

Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2014

In attendance: Anne Finkelston, Joy Klineberg, Kerry Sortor, Susan Strachan, Rachel Gunn, Heather Wade, Patricia King, Madelyn Schwartz, Derek Brothers, Sanne Fettinger, Debbie Ramos, Bonnie Berman, Natalya Eagan-Rosenberg, Michael Dufresne, Irene Joo, Kim Maslaniak, Joyita Sen, Emily Ault, Sara Johnson, Natalie Lindquist, Tara Diel, Eric Hays, Ellen Shields, Lori Benedict, Tracy Skinner, Tarri Swanson, Jennifer Thompson, Sameera Sandhu, Jennifer Sommer, Michael Nolan, Madhavi Sunder, Barbara Archer, Bob Poppenga, Tom Adams

1. Welcome and Approval of May Minutes

2. Approval of 2013-2014 Audit, Madelyn Schwartz

Madelyn reviewed the purpose and requirements of the audit process. A motion was made and seconded to approve the audit for the period of January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

3. Historian Report + Volunteer Hours , Emily Ault

Emily is compiling PTA participation hours. Please keep track of your hours and report them at the meetings. Attending meetings counts for hours as well as any other volunteer work you might do.

4. ASB Student Leadership

Two students from the Student Leadership Class, Bailey and Jake, came to talk about events and fundraising. Events Student Leadership would like to continue doing include: school dances, movie nights, rallies, spirit week, single lunch activities, holiday grams, Mr. Patriot, Holmes Got Talent, Day on the Green, Club t-shirts, CASL, campus involvement, student council elections and videotaping, and Set the Record Night. All of these events have a cost associated for supplies and refreshments.

Mr. Dufresne gave a leadership update.

- The dance was well attended.
- \$4000 was made from magazine sales
- Spirit Week activities are under way and going well.
- To promote positive culture – leadership is collecting pictures of staff from when they were in junior high
- He would like a PTA liaison person
- They currently have three dances up on Sign Up Genius that they would like to share with the PTA
- End of year activity – Day on the Green is morphing. As it has been the event was very expensive. He's like to move more to a celebration of Holmes.
- Thank you to the PTA for all the support!

5. Treasurer's Report and 2014-2015 Budget Review, Tracy Skinner

Tracy Skinner presented the 2014-2015 Budget. Explanations were made for some of the programs people might not be aware of:

- Safe Ambassadors – students look out for injustices and are an avenue for reporting these occurrences.

- Mealworm Project – study the mealworm life cycle
 - Tile Project – Patriotic tiles that are done by 8th graders
 - Hospitality – take care of staff/faculty
 - Helping Hands – help kids participate in activities they might be able to do otherwise
 - WEB – orientation for 7th graders and making the transition to Holmes easier
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2014-2015 budget. Motion approved.

6. Teacher’s Requests, Anne Finkelston

Anne explained that teachers had the opportunity to fill out a form requesting grants from the PTA. PTA will be able to fund all of the requests received with a reduction in the grant provided for PE supplies.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Teacher’s grants. Motion approved.

7. Unfundraiser, Joy Klineberg

Joy explained that the Unfundraiser “Stay at Home for Holmes” is the PTA’s big fundraiser for the year. The Leadership Class is helping assemble the letters. They will go out in bulk mail on Monday. Joy is also working with Leadership to get quotes about events the Unfundraiser supports.

The goal is to raise \$15,000. \$12,000 will go to fund:

- 7th grade – Renaissance Day reenactment
- 8th grade – Civil War Day reenactment
- 9th grade – all day hike to Tennessee Valley

\$3,000 or anything raised above that amount will go towards technology. Mr. Brothers would like 5 tablets for each classroom.

8. Scrip, Susan Strachan

Susan encourages everyone to register their Safeway cards, sign up for a Nugget or Savemart card, or support the Holmes PTA through Amazon Smile.

9. Teacher’s Report, Heather Wade

- Leadership is making huge strides and helping campus
- In October the Librarian is challenging students and adults alike to read Wonder.
- There are 100 students in cross-country and volleyball.

10. Math Department Presentation, Patricia King

Mrs. King explained how the math program is changing with the Common Core slowly being phased in. She also explained about CPM.org and the technology resources available including parent guides, homework help, e-tools, toolkits. They also have e-books which provide pdfs of what the kids are learning in class.

11. Counselor’s Report, Ellen Shields

- Thank you to everyone who helped at registration
- Counselors have introduced themselves to all of the students in their grade
- Counselors gave presentations on mistreatment.

- 1st quarter progress reports should be mailed out next Friday. Kids may not have a grade in a class. If there is a problem you will see a grade
- Suicide prevention coming to 7th and 9th grade
- New student lunch for 7th graders – pizza and treats for kids new to Davis
- Emily Ault requested that receiving the bulletin by email be an option

12. Principal's Report, Derek Brothers

- Enrollment is down. We are at barely 700 kids, which is about 40 less than last year. This does limit the classes that can be offered.
- Classes are at 32 students with 45 in PE.
- Mr. Brothers could not find a Woodtech teacher. Instead students who would have taken woodshop are now enrolled in a SAVE course which is centered on community service. A home economics teacher will teach the course. Students will sew bags for the Farmer's Market and learn to BBQ for a special event.
- 8th grade art will be making bowls for a soup drive.
- Due to unfortunate circumstances the French teacher is on an extended leave of absence. They have not been able to find a replacement. The interim plan is for a parent who has a MA in French to come in and read to the student in French so that they are exposed to the language. They are also looking for a long-term sub who can read in French.
- School now has Chrome Books that will shorten the testing time period from three weeks to four days.
- Fire Alarms were pulled twice. Kids did well responding to the fire alarms.
- Safety Week – There was a Safety Drill during the passing period – kids had to go to a particular place – they did well.
- In October – school messenger test call should be coming
- Back to School Night was well received.
- October 16 – Secondary Articulation Day – 12:30 dismissal – there will also be one in March
- Late start Wednesday – extra sleep is good for the kids! Please encourage good behavior at the Nugget.
- October 6 – Parent Night – there will be Q & A as well as three breakout sessions: Counselors, the keys to success; Schoolloop; and the Math Department, Common Core.
- Bring your own device – trying to get Chromebooks in each class. Kids who need tech will either go to the library or Chromebook carts will be brought to the classroom. This will not fully go into effect until September when Wi-Fi will be provided all over campus.
- Holmes School Ambassadors – leaders chosen from different groups. Looking for leaders from various social groups.

13. Communication Update, Sara Johnson

Sara is working on getting 7th grade parent on listserv but has so far been unsuccessful. She does have a parent in place that should be able to upload them soon.

14. Committee Reports

Hospitality – the 1st day teacher luncheon included food from Dos Coyotes.

Newsletter – it is printed, folder and ready to be mailed out

Membership – 321 members (\$3,210), \$7,815 in direct donations, 309 directories (\$1,545)

15. New Business

Active Transportation - Ms. Sommer and Sanne Fettinger are the school liaisons to Davis Bicycles. They are working to encourage more kids to use active transportation to get to school. They would like to see 75% participation. In October and May there are Walk/Bike to School Days. On Oct 8 they will pass out Clif Bars. They are requesting \$900 to help fund the Active Transportation programs. Funding would support:

- Rewards/prizes
- Active4Me scanning – bar codes on bikes so they could scan periodically (after 2nd period) to see how many riders we have and associated supplies

Thank yous –

- Thanks to Kristi Gladding who coordinated registration.
- Mr. Brothers thanked Jan Chandler for all of her help in keeping things running smoothly.

16. Adjourn – Next meeting is October 23, 2014, 7:00pm at the Holmes Library.