

Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2016

In attendance: Anne Finkelston, Natalie Lindquist, Joy Klineberg, Tara Diel, Sara Johnson, Karen Hamilton, Michelle Agnew, Tracy Skinner, Jean Kennedy, Karen Fee, Laura Shapiro, Ellen Shields, Lori Benedict, Joanna Purve, Emily Ault, Madhavi Sunder, Jimin Moon, Abby Koenig, Heather Wade, Alison Broaddus, Rachel Gunn, and Tarri Swanson.

1. Parcel Tax Renewal – Madhavi Sunder –

- Current parcel taxes are \$531 per parcel – makes up approximately 12% of the school district budget
- Funds reduce class size, provide reading specialists, elementary science, world language – multiple languages, music – elementary & secondary, libraries and more
- In November there will be another vote for renewing the parcel tax. Needs to be \$620 per parcel annually to match current parcel tax (additional funds needed to offset a lawsuit)
- She took questions/feedback from those present

2. Approval of Agenda and Amended February Minutes – Motion passed to approve the agenda for the meeting. Rachel Gunn noted that she was present at the February meeting. Motion passed to approve the February Minutes as amended.

3. Leadership Report – Jimin Moon

- Ask for support for sending out a sign up genius to support the 9th grade BBQ
- 9th grade BBQ would occur after the 9th grade awards ceremony
- there are still a lot of details to work out

4. Treasurer's Report/Budget Review and Update – Tracey Skinner and Anne Finkelston

- Tracey presented the Treasurer's Report
- Anne presented the working budget
 - Extra fundraiser money was distributed as follows:
 - \$300 – Science, Math, English, Social Studies, PE
 - \$150 – World Language, Electives, Special Education, Technology Support
 - \$1830 check was written to Holmes (\$270 previously donated directly to Holmes)

5. Nominating Committee – Natalie Lindquist

- Natalie read off the slate for next year's executive board as follows:
 - President – Joy Klineberg
 - Executive VP – Natalie Lindquist
 - Treasurer – Karen Hamilton
 - Secretary – Abby Koenig
 - Historian – Heema Govindjee-Merchant
 - VP Membership – Michelle Agnew
 - VP Fundraising – Diana Mahoney
 - Auditor – Laura Shapiro
 - Parliamentarian – Allison Chilcott

6. English Department Presentation – Alison Broaddus

- Thank you for a PTA grant that paid for an author, Steven Aavang, to come and speak some of the 7th and 9th grade classes.
- There will be a new 9th grade textbook next year.
- For 7th & 8th grade there will be another group of teachers piloting textbooks
- Library – the all school read *I Am Malala* – was not as successful as last year
 - Also putting on a poetry contest – still time for students to enter
- Reading logs – consistent throughout the classes
 - 450 + pages – 7th grade
 - 500 + pages – 8th grade
 - 600 + pages – 9th grade
- 9th grade – working on academic vocabulary roots
 - root study – helps kids to discern reason for words
 - proverbs – exposing students to idiom literacy
- Writing – narrative analytical writing, argumentative writing, the difference between persuasive vs argumentative writing
- Common Core – English is being included in science, math and other classes

7. Teacher's Report – Heather Wade

- Thanks to the PTA for Pi Week, department grants, pre-thanks for Dr. Seuss week (Teacher's Appreciation), hospitality, wrestling program mats, and Open House Celebration.

8. Counselor's Report, Ellen Shields

- Laura Losk, new counselor, checking in with struggling kids
- There is a new pilot program on mindfulness – someone will come on Weds. For 4 weeks and give 15 minute classes
 - The hope is that students will start day classes more centered
 - Become more aware of things, breathing, being in the moment
 - Using funds from the Davis Schools Foundation for helping kids
- Berkeley Interactive Theater Company will come and perform short plays about kind words and exemplifying how words can be hurtful – this will occur May 18th
- Master scheduling going on – complicated due to later start at the JH and not the HS
- 9th grade awards – taking nominations right now for the Rotary, Bryant and Holmes Hero awards
- No One Eats Alone Day – Mr. Schwab suggested that there be a quarter for No Student Eats Alone

9. Administrative Report, Jean Kennedy

- Impressive amount of direct donations from the PTA – these have a huge impact allowing three great field trips for each of the grades
- Open House – Thursday May 12th and will be different than in previous years
- Testing –
 - 8th graders – Language Arts test will be in English and Math in PE. They are in a block schedule
 - 7th graders – next week – testing will be in their core classes with a regular schedule
- Track – lots of parent drivers – next week there will be a JH track meet at the HS
- Finals Schedule – June 1, 2, 3 – students dismissed at 12:30 – block schedule

- Last day of school is June 9th with a noon dismissal for the JH

10. Hospitality – Lori Benedict and Joanna Purve

- Dr. Seuss Week –
 - Monday – Hop on Popcorn Bar
 - Tuesday – Box lunches – need five more people to donate lunches – all spots taken 😊
 - Wednesday – Green Eggs and Ham
 - Thursday – Pink Ink Yink Drink
 - Friday – Who Treats Dessert Bar
 - Little goodies will be given out each day
- June 10th – end of year staff lunch – there will be a BBQ

11. May is Bike Month

- Giving out prizes to people who bike to school

12. Adjourn – Next meeting is Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Holmes Library.