

## **Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes**

**January 26, 2017**

**In attendance:** Natalie Lindquist, Karen Hamilton, Allison Chilcott, Diana Mahoney, Abby Koenig, Laura Shapiro, Navi Bains, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Heather Wade, Michael Dufresne, Ellen Shields, Rachel Gunn, Derek Brothers

### **1. Welcome and Introductions (Natalie Lindquist)**

### **2. Historian Report (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)**

- Heema circulated a sign-in sheet for PTA members to record their hours of service for November 2016 through January 2017.
- Many parents volunteered at the school dance in December and helped with a Hospitality-sponsored lunch for Teacher Work Day on 1/23/17. All the help was appreciated.

### **3. Treasurer Report (Karen Hamilton)**

- Holmes PTA is in the black, and things are going smoothly financially.
- Karen recently paid the insurance, membership dues, tax preparation fees, and mailing costs for the Unfundraiser. Gift cards for staff birthdays were also purchased.
- Some large expenses are on the horizon (teacher grants and grade level field trips).

### **4. Unfundraiser Report (Diana Mahoney)**

- As of 1/23/17, about \$12,000 has been donated to the Unfundraiser. The goal is \$15,000.
- Last year, since the goal of \$12,000 was exceeded, the decision was made to increase the goal to \$15,000 this year.
- A total of 120 families (out of about 500 families at Holmes) has donated to the Unfundraiser, which is similar to participation rates for the last two years.
  1. The average donation was \$98.00.
  2. There were a few donations for \$200 and \$400 and one for \$1,000.
- Online donations were possible for the first time this year. A total of about \$4,000 was donated online via PayPal.
  1. There are some fees for using PayPal (about \$120.00 or 1%).
  2. PayPal fees should be considered when deciding whether to offer an online donation option in the future.
- Diana expressed some concern about reaching the goal of \$15,000. In addition to the school-wide mailing that went out in December, she has run two Briefly notices in *The Enterprise*. Additional ideas for publicity include:
  1. Another school-wide mailing (Diana will meet with Mr. Brothers soon to discuss this option).
  2. A listserv announcement (Natalie will run an email announcement sometime soon).
  3. Bulletin announcements from Ms. Kennedy.

- Unfundraiser donations were recorded in PTAEZ for the first time this year. PTAEZ provides a centralized and transparent record of all PTA financial transactions.
- The cost of the grade level field trips last year was \$12,000. Costs could change this year (the exact cost of all field trips will not be known until closer to the field trip dates). Any surplus funds collected will be used to fund the new Maker Space and/or additional technology software.

**5. Approval of October Minutes (Abby Koenig)** -- Minutes were approved with no changes.

**6. Leadership Report (Mike Dufresne)**

- Leadership recently coordinated a large sock drive for Davis Community Meals. They walked from Holmes to deliver the socks and then received a tour of the shelter, a very meaningful experience for students.
- Leadership will be performing a variety of dances at the Valentine's Day Rally.
- Mr. Dufresne is currently working on his administrative credential, and his project for his credential is the Holmes 50th Anniversary celebration, which is on April 27 from 6-8 pm. Bob Dunning will serve as the emcee, and plans for the celebration include:
  1. A display case with Holmes memorabilia. Mr. Dufresne would appreciate help reaching out to the community to collect memorabilia.
  2. A 50th anniversary Time Capsule. Input from the PTA about what to include is welcome.
  3. Food Trucks, ideally from businesses whose owners have kids who have attended Holmes.
  4. Performances by the orchestra, band and Holmes Got Talent winners.
  5. A display of students' renderings of "What Patriots Are."
- Mr. Dufresne would love a committee from the PTA to help with this event. He would also appreciate it if the PTA could send a school-wide email asking for volunteers. He would love the whole community to be involved in this event.
- 9th grade WEB leaders are reaching out to the 7th graders (teachers are having some difficulty with some 7th grade classes). Outreach efforts include notes on all 7th graders lockers and discussions during PE about their goals and what it takes to be successful at Holmes.

**7. Auditor Report (Laura Shapiro)**

- Laura has not yet been able to start the report. An update will be forthcoming.

**8. Teacher Report (Heather Wade)**

- Holmes Wrestling, in its second year, has really grown and has been very successful. The team is entering the YCAL tournament undefeated and has a couple of students who have qualified for the Tournament of Champions. Many students who have never participated in team sports at Holmes are part of the wrestling program. Many thanks to the PTA for their help getting the program started.

- Thank you from the teachers for the lunch on 1/23!
- Holmes teachers continue to work hard and juggle many different responsibilities.

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

- The first week of the new semester was very busy with lots of schedule changes.
- Four new students have started at Holmes. Teachers have been very accommodating.
- Course planning for next year has begun.
- On 2/20, there will be presentations for 9th graders about DHS and Da Vinci High School.
- Sometime between 2/20 and 3/14, there will be presentations for the 8th graders about 9th grade, for the 7th graders about 8th grade, and for 6th graders at NDE and Birch Lane about 7th grade.
- Tyler Durman, an inspirational speaker that Leadership students heard at a training last fall and raved about, will be speaking to 7th graders on 2/3. Tyler will also be speaking to parents on 2/3 at Brunelle from 6:30 to 7:45pm (the event is free and open to the public). All three junior highs chipped in funds to cover the cost of the evening event.
- There will be a Holmes Student Advocate training on 2/9 (72 students will be participating). Holmes Student Advocates is an anti-bullying program that teaches students strategies for handling mistreatment among peers and friends. Newly participating 7th and 8th grade students will be incorporated into the training as well to allow teachers the chance to get to know them. Thank you to the PTA for funding training (and food!) for HSA.

### **10. Administrative Report (Derek Brothers)**

- Mr. Brothers thanked the PTA for its recent department grants. Updates about what the grants have funded for will be forthcoming.
- Preparations for the 2017-2018 year have begun. Several staff will be retiring next year, a trend which is likely to continue given the long tenure of many current Holmes teachers and staff.
- Mr. Brothers recently attended a wrestling meet and appreciates that Holmes has stuck to its no-cuts commitment even though it is competing in a league in which other teams make cuts. A large percentage of kids participate in team sports at Holmes (Track is one of the largest teams). Extra funds have been allocated to help cover the cost of additional coaches given the high levels of participation.
- Holmes is essentially at capacity as far as its student body/teaching FTEs. The student body started at 750 and is currently at 756. Four additional new students are also requesting placement at Holmes.
- How the Cannery will impact Holmes enrollment in the future is a source of some concern. With the current FTEs, Holmes is essentially at its limit. Mr. Brothers is hoping to get more FTEs since there is physical space at Holmes to add more students.
- All Davis Junior Highs are impacted.
- Flu season is in full swing. Mr. Brothers reminded parents that it is important to keep students home when they're sick. Mr. Brothers assured parents that missing school for a few days for illness is not insurmountable and that teachers will work with students who have missed school.

- Maker Space will be opening in the Industrial Tech Room (G45) on March 1 under the direction of Ms. Sommer. Maker Space is a drop-in creative space staffed by Mr. Bentz in which students can work on school-related projects or design their own projects.
  1. Maker Space will be open for 30 minutes before school and for 60-90 minutes after school four days a week.
  2. A major goal of Maker Space is to help bridge the achievement gap and the digital and technological divide.
  3. Teachers will give Ms. Sommer a list of projects that they've assigned so that ideally the materials that are needed to complete them will be available in Maker Space.
- Mr. Marks, a Holocaust survivor, will be speaking to 8th graders on 1/30 in the library. Parents are welcome to attend.
- The Holmes Orchestra will be performing at Birch Lane before Spring Break.
- The end of the year for 9th graders will look a little different this year:
  1. This year, the whole school will assemble for the presentation of the three major 9th grade awards (Holmes Hero for a student who has overcome a significant obstacle, the Rotary Award for academic achievement, and the Del Bryant Award for a student who has made a significant contribution to the Holmes community). These awards will be presented on the last Tuesday of the school year (7/6/17), and parents are welcome to attend.
  2. Classroom awards will continue to be announced to just 9th graders.
  3. Other plans for the end of the year (such as a 9th grade carnival) are still evolving.

## **11. Committee Reports**

- Hospitality (Natalie Lindquist for Lori Benedict)
  1. Teachers enjoyed the lunch on 1/23.
  2. Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week in May.
  3. More of a Hospitality update will be forthcoming.
- Bylaws (Allison Chilcott)
  1. It is time to review the Holmes PTA Bylaws and make any necessary revisions.
  2. Volunteers are needed to serve on a Bylaw review committee.
- PTA Nominating Committee (Natalie and Allison)
  1. At least three Executive Board positions will be open next year: Treasurer, Auditor, and First Vice President.
  2. Please be on the lookout for parents who would like to serve on the nominating committee or be nominated to fill a vacant position.

## **12. Adjourn**