

Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes September 28, 2017

In attendance: Joy Klineberg, Natalie Lindquist, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Michelle Agnew, Allison Chilcott, Heather Wade, Ellen Shields, Abby Koenig, Beth McMullen, Laura Shapiro, Kimiko Yamamoto, Gretchen McMeekin, Jean Kennedy, Mike Dufresne, Ellen Shields, Maureen Ternus, Steve Risch, Remy Risch, Tarri Swanson, Diana Mahoney, Julie Cortez, Robert Cortez, Deepali Bhargara, Julie van de Zeeum, Beth Michel, Stephany Cavatoni

1. Welcome and Introductions (Joy Klineberg)

2. Approval of April Minutes (Joy Klineberg)

- April 2017 and May 2017 minutes were approved.

3. Volunteer Hours and Historian Report (Stephany Cavatoni)

- Stephany circulated a sign-up sheet to record volunteer hours.
- Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped with lunch for Holmes staff on 8/22, orientation, PE locks sales and the recent school dance.
- If you need a signup genius for volunteers for school events, please contact Stephany. Stephany will create signup geniuses, and Natalie will send them out via the PTA listserv.

4. Approval of the 2017-2018 Budget (Joy Klineberg)

- There are no significant changes to the budget this year.
- Since the Holmes PTA is a nonprofit, the goal each year is spend the money that comes in and zero out the budget (that said, the PTA does carry a small balance from year to year so that there are funds to cover expenses at the beginning of the year before new funding comes in).
- Joy reviewed each line item in the budget and answered questions.
- So far, the Direct Donation campaign has brought in close to \$15,000, about \$3000 above target.
 1. Ideas for spending the possible surplus were discussed. Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Dufresne suggested a contribution towards a new sound system for the MPR/gym.
 2. Time will tell if donations to the Unfundraiser end up being lower this year given that direct donations were higher. Because of this possibility, the decision was made to revisit in January the question of any surplus spending.
- The 2017-2018 budget was approved.

5. Treasurer Report (Joy Klineberg for Mike Fee)

- Because of the difficulties and limitations of PTAEZ, the PTA is changing to QuickBooks for its accounting.
- The Treasurer Report was submitted.

6. Auditor Report (Laura Shapiro)

- Laura submitted the Auditor Report for January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017. She submitted an Attachment to explain a few minor discrepancies in the report.
- The Auditor Report with Attachment was approved.

7. Membership Report (Diana Mahoney)

- There are currently 217 members of the PTA this year (16 fewer than last year).
- A total of \$3,260 in membership dues has been collected so far (the goal was \$3,500).
- Close to \$15,000 in Direct Donations have been collected as above.
- 180 directories were requested this year; \$900 was collected for directories.
 1. Joy voiced the opinion that Holmes should not do directories again since it is incredibly labor intensive to collect and reconcile all the data for a directory.
 2. Students and parents can contact any other student through School Loop, making a directory redundant.

8. Unfundraiser Report (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)

- The Unfundraiser funds grade level field trips each year.
- A school wide mailing about the Unfundraiser will be going out this fall.
- Thanks to the leadership of Ms. McMeekin and Ms. Yamamoto, there WILL be a 9th grade hike this year.
- The 7th and 8th grade field trips have not been determined yet. More info to come.

9. Math Department Presentation (Gretchen McMeekin)

- The Math Department is continuing to work hard to foster a growth mindset in its students, classrooms and teachers.
- Key components of a growth mindset include:
 1. Everyone can be successful at math.
 2. Speed is not important.
 3. Number sense is more important than mastery of math facts.
 4. Mistakes and struggle are great teachers and help the brain grow.
 5. Deep learning creates lasting connections in the brain.
- Research has shown that students who receive growth mindset instruction can raise their grades in math.
- Last year, the Math Department did a book study on Carol Dweck's *Mindset*, showed growth mindset videos to their classes, focused on using growth mindset language in their classrooms, and began discussion about how to adjust grading to more fully support a growth mindset. This shift in instruction is still a work in progress, and teachers are learning as they go.
- This year, the department is promoting a growth mindset mantra each month. Some mantras include:
 1. The brain is like a muscle.
 2. Everyone is a valued member of this community.
 3. We love a challenge.

4. Feedback is a gift; accept it.
5. A goal without a plan is just a dream.
6. Mistakes are opportunities for learning.
7. The Power of Yet.

10. Teacher Report (Heather Wade)

- Thank you from the teachers for the luncheon at the beginning of the year.
- Thank you to parents for their presence and support at Back to School Night.
- Ms. Wade highlighted the Davis Teachers Association's recent efforts to advocate for competitive salaries and benefits in order to attract and retain high quality teachers in the district. She encouraged parents to consider attending the upcoming School Board meeting on October 5 to show support for teachers' concerns.

11. ASB Student Leadership Report (Jean Kennedy/Mike Dufresne for Donald Nush)

- ASB officers and Leadership will be participating in an all-day training in Woodland on October 4.
- ASB and Leadership are organizing a rally on October 10 to kick off the year and to promote the fall popcorn fundraiser. Money raised from the popcorn fundraiser will fund school climate events such as rallies.
- The recent dance was a success.
- 7th grade orientation went well. Thank you to Ms. Diaz who is in charge of the WEB program and to Ms. Yamamoto and Mr. Bryant who helped with 7th grade orientation.

12. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)

- Michael Ann, the new Counselor's Secretary, is wonderful!
- Schedule pick-up at the start of the year went well. Thank you to the PTA volunteers who helped with registration and the staff luncheon.
- For the second year, Holmes held an orientation for new 8th and 9th graders. New 9th graders also had a pizza lunch with Ms. Montanari; an activity for new 8th graders will be coming up soon as well. (There is a lot of regular contact with the new 7th grade class throughout the year.)
- Grade level counselors are as follows:
 1. 7th grade: Ellen Shields
 2. 8th grade, A – P: Laura Losk; Q – T: Ellen Shields; U – Z: Marci Montanari
 3. 9th grade: Marci Montanari
- The counseling department will be implementing Second Step, a social-emotional/problem-solving curriculum, with the 7th grade class again this year. Ellen will be going into all 7th grade Social Studies classes every other week.
- Counselors will continue the Second Step curriculum with the current 8th grade class. Ms. DeBow, Speech Therapy, will be helping Ms. Montanari and Ms. Losk with 8th grade Second Step.
- Progress Reports will be mailed tomorrow.

- Ms. McMeekin, Ms. Wade and Ms. Yamamoto led Jump Start this past August. Jump Start, which was not held last year, is a six day, two hours a day summer program to help incoming 7th graders prepare for CII math. This year, Jump Start focused in particular on helping students develop a growth mindset.
- Ellen brought up the question of showing the film, Screenagers, to Holmes students this year. Parents who had seen Screenagers last spring at the Emerson PTA event shared their feedback briefly, most of which was positive. Ellen will be in touch with parents further to solicit more detailed feedback.
- Ellen recently applied to participate in an outreach to Houston schools called Adopt a Classroom, which provides school supplies to schools devastated by Hurricane Harvey. She is thrilled to report that Leadership will be taking on this project!

13. Administrative Report (Jean Kennedy and Mike Dufresne)

- Makeup picture day is on October 2.
- October 5 is Articulation Day. All junior high students are dismissed at 12:30 on October 5.
- On October 18, all 9th graders will be taking the PSAT.
- All grade levels at all DJUSD schools will be participating in Youth Truth, a climate study, the last two weeks of October.
- The ASB popcorn fundraiser will run from October 10 to October 24.
- Thank you to the PTA for helping create a welcoming environment at registration and with the staff luncheon. New Holmes staff particularly appreciated the warm welcome from the PTA.
- A new campus cell phone policy – that cell phones must not be visible at school – is in place. So far, the policy has been effective.
 1. Parents are contacted if a student is caught with his/her phone out a second time after an initial warning.
 2. Students who are caught a third time with their phones out must check their phones into the office at the beginning of each day for two weeks. Phones remain in the office till the end of the day.
- Mr. Dufresne would like to schedule two campus clean-up days – one in the fall and one in the spring.

14. Committee Reports

- Hospitality: Lori Benedict, who is running the Hospitality committee solo this year, is in great need of volunteers to help with hospitality events. Interested volunteers do not need to commit to helping with all events but can sign up to help at the event(s) that fit their schedules. Please help spread the word!

15. New Business

- Davis Parent University presents Dr. Michel Borba, bestselling author of *UnSelfie*, on October 11 from 7- 9 pm at Brunelle. Tickets are free. Dr. Borba has lectured and written extensively about

how to cultivate empathy in children and the connection between empathy and wellbeing/success.

- Davis Schools Foundation is hosting Fall Music Fest on September 29 at the Davis Art Center with live music, food and drinks. Tickets are available through the DSF website. Ticket purchasers may select a specific DJUSD school to receive half their ticket sales. All proceeds benefit DJUSD schools and programs.
- The DJUSD Prevention and Crisis Managers are hosting a parent forum on non-suicidal self-injury on October 17 from 7 – 8:30 pm at Brunelle.

16. Adjourn