

Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High PTA General Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020

In attendance: Ellen Shields, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Beth McMullen, Abby Koenig, Maggie Levin, Gretchen Shroeder, Noel Bruening, Deepali Bhargava, Jean Kennedy, Gloria Purnell, Michelle Buzbee, Simona Ghetti, Katie Sluis, Vidya M., Katie M., Rylie J., Sharmila Shinde, Anna Pegg, Michelle Agnew, Heather Rose

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)

- In breakout rooms, parents and staff shared a new pandemic holiday experience that has been meaningful to them.
- Heema reiterated that the Holmes PTA's mission is to support all parents and students. She shared some health and wellness resources for families:
 - The PTA podcast *Notes from the Backpack* – conversations that offer real-life advice from experts about how to support children's learning and development. Listen via [Podcast](#), [Google Podcast](#), or [Spotify](#).
 - DJUSD's Mental Health and Wellness [Resource Page](#) – tips for how to support your teen during lockdown & the holiday season and how to prevent parenting burnout.
 - DJUSD counseling staff that are available to provide additional support to students and parents – request for assistance can be found [here](#).

2. Approval of October 1, 2020 Minutes (Abby Koenig)

- October 29, 2020 minutes were approved.

3. ASB Student Leadership Report (Rylie J., Vidya M., Katie M.)

- December 18 is Ugly Holiday Sweater and PJ Bottoms Day.
- To show appreciation to teachers, ASB recently distributed Google forms to students to solicit positive feedback about science teachers. ASB then created word clouds for science teachers from the feedback. ASB plans to continue this project for other teachers.
- ASB recently sponsored an "Among Us" Zoom meeting for 8th graders that was well attended (60-80 students participated).
 - A second Zoom game session is planned for December 16 that will be open to all students.

4. Administrative Report (Jean Kennedy)

- Ms. Kennedy thanked the ASB officers for all their wonderful work this year!
- An email about pick-up for make-up photos will be going out soon.
- There are instructions on the Holmes Website for students who did not take school pictures and would like to submit their own photo: https://holmes.djUSD.net/about/News/make_up_picture_day.
- Quarter 2 Progress Period ends December 11.
- Planning is in process for bringing small cohorts of struggling students back to campus (currently there are about 14 interested students). Given Yolo County's new restrictions however, it is not clear what will be possible.

5. Social Studies Department Report (Anna Pegg)

- Ms. Pegg and Mr. Schwab teach 7th grade Social Studies. Mr. Schwab's class (AIM) is working with Mr. Bryant's class (English AIM) on analytical writing.
- 9th grade classes are focusing on physical geography, extreme weather, current events and writing letters to elected officials.
- Ms. Bricker and Ms. Mowry teach 8th grade Social Studies.
 - Ms. Bricker has been emphasizing being on-time for class.
 - Ms. Mowry (AIM) has been focusing on race and justice; her classes will be reading *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson.
- 8th grade teachers will be piloting a new textbook soon.
- The district is looking at new all-online textbooks for 6th - 9th grade.
- Teachers are excited about finding new digital resources with audio/translation options.

6. Treasurer Report (Maggie Levin)

- An additional \$1,000 in Direct Donations, \$100 in membership dues, and \$140 in scrip revenue have been received.
- There are currently 83 PTA members (the goal is 100 members).
- Checks #1812-1815 were approved.

7. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)

- Counselors continue to encourage students to reach out if they have concerns, though it has been harder for students to find time to connect with counselors because of the additional class after lunch.
- Given the extra period of instruction, counselors will be making more of an effort to meet with students during class and to pull students out of class for support.
- Amy Rose of Recovery Happens recently gave a presentation on substance abuse to Holmes and Emerson parents. A video of Amy's presentation will be available soon on the Holmes website.
- On January 27 from 9:00 – 10:30am, there will be a one-hour Challenge Day virtual assembly for all students.
 - The counseling department had made the decision that given all of COVID's challenges, this year they would not be scheduling any events like Challenge Day or Breaking Down the Walls.
 - However, the team from Challenge Day contacted Holmes about doing a presentation at a significantly reduced cost that would focus on social-emotional wellness and coping strategies during the pandemic. Given the reduced cost and the focus on pandemic-related issues, counseling staff decided to move forward with the assembly.

8. Report on PBIS - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (Katie Sluis and Ellen Shields)

- PBIS is a multi-tiered framework for adopting and organizing behavioral supports for all students.
- PBIS aims to promote consistency for behavioral expectations across classrooms.
- PBIS tracks behavior within a tiered system: Tier 1 defines and communicates common expectations for behavior; Tier 2 and tier 3 address behaviors not in line with those expectations.
- The district is encouraging all DJUSD schools to adopt PBIS.

- A core part of PBIS is the emphasis on positive feedback (the goal is a ratio of 5:1 positive to negative feedback).
- The acronym PRIDE summarizes Holmes' expectations and aims to explicitly teach students about the expected positive behaviors: **P**repared, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iligence, **E**mpathy.
 - Prepared: Be ready to learn, know classroom expectations, and be flexible.
 - Respect: Be safe, be a positive part of Holmes, and choose kind words.
 - Integrity: Be honest, be an upstander, and be responsible for actions.
 - Diligence: Be responsible, try your best, and have a growth mindset.
 - Empathy: Be kind, be considerate of others, and be inclusive of all individuals.
- In order to acknowledge and celebrate positive behaviors, staff will be distributing "Got Caught" cards ("Got caught showing Patriot PRIDE"), hopefully starting in the fall.
 - The goal is to make Holmes a positive place by communicating expectations clearly and providing ample positive feedback.
 - Staff is discussing ways to distribute "Got Caught" cards virtually during Distance Learning.
- Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Sluis would like to start recognizing students now (starting with the teacher-nominated students of the month) with some kind of bimonthly delivery system in which staff would drop off small gift bags to students. Gift bags could include items like Holmes pencils and/or small gift cards (details TBD).
- The PTA will discuss a line-item for PBIS (suggested amount to start: \$500).

9. Committee Report – Hospitality (Sharmila Shinde and Gloria Purnell)

- Teachers really appreciated the holiday gift bags that Gloria assembled (gift bags included a Holmes pint glass, a Holmes mask, chocolate and coffee).
- Sharmila is working on a spring event like a boxed lunch pick-up. Details TBD.

10. Volunteer Hours (Simona Ghetti)

- Please send Simona your volunteer hours, preferably via email (sgchetti@ucdavis.edu).

11. Adjourn