

Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2020

In attendance: Ellen Shields, Michelle Agnew, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Beth McMullen, Abby Koenig, Maggie Levin, Gretchen Shroeder, Noel Bruening, Deepali Bhargava, Deepa Kulkarni, Julia van der Zeeuw, Jean Kennedy, Joy Klineberg, Natalie Lindquist, Tarri Swanson, Lisa Mowry, Donald Nush, Mollie D., Gloria Purnell, Kayoko Shiraishi, Nicole Rabaud, Michell Buzbee, Simona Ghetti, Gayatri Sarkar, Kart Schiller, REXY Risch, Barbara Linke, Mike Parsons, Kerry McKay, Gaya Gomes, Cruz Hodges, Parm Kajley

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions (Michelle Agnew)

2. Volunteer Hours (Beth McMullen)

- Please email Beth (bethvamcmullen@gmail.com) your volunteer hours for March and April as well as an estimate for May.
- Ballpark numbers are fine.

3. Approval of February minutes (Abby Koenig)

- February minutes were approved.

4. Social Studies Department Presentation (Lisa Mowry)

- For the last ten years, 8th graders have made Patriot Tiles in their Social Studies classes.
 - Mr. Dufresne started the tile project in 2010 as a way for students to have more ownership of campus and to beautify campus.
 - There are currently over 2500 tiles on campus, funded by the PTA.
- This year, because of the campus closure, 8th graders were not able to make their tiles.
- Ms. Mowry is hoping current 8th graders can make their tiles next year, along with the incoming eighth graders.
- Ms. Mowry is requesting an increase in funding from \$500 to \$650 for the tile project next year, as the cost of supplies has consistently exceeded \$500 (Ms. Mowry and Mr. Dufresne have been contributing their own funds to cover the additional costs).

4. ASB Student Leadership Report (Mollie D.)

- ASB has been reaching out to students regularly through social media and is posting announcements weekly.
- An online Holmes Got Talent is coming soon.
- This week is Spirit Week; tomorrow there is a door decorating contest.
- For students who aren't on social media, announcements can be found in the Holmes virtual Google classroom. Ms. Kennedy will be sending a link to parents soon so that they can join the Google classroom as well.

5. PE Department Presentation (Donald Nush)

- PE teachers are giving all students Activity Logs on Sunday or Monday that are due on Friday by 3:30 pm.
 - Students should be completing at least four 20-30 minute periods of activity a week.
 - Students should check their heartrates before and after their activity and record them in their logs.
 - There is a workout video library in the PE Google classroom.
- Each week teachers focus on a different theme, such as motivation or overcoming obstacles.
- Teachers are holding optional office hours.
- Prior to school closure, the PE department was updating intramural equipment with PTA funds. Intramural events included lunchtime tournaments in flag football, dodge ball, basketball and badminton.

6. Unfundraiser Update (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)

- Thank you to all the parents who donated to the Unfundraiser, which funds special grade level events.
- 7th graders participated in a half-day special event in December, "Breaking Down the Walls."
- Because of the campus closure, the 8th and 9th grade special events have been postponed.
- The 8th grade event, an assembly with motivational speaker Scott Bakovich, has been rescheduled for October.
- The PTA feels strongly that the money donated for the current 9th graders be spent this year on something special for them.
 - In place of the 9th grade hike, if it is allowable, the PTA would love to be able to host a social event for 9th graders such as an end-of-summer BBQ.
 - The PTA is also thinking about purchasing some kind of gift for each 9th grader. Parent and student input is welcome.
- All junior highs are working together to try to provide some kind of consistent event for graduating ninth graders.

7. Treasurer Report (Deepali Bhargava)

- Thank you to parents for their generosity. Fundraising goals were met this year.
- Current account balance is \$22, 532.39.
- Net revenue is much higher than expected because of money that was not spent due to school closure.
- Given the economic impact of COVID, it is unclear how fundraising will go next year.
- Checks #1801 and 1802 were approved.

8. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)

- Many students and staff are experiencing stages of grief related to school closure and COVID.
- Counselors have received reports of some students who are really struggling (e.g. not wanting to get out of bed in the morning).

- Course planning has been challenging since school closed before all scheduling forms were collected. Counselors now have most of the 7th and 8th grade course forms.
- Master scheduling is starting next week.
- Counselors have been reaching out to students and parents and are trying to track down students that have not been participating in distance learning.
 - Thankfully very few students overall are MIA.
 - Counselors are looking at home visits for students who are unaccounted for.
- Counselors strongly encourage parents to reach out to them if they're worried about their students.
- Each counselor has a Google classroom with resources, and counselors are available for phone check-ins, emails and Webex meetings.
- Course request planning sheets are available on the Holmes website on the counseling page. The request sheets are not required but are helpful.
- Counselors are trying to have a social media presence; they currently have an Instagram and Facebook page.
- Kaleb Boas, the Holmes drug counselor, is available on Mondays from 9 – 12 noon. Anyone with a concern can email Ellen confidentially to arrange a time to talk to Kaleb.
- Eye to Eye, a mentoring program for students with learning disabilities, has moved to an online format and is now open to anyone who would like to learn more about their individual learning style.
- An online career event is planned for the third week in May; it will feature 5 – 10 minute presentations from local professionals in different fields.
- Counselors from all junior highs have been working very closely together since schools closed, one positive development in the midst of all the challenges.
- Junior highs are working hard to collaborate with each other and keep things equitable and consistent among schools.

9. Administrative Report (Jean Kennedy)

- In response to the PTA's request for information about how PTA department grants are spent, Teresa Nunes has been working on detailed spreadsheets of expenditures from each department. Data will be available in August.
- Staff is interested in converting the sign outside Holmes to a digital sign.
- Teachers are really missing in-person interaction with students and staff; it is really hard for them to not being finishing the year on campus.
- The Holmes website has a Distance Learning section under the Resources tab.
 - Included is an instruction sheet to help students organize their emails.
 - Staff are aware that Distance Learning is a new process for students that requires new management skills.
 - Teachers are working hard to be consistent about how they share information about Webex meetings and other classwork with students.
 - Please share feedback with Ms. Kennedy about what is working well and what isn't.

- Ms. Kennedy has started a Holmes virtual classroom to provide fun opportunities for students to connect.
 - A Facebook page is being set up.
 - Virtual clubs will start meeting soon.
 - Virtual yoga starts next Wednesday.
- Yearbooks will be available soon, likely in June.
- Students may go to their lockers now to retrieve belongings. A process for returning textbooks is being worked out.
- Teachers are aware that students will need additional help in the new school year to catch up on math and foreign language in particular.
- Ms. Kennedy welcomes emails about any concerns.

11. 2020-21 Board Slate (Deepa Kulkarni and Gretchen Shroeder)

- The 2020-21 Board slate is:
 - President: Heema Govindjee-Merchant
 - Secretary: Abby Koenig
 - Vice President, Fundraising: Gloria Purnell
 - Vice President, Membership: Deepali Bhargava
 - Vice President, Communication/Executive VP: Beth McMullen
 - Treasurer: Maggie Levin
 - Auditor: Michelle Buzbee
 - Historian: Simona Ghetti
- Natalie Lindquist moved to accept the slate as read; Tarri Swanson seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously with 21 yays.

12. Bylaws (Deepa Kulkarni)

- Suggested changes to the current bylaws include adding the Executive VP as a check signer and deleting Hospitality as a standing committee (the latter will decrease the number of members needed to achieve quorum at meetings; Hospitality will still be supported by the PTA).
- Changes must be publicized 30 days before voting, so the above changes will be voted on at the September meeting.

13. Presentation on financial planning for college (Michelle Agnew)

- Former Holmes parent and financial advisor, Linda Matthew, will be giving a presentation on financial planning for college on May 13 from 7 – 8 pm.
- If you'd like to attend, email Linda at linda@moneymindful.org, and she will send you a Zoom link. Feel free to email Linda any questions ahead of time.

14. Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER (Michelle Agnew)

- Harper and Holmes' joint screening of *Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER* has been rescheduled for May 28 at 7 pm.

- The link to register to watch *Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER* will be sent via the PTA listserv soon.
- If you registered previously for the original screening (March 16), enter your name and email in the registration link, and then you'll receive the link to watch on May 28.
- If you didn't register for the March 16 screening, register via the above link.
- Once you register, you'll be able to view the film up until June 11th.

15. May 1st Meeting with Dr. Bowes (Michelle Agnew)

- Michelle will be meeting tomorrow with Dr. Bowes, DJUSD Superintendent, to discuss feedback about Distance Learning. She opened the floor for parent feedback.
- Heema shared that her daughter has asked about increased class instruction time as she feels the current amount of instruction is pretty limited.
- Please share any additional feedback with Michelle via email (michelleagnew @comcast.net) before tomorrow morning.

16. Adjourn

Submitted by:

Abigail Koenig, Holmes PTA Secretary, 2019-2020

Date