

Haverford Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes 9/8/15 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), Merri Lee Newby (President), Maria Purdy (Vice-President), Carol Buehler (Treasurer), Beth Zukowski-Dougherty (Secretary), Renee Lawler, Therese Menear, Angela Helfer, Ruth Billebault, Mary Bear Shannon, [incomplete list]

President Newby called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Opening of Meeting

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 5/12/15 PTO meeting; the motion passed unanimously by acclamation.
- Ms. Newby gave an update on the membership drive with reminders to pay dues and register or update information on PTO Manager. Ms. Purdy has arranged for the PTO to use a credit card machine this year to facilitate payments on Back to School nights.
- Ms. Shannon handed out information about an upcoming event, “Parenting Without Screams”, co-hosted by the Haverford Township Free Library, the Haverford Township Adult School and the School District of Haverford Township. It will take place in the HMS auditorium on Tuesday 10/6 at 7 PM. The speaker is Matt Bellace, a psychologist and stand-up comedian. Registration is \$10.
- Maria Purdy and Carol Buehler reviewed the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 school year and answered questions. There was discussion about two line items no longer in use (i.e., the PTO has not actually incurred costs for these line items in years): 8th Grade Honors Night and the Scullin Fund. Mr. Horan said the school takes care of these. These line items will be removed from the budget. The budget will be voted on at the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Back to School Nights-Ms. Newby gave an update about the upcoming Back to School Nights (schedule below). Families can pay dues, register for PTO Manager and can pick up spirit wear. Ms. Newby asked those in attendance if they would be interest in “cash and carry” spirit wear (hoodies and tee shirts). A majority said they would be interested in the PTO offering cash and carry spirit wear at Back to School Nights. Ms. Newby will go ahead with ordering these items from ProForma (Jack and Nancy Cunningham, HMS parents).
 - 6th Grade Back to School Night: Monday, September 28, 6:00 PM
 - 7th Grade Back to School Night: Tuesday, September 29, 6:30 PM
 - 8th Grade Back to School Night: Wednesday, September 30, 6:30 PM
- 6th Grade Halloween Dance-Renee Lawler and Therese Menear agreed to co-chair the dance this year. Thank you!! The dance will take place on Friday, October 23rd, 7-8:30 PM.
- Box Tops-Ms. Helfer reported that the first collection deadline will be 9/24/15. If submitting lots of Box Tops at once, please write the team name on submissions so the correct team gets credit. She said that the library can also host containers and that there will be three more collections this year with a goal of earning \$3,000 for the PTO: 3/1, 2/17 and 5/25. Ms. Helfer handed out flyers with more information about the collection and the contest. One winning team from each grade will get a water ice party at the end of the year, so keep sending in those Box Tops!
- No Place for Hate-Mr. Horan said that a rep for the organization is visiting HMS on Wednesday. No Place for Hate, an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League, seeks to build tolerance and understanding and HMS organizes events (such as Mix It Up Day and MLK Day of Service) throughout the year in order to receive a No Place for Hate designation. It is a school-wide initiative and Ms. Zukowski-Dougherty chairs it for the PTO.
- Activity Nights-Maria Purdy reported that Trish Young is our teacher contact for Activity Nights. The first Activity Night will be Friday, 10/2, from 7 to 9 PM. Cost is \$5.
- IMPACT testing for non-athletes and interested students Oct.-Ms. Newby reported that she has been in touch with Bill Booth and testing will take place in late October after the testing of athletes is completed. Most likely two dates will be offered again this year.

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Presidents Report Merri Lee Newby

- Spirit Wear sale-results-Ms. Newby reported for Ms. Ciarlante. The second spirit wear sale ended today and results are not known at this time. There will be another sale before the holidays.
- Reminder: Religious Holidays Monday 9/14 and Wednesday 9/23.
- Student Picture Day: Friday 10/2 (retake day Friday 11/6).
- Book Fair: Monday 11/9 to Friday 11/13

Teacher's Report Katie Hoge

Ms. Hoge thanked the PTO for past support and said she looks forward to working with us again this year.

New Business Merri Lee Newby

- Ms. Newby thanked the families that watered the new planters all summer: The Hufnals, the Helpers, the Ranieris and the McAnallys – thank you all so much for tending the plants and flowers all summer to keep them looking their best and beautifying our school! Ms. Newby wrote thank you notes for the families.
- Ms. Newby announced that there is a home football game on Friday.

Principal's Report Dan Horan

- Mr. Horan prepared a separate agenda for his portion of the meeting (summarized here):
- Mr. Horan reported that the first day of school was a great day and went according to plan “which is always nice”, he said. He said that having kids come in early and practice with the lockers “paid off big time”. Good ideas and good planning made the first day go smoother.
- The new superintendent, Dr. Reusche, was at HMS today and spoke to the 6th graders.
- Our new director of curriculum, Jennifer Saksa, will be starting late September/early October. She is coming from Downingtown School District.
- Parking is an issue every year. The school must balance the needs of staff, students and the community in the streets adjacent to the school. This year, the lot on Marthart will be staff only as HMS needs to accommodate 130 staff members and lot/street parking is extremely limited. The spots on Gulf Road are allocated 80% to the school district and 20% to residents. Students and parents must find legal parking where it is available and stay out of the fire lane.
- PSSA's (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)
- Mr. Horan reported that this year's PSSA's scores for the whole state were lower than expected causing our governor to request a waiver from the federal government which was granted while the cause of drop in scores is reviewed. Though our district scores dropped somewhat, they are still far above state averages.
- Mr. Horan shared that Haverford High School was ranked one of America's Top High Schools, which measures six indicators in ranking schools: college enrollment rate, graduation rate, weighted advanced placement/international baccalaureate/dual enrollment composite, weighted SAT/ACT composite, student retention and counselor-to-student ratio. Garnet Valley was the only other Delaware County high school to be recognized.

Questions/Comments

- There were no questions or comments.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th at 7 PM in the HMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merri Lee Newby
President