The PTO needs 20 parent chaperones for each Activity Night and this may be a concern with the new school district requirements to have state and federal clearances when working directly with students. Ms. Hufnal said once obtained, the clearances are good for three years, and she shared that the library is hosting an event for the clearances on May 30th. She also informed the PTO that Mr. Horan had said in an earlier meeting with her that the school may pay teachers to staff the activity night events. Ms. Hufnal said she will send an e-mail Blast regarding the need for clearances and clarifying what needs to be obtained and how they are processed by the district. Maria Purdy will be the new chairperson for Activity Nights – thank you, Maria!

New Business

- Committee Chairs 2014-2015 – Committee Chairs vacancies were reviewed.
- 5th Grade Orientation – Orientation will be on June 3rd. Volunteers will be in the computer lab to help parents sign up for PTO manager.
- 7th Grade Dance – Ms. Mazzella reported that the dance will be on May 29th from 7 to 9 PM with a DJ. Chaperones are exempt from clearance requirements at this time. The middle school pays for a police officer to be present. A sign-up sheet will be going out this week to 7th grade parents via an e-mail Blast.
- 8th Grade Dance – Ms. Conroy Smith reported that the dance will be on June 12th from 7 to 9:30 PM. The theme is “Night at the Oscars.” There is a tee shirt competition and the winning design will be printed on tee shirts that the class will wear to Hershey Park for the class trip. Ms. Hiller is sending out a letter and form by 5/28 to collect \$5 for the dance and \$5 for the Hershey Park tee shirt.
- Senior Citizen Dance – This event will take place at HMS on 5/22 and 7th and 8th grade students will be on-hand to organize and run it. There are two faculty sponsors. This “prom for seniors” features activities, raffles and dancing. Ms. Purdy gave Ms. Hoge the PTO’s previously approved donation of \$800 towards the event.
- June Meeting – Mr. Monteleone made a motion not to hold a June meeting which was seconded by Ms. Purdy. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Teacher’s Report

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

- A reminder to check the calendar on the HMS website for details of upcoming events.
- 7th Heaven: 7th Heaven traveled to Rhawnhurst Elementary School to deliver buckets, drumsticks, recording equipment and many other needed supplies for their general music classes. The donated supplies were paid for with the money the school was awarded from the More FM Christmas Choir Competition. Our students had a positive and rewarding experience giving back to other kids.
- Community Service Club: Twelve club members helped prepare breakfast on Friday, May 1st, for families of the Chestnut Street Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia and the following day 11 students and teachers went back and served, played with the children and toured the facility.
- Nurse’s Office: Students are to check in the nurse’s office for their lost glasses! Unclaimed eyewear will be donated to the Lion’s Club at the end of the year.

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- Poetry Club: This was the first year for poetry club. There was a great turn out from the sixth grade. Students learned about different writing and poetry styles. They are wrapping up the year by creating a booklet of their work.
- Reading Olympics: Ms. Hogue thanked the PTO for supporting Reading Olympics. HMS had two teams participate in the event on April 30th and both received the highest award, a blue ribbon.
- Save-A-Heart: Save-A-Heart officially raised \$40,844 for the American Heart Association. This is the most raised in 18 years. The PE department thanked the PTO their support.

Principal's Report

Mr. Horan prepared a separate agenda for his portion of the meeting. Ms. Hufnal read the report in Mr. Horan's absence.

- New Superintendent – Dr. Maureen Reusche will be visiting the building on June 2nd and with PTO officers that day also.
- Volunteers: Due to Act 153 and the resulting new school district policy, volunteers must now have background clearances (PA Police Background Check, FBI Criminal Clearance, PA Child Abuse Clearance). The school district policy can be found on the school district website under "about" then "Employment Opportunities". In brief: turn in the clearances in a sealed envelope to HMS; it will be date stamped and sent to Oakmont; Oakmont will process; principals have access to a spreadsheet listing approved volunteers; principals to follow-up in the event of missing paperwork; clearances must be within one year of the date submitted; once submitted, they are good for three years from the date of issue; parents who have volunteered this year (academic year 2014-2015) may be a chaperone for a day trip without clearances until July 1st.

Questions/Comments

- There were no questions or comments.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merri Lee Newby
Vice-President