

**Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2017**

**In attendance:** Joy Klineberg, Natalie Lindquist, Karen Hamilton, Abby Koenig, Laura Shapiro, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Nancy Schwarz, Derek Brothers, Rachel Gunn, Michelle Agnew, Allison Chilcott, Diana Mahoney, Karen Fee

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

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

- March minutes were approved.

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

- Heema circulated a sign-up sheet to record volunteer hours.
- Thank you to all the parents who helped with Renaissance Day, Civil War Day, and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade hike.

**4. ASB Student Leadership Report (Derek Brothers for Mike Dufresne)**

- Plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Open House on April 27 are on track:
  1. The memorabilia cabinet is under construction.
  2. Posters have been printed and circulated around town.
  3. Food vendors are lined up (Papa John's, Froggies, The Hotdogger, Let Them Eat Cake). Joy will email the menu to Holmes families ahead of time.
  4. Mr. Brothers will circulate a sign-up for help with set-up, parking and clean-up.
  5. Dinner will be picnic style (please bring blankets and chairs) and will start at 5:30 along with the music.
  6. T-shirts are \$10.00 and are available online. They will also be sold during Open House.
- The three grade level field trips (Renaissance Day, Civil War Day and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade hike) went well this week. Thank you to the PTA for funding grade level field trips!
- Teachers are interested in looking into another option for 9<sup>th</sup> graders next year since they have been doing the 9<sup>th</sup> grade hike for 12 years and would like to do something different next year. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trips may change next year as well.
- Diana brought up the idea of sharing pictures of grade level field trips (and other campus events) with Holmes families to give them a better sense of what's happening on campus.
  1. Getting to see where Un-Fundraiser dollars go would likely help fundraising.
  2. A goal for next year then is to create a slide show of grade level field trips to share with Holmes families.

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

- Karen submitted a Treasurer Report for March 23 to April 19, 2017.
- She recently wrote a check for Renaissance Day and Civil War Day. She has not seen a bill for the buses for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade hike yet.
- The current balance is \$23,373.84.
- Joy recently received word from the Franchise Tax Board that Holmes PTA's non-profit status has been reinstated.

#### **6. Auditor Report (Laura Shapiro)**

- Laura has completed the Auditor Report for 7/1/16 – 12/31/16. There were no significant changes.
- The Auditor report for 7/1/16 – 12/31/16 was approved.
- Laura will submit the report to the California PTA for adoption.

#### **7. Voting for Nominees for 2017-2018 Board (Allison Chilcott)**

- Allison presented the following slate for the 2017-2018 Executive Board:
  1. President: Joy Klineberg
  2. Executive Vice President: Natalie Lindquist
  3. First Vice President (Fundraising): Heema Govindjee-Merchant
  4. Second Vice President (Membership): Diana Mahoney
  5. Treasurer: Mike Fee
  6. Secretary: Abby Koenig
  7. Historian: Stephany Cavatoni
  8. Auditor: Michelle Agnew
  9. Parliamentarian: Allison Chilcott
- There were no nominations from the floor.
- The proposed slate with the exception of the Parliamentarian was approved (the Parliamentarian is appointed, not elected).
- Joy appointed Allison as the Parliamentarian for 2017-2018.

#### **8. English Department Presentation (Derek Brothers for the English Department)**

- A district-wide 9<sup>th</sup> grade writing assessment is coming up soon.
- English classes are currently working on a project about tolerance.

#### **9. Counselor Report (Derek Brothers for Ellen Shields)**

- There has been a lot of concern among staff about the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why* and the potential for glamorizing suicide and other destructive behavior.
  1. If parents choose to let their children watch *13 Reasons Why*, Mr. Brothers strongly encourages parents to watch it with their children.

2. The District will be coming out with a response to the series soon given the widespread concerns about the series' content.
- Holmes is currently in its second week of the redistribution of 7<sup>th</sup> grade cores.
    1. There has been no change in curriculum with the redistribution of cores, just different approaches to teaching.
    2. Some 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have developed the skills needed to be successful in 8<sup>th</sup> grade while other students are still developing those skills. The goal of redistribution was to group students in such a way that all 7<sup>th</sup> graders develop the skills they need to be ready for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
    3. Early returns indicate that the redistribution is working. Behavior throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class has improved.
    4. Once the goals of redistribution have been met, cores will return to their original configurations.
  - SBAC testing is next week. This is the third year of SBAC testing at Holmes and the second year that test scores will be analyzed.
  - Staff is excited for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House next week.
  - It is a long sprint for teachers to the end of the school year.
  - There is a projected cut to the Holmes budget of at least 10% next year (part of the cuts come from DJUSD, part from the state).
  - Sheila Wardrip (PE), Judy Stafford (Registrar/Counselors' Secretary) and Doug Kuntz (Head Custodian) are all retiring next year. Doreen Lee (Home Economics) may be retiring as well.
  - Current enrollment is 762 students. Projected enrollment for next year is approximately 735. There was not an influx from Chavez for next year as expected since it appears most Chavez students will be going to Emerson. There have only been about 20 students from the Cannery requesting transfers to Holmes.
  - Because of low enrollments and budget constraints, German and Chinese will be dropped from the district over the next two years. DHS will also be looking at singleton classes (classes with only one section) to determine if it's financially viable to continue offering them.
  - Co-enrollment with DHS is going to end. With block scheduling at DHS, co-enrollment is just not doable.

## 10. Committee Reports

- Un-Fundraiser
  1. A total of \$13,200 was raised.
  2. The cost of the grade level field trips was between \$12,000 and \$13,000, so there will be a small surplus to donate toward Maker Space.
  3. About 35% of donations were made online.
  4. The fundraising team is putting together recommendations for two mailings for next year.
- By-Laws Committee
  1. Allison has submitted our requested changes to the California PTA and has not heard yet whether they have been accepted.

2. It turns out we amended the By-Laws a year earlier than we needed to.
  3. Allison will bring the changes to our May meeting if she hears back from the California PTA by then.
- Hospitality
    1. The theme for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1 – 5) is *Lights, Cameras, Appreciation*.
    2. Joanne Purves' daughter is graduating from Holmes this year, so she will not be co-chairing Hospitality next year.
    3. Lori Benedict, who will be here next year, is looking for a Head Assistant who can shadow her for each event and then hopefully take the reins in 2018.

## **11. Adjourn**