

**Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2017**

**In attendance:** Joy Klineberg, Natalie Lindquist, Karen Hamilton, Abby Koenig, Laura Shapiro, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Ellen Shields, Derek Brothers, Rachel Gunn, Michelle Agnew, Tarri Swanson, Allison Chilcott, Diana Mahoney, Navi Bains, Heather Wade, Gretchen McMeekin, Kimiko Yamamoto, Mike Fee

**1. Welcome and Call to Order (Joy Klineberg)**

**2. Approval of February Minutes (Abby Koenig)**

- February Minutes were approved.

**3. Volunteer Hours and Historian Report (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)**

- Heema circulated a sign-up sheet to record volunteer hours.

**4. ASB Student Leadership Report (Ellen Shields for Mike Dufresne)**

- Plans for the Open House 50th Anniversary Celebration on 4/27 are in full swing.
- Five food vendors for 4/27 have been confirmed.
- A flier has been designed and is on its way to the printer.
- A display cabinet of Holmes memorabilia is under construction.
- Time Capsule items are being collected.
- Leadership groups are working on slide shows for all departments/major school groups.
- Help with community outreach for Open House is needed. Any and all ideas are welcome!
- Negotiations with the City are under way about whether the City will pay the cost (\$400) of a portable stage rental. If the City will not cover the cost, the PTA could discuss the possibility of re-allocating funds that were designated for outdoor patio furniture since heavy rains have delayed construction of the outdoor patio.

**5. Treasurer Report (Karen Hamilton)**

- Karen submitted a Treasurer Report for the full year, starting on 8/15/2016. See attached report.
- Total income thus far is \$35,153.57. Total expenses thus far are \$17,370.78.
- Grade level field trips have not been paid for yet. Any funds leftover from the Unfundraiser after grade level field trips have been paid for will be donated to the new Maker Space, a drop-in creative space where students can work on school-related projects or design their own projects.
- The Treasurer Report was approved.

**6. Math Department Presentation (Heather Wade, Gretchen McMeekin and Kimiko Yamamoto)**

- Ms. McMeekin gave a presentation about growth mindset and how an emphasis on a growth mindset is influencing the Math Department's teaching. The Math Department is currently doing a book study on *Mindset* by Carol Dweck.
- Key growth mindset messages include:
  1. Everyone can be successful at math.
  2. Speed of completing work is not important. Learning deeply is more important than learning quickly.
  3. Mistakes and struggle are great teachers!
  4. Teamwork and interpersonal skills are crucial for learning.
- In an effort to be explicit with students about developing growth mindsets, math teachers have shown a growth mindset video to students and are also being intentional about using growth mindset language in their classrooms.
- In particular, the department is working on how to handle assessments. The goal of assessments is to help students identify the areas in which they need to grow. Giving tests back without letter grades (and instead highlighting areas that need more work/correction) and allowing revisions of tests can help foster student growth.
- Teaching students strategies for what to do if they don't understand a problem is another key focus.
- Growth mindset strategies align well with Common Core principles.
- The shift in teaching style/approach has been labor intensive for the department but also very rewarding.

### **7. Teacher Report (Heather Wade)**

- Pi week was a success.
- Ms. Wade showed the video of the winning student pi song (a remake of "Count on me" by ninth graders Catie and Bela).

### **8. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)**

- Ellen gave the PTA a thank you poster from HSA.
- Tomorrow, counseling staff will be picking up course planning from NDE, Birch Lane and Willett.
- Counseling staff are wrapping up a productive month of school-wide course planning.
- The Second Step program is underway in all 7th grade English classes (Second Step is problem-solving and empathy building program that Holmes is piloting).
  1. There have been four sessions of Second Step in each core so far. Many good conversations have taken place, which in particular have highlighted the contributions and gifts of students who may not be in the top tier academically.
  2. Counseling staff plan to start Second Step earlier in the year in 2017-2018.
- 9th graders recently participated in a session on mindfulness, which went well. Counseling staff hope to be able to implement mindfulness training on a larger scale next year.
- The recent 9th grade dance, which was student-driven and student-led, was successful.
- There has been good parent attendance at recent grade level information nights.

## 9. Administrative Report (Derek Brothers)

- Holmes currently has about 760 students (a big number which makes campus feel a little crowded).
- The current 8th grade class is very large (about 275 students compared with about 240 students in 7th grade and 9th grade).
- Mr. Brothers anticipates that the incoming 7th grade class will be around 730-740.
- The possibility of an influx from the Cannery over the summer is a source of some concern.
- Teachers have been working long hours and are looking forward to Spring Break!
- Girls' and Boys' Soccer just wrapped up.
- Track starts right after Spring Break. Track has the biggest participation of all sports at Holmes (around 120 athletes) and has been a great feeder to DHS Track. Mr. King, Ms. Neely, Ms. Nero and Ms. Street will be coaching Track this year.
- Though there have been improvements, the 7th grade class continues to be challenging (most difficulties relate to a lack of maturity; Mr. Brothers anticipates more growth in the class in the coming year).
- Leadership students have been pitching a lot of ideas for student-generated activities to Mr. Brothers. Mr. Brothers welcomes their ideas, as planning and organizing activities help students develop many valuable life skills.

## 10. Committee Reports

- **Nominating Committee (Allison Chilcott)**
  1. All Executive Board positions for 2017-2018 are filled except for Membership. The proposed slate is as follows:
    - a. President: Joy Klineberg
    - b. Executive Vice President: Natalie Lindquist
    - c. First Vice President (Fundraising): Heema Govindjee-Merchant
    - d. Second Vice President (Membership): OPEN
    - e. Treasurer: Mike Fee
    - f. Secretary: Abby Koenig
    - g. Historian: Diana Mahoney
    - h. Auditor: Michelle Agnew
    - i. Parliamentarian: Allison Chilcott
  2. The Membership position is not labor-intensive. The bulk of duties are concentrated at the beginning of the school year (during orientation in particular).
  3. Heema suggested that perhaps Diana could fill the role of Membership rather than Historian since it is useful for the Membership parent to be familiar with Holmes families.
- **DJUSD Board Resolution: *We All Belong* (Joy Klineberg)**
  1. There are lots of *We All Belong* resources and links on the DJUSD website.
  2. DJUSD is partnering with the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic to provide legal support for families in need.

- **California's New School Dashboard (Joy Klineberg)**
  1. The new Dashboard assessments have layers and layers of information and break down data into many different subgroups.
  2. Because it provides a much more nuanced assessment than the old API, the Dashboard can help schools target resources to specific areas of need.
  3. For more information and for full Dashboard results, please visit [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

## **11. Adjourn**