

Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2015

In attendance: Anne Finkelston, Rachel Gunn, Natalie Lindquist, Karen Hamilton, Lori Benedict, Joy Klineberg, Navi Bains, Michelle Agnew, Julia Huddleson, Tracy Skinner, Lisa Harry, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Abby Koenig, Marci Montanari, Michael Defresne, Annpam Chander, Madhavi Sunder, and Lara Reising.

1. Welcome and Approval of May Minutes

2. Historian's Report, Anne Finkelston

- The Historian's job is to record volunteer hours for the PTA. Please record any hours on the sign-in sheet.

3. Counselor's Report, Marci Montanari

- Marci will have 7th Grade and 9th graders in Broadus/Moody
- Ellen will have 8th grade and is Head Counselor
- Ashley will have the rest of the 9th grade
- Counselors would like to thank parent volunteers who helped at registration
- All counselors introduced themselves to kids in their English class
- They are beginning mistreatment programs
- Progress report period ends tomorrow
- There was a new student's luncheon for kids from outside the district
- Make sure everyone's emergency contacts are saved online

4. ASB Student Leadership, Michael Dufresne

- Magazine sale - raised about \$5,000 for program – typically about \$3,000 goes to athletics
- They will have a donation lock box that will be available at home games
- Requested a flag for the gym. They will play recordings of the orchestra, band, and choir at the beginning of home games.
- Ollie will be at games
- Holmes is sending 28 students to the Castle Leadership event in Woodland
- During 7th grade elections he asked about feedback from the first dance
 - Largest dance ever – they had the gym open, movies, and carnival games
 - 7th graders wanted ping pong or foosball table
 - WEB advertised the dance with notes on lockers
- *I am Malala* – all school read this year – Mr. Bryant has to wear gnome costume if 60% of students read it
- 2016-2017 – 50th anniversary of Holmes
- community service in leadership
 - leadership is building a collection of artifacts
- community service in leadership
 - improving campus in the first quarter – projects will be on campus
- Nov. 10 – all school observation of Veteran's Day

5. Approval of 2015-2016 Budget, Anne Finkelston

- Copies of the budget were passed around.
- Helping Hands is money distributed to kids who need help with supplies for junior high
- Campus Beauty Matching Grant – has to be a line item in budget in order to receive grant
- 9th Grade Project – undetermined but meant to balance out so all grades get a \$500 grant
- Motion made and approved to approve the Budget

6. Membership Report, Michelle Agnew

- Year to date we have 307 members paying \$4,605 for dues – this puts us over our \$ goal but fewer members than last year.
- \$10,790 – direct donations from 123 families
- \$1,390 – directories – 277 copies

7. Treasurer’s Report, Tracy Skinner

- Motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for June, July and August.

8. Teacher’s Grants, Anne Finkleston

- Anne explained what grants were for
- Mix it Up lunch – meet someone new on that day – for 8th and 9th graders – 3 throughout the year
- Motion made and approved to accept the Teacher’s Grants as outlined.

9. Unfundraiser Report, Anne Finkleston

- Money from Unfundraiser supports three “fieldtrips”
 - 7th grade – Renaissance Day
 - 8th grade – Civil War Day
 - 9th Grade hike – Tennessee Valley
 - excess money will go to Department grants
- letters to go out in mid-October

10. Social Studies Department Presentation, Michael Dufresne

- With Common Core there is more of a need to access primary source material
- Common assessments are in 7th grade
 - Each core starts in a different unit
 - They are learning different ways of asking questions
- World Geography - thematic maps – he showed examples of thematic maps

11. Administrative Report, Jean Kennedy

- Large 7th grade class this year
 - WEB and leadership keeping them involved
- Clubs have started
 - Rest Club – Mr. King’s room – they watch movies
 - GSA – Gay Straight Alliance Club – the club accepts anyone who wants to join
 - Green Team
 - Dance Club

- Rubiks Cube Club
- Final's Schedule – doing it again this year. Will be the second to last week of school.
 - Tues, Weds, Thurs. block schedule- they will have 1st period + 2 classes
 - Last year all math classes had finals
 - Finals schedule predominantly for 9th graders
 - They did a poll of students to get feedback.
 - Positives – spreads out finals and kids has less stress and were better able to concentrate on focused classes – could go to lunch with friends
 - Negatives – day was not long enough for some students
 - What changes would you like?
 - add a break between classes
 - Last week of school
 - Possibly Weds, Thurs, Fri.
 - Next year it will be Weds, Thurs, Fri. and the second to last week of school
 - this staggers early days from when the high school has them
- Test Results are in
 - Results are different from previous ones
 - There are four levels – they should be mailed out soon
 - Testing should go easier this year – last year Holmes had 4 Chrome Book carts – this year there are 8

12. Hospitality, Lori Benedict

- Teacher Work Day – PTA sponsored a lunch that was catered by Dos Coyotes
 - There was enough food for 80 people
- Teacher Appreciation – this year they will attempt to something special monthly
 - This month there were two baskets
 - Basket of Highlighters – “You are the Highlight of Holmes”
 - Basket of Dry Erase Markers – “You are Remarkable”
- Teacher Appreciation Week – what week works best for staff (last year there were conflicts)

13. Adjourn – Next meeting is Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Holmes Library.