

Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High PTA General Meeting Minutes May 27, 2021

In attendance: Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Abby Koenig, Maggie Levin, Gretchen Shroeder, Noel Bruening, Deepali Bhargava, Jean Kennedy, Ellen Shields, Gloria Purnell, Beth McMullen, Katie Sluis, Nicole Rabaud, Arielle Deem, Tracy Ringold

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)

- Thank you to the outgoing Executive Board!
- The position of VP Fundraising is still open (the primary task for the VP of Fundraising is the Unfundraiser letter-writing campaign in the fall).
- Thank you to Sharmila Shinde for all her work on Hospitality this year, and thank you and welcome to Tracy Ringold, who will be taking over for Sharmila next year.

2. Approval of April Minutes (Abby Koenig)

- April minutes were approved.

3. Hospitality Report (Gloria Purnell)

- Gloria and Sharmila organized treats for each day of Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (May 3-7).
- On May 5, Dawn Coder from Coldwell Banker provided lunch for teachers, and the PTA provided lunch for the rest of the staff.
- The treat on Friday was Kona Ice, which was a big hit!
- Ink Monkey donated merchandise for teachers and staff.

4. Treasurer Report (Maggie Levin)

- Checks #1822-1824 were approved.
- \$200 in Direct Donations and \$257.54 in scrip were received.
- Kerri Hawkins is requesting an additional \$300-400 for garden supplies.
 - Motion passed to approve her request (the funds will be taken out of Line Item 23, *Special Requests*).

5. Department Report – Music (Arielle Deem)

- There was a winter Zoom choir concert; the spring Zoom concert is on June 9 at 7pm.
- Next year, Jazz Band will be offered as a co-curricular during first period, co-enrolled with Harper.
- Mr. Quick is hoping to revive Pep Band for next year.
- Orchestra students have been recording orchestral adaptations of rock music.
- Ms. Deem shared a clip from the winter concert: “Rise” by Arianne Abela.
 - Ms. Deem focused this year on social justice-themed music, using the *Justice Choir Songbook*.

- Ms. Kennedy shared that the music teachers have done an amazing job teaching in-person students alongside Distance Learners!

6. Grade Level Events Report (Gloria Purnell)

- In lieu of special grade level events, each student will receive a DIY Ice Cream Social gift bag: a \$10 gift card to either Sweet & Shavery, Yolo Berry or Davis Creamery plus candy & a note from the PTA.
- Gift bags will be distributed during 5th period starting next Thursday.
- Distance Learners can pick up their gift bags either at book drop-off day or at the office during designated times.

7. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)

- Counselors are working on schedule requests, summer school and connecting with kids.
- Thank you for all the goodies for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week!
- Thank for supporting Holmes Student Advocates (HSA) with a pizza and ice cream lunch.
 - 30 8th and 9th graders stuck with HSA this year.
 - 9th graders will be allowed to join HSA next year too (HSA is typically not open to 9th graders).
- Counselors are working on 9th grade awards.
- In 9th grade Health, Empower Yolo will be talking about sexual harassment/assault.
 - Questions from students about sexual harassment are being collected and will be passed onto the Empower Yolo Director.
 - There is ongoing concern about sexual harassment in online gaming.

8. Site Report (Jean Kennedy)

- Thank you to the PTA for all its support! Everyone loved the treats during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, and the DIY Ice Cream Social bags for students are wonderful.
- ASB has been really busy:
 - They recently planned and hosted a virtual Holmes Got Talent.
 - ASB been helping Healthy Davis Together with the Super Testers program by giving out gift cards on Thursdays at 5th period.
 - ASB gave teachers framed word clouds during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.
 - They're currently working on events for the last day of school.
- Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Singh have decided to distribute yearbooks in August in order to have more time to collect pictures.
 - Next week, 2019-2020 yearbooks will be available for purchase for \$5 so that students can have something to sign.
 - In August, Ms. Kennedy is hoping to have 9th graders gather to get their 2020-21 yearbooks.
- During the last week of school, small group time will be changed from Thursday to Wednesday so that all students can be dismissed at 12:40pm on the last day of school (June 10).

- Ordinarily during the last week of school, there is a 9th grade award ceremony which the whole school gathers for.
 - Given Covid restrictions, the award ceremony will be held via Zoom instead (June 8 at 6:30pm).
- On the last day of school, each grade will have the chance to gather as a class outside to play games, sign yearbooks, etc. Distance Learners will have games online too.
- The district is hoping to have a regular seven period schedule next year.
 - It's not clear yet what the masking policy will be for 2021-22.
 - Ms. Kennedy is putting events like dances and concerts on the calendar; the hope is that they will be possible, potentially with masks.
- This week, 160 people were tested for Covid through Healthy Davis Together (35 staff, 125 students).
 - Testing numbers are increasing each week.
 - The gift card program has helped increase testing.
- There is a set number of 2020-21 yearbooks available for purchase on the Jostens website. There may still be some available; any leftover yearbooks can be purchased in August.

9. New Business and Announcements (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)

- PTAs are partnering with Healthy Davis Together to encourage testing:
 - Students get a raffle ticket each time they test; the raffle will be held on June 7th.
 - Each school will be giving away a \$500 grand prize and several \$100 prizes.
 - The Super Tester program gives all students who test twice a local \$10 gift card.
- DHS PTA held an outdoor prom for all Davis seniors on May 22. It was a wonderful and safe event.
- Have a restful and safe summer!