

Holmes Jr. High PTA Board Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2016

In attendance: Joy Klineberg, Karen Hamilton, Allison Chilcott, Natalie Lindquist, Abby Koenig, Sameera Sandhu, Laura Shapiro, Ellen Shields, Raj Sajjan, Rachel Gunn, Bobbi Avery, Michelle Agnew, Jean Kennedy, Caroline LaFlamme, Cedric (9th grade), Astha (9th grade), Erika Drayton-Jebali

1. Welcome and Introductions (Joy Klineberg)

2. Approval of September Minutes

- Changes to September minutes:
 1. The list of clubs is not up to date since clubs continue to be formed. An updated list of current clubs will be forthcoming.
 2. The check from the PTA to Parent Education was made out to Empower Yolo, not to Davis Parent University (DPU). Empower Yolo manages DPU's finances since DPU is not a 501(c)(3).
- Motion passed to approve the September minutes with the above changes.

3. Volunteer Hours and Historian Report

- Heema was not able to attend the meeting, so parents recorded their volunteer hours on the sign-in sheet.
- Abby will give Heema the information about volunteer hours.

4. ASB Student Leadership Report

- ASB Treasurer, Cedric, and ASB Secretary, Astha, and Ms. LaFlamme gave an update on ASB.
- ASB officers and Leadership recently attended a training to learn more about organizing school-wide events such as rallies and about the qualities of effective leaders. They hope to attend a state-wide training in March.
- The primary focus of ASB is to develop activities and events to make school more fun.
- The recent ASB popcorn fundraiser made about \$6,000. The popcorn company took a significant cut of sales (60%), so ASB is considering options with higher profit margins for future fundraising.
- ASB will be sponsoring a t-shirt contest for Holmes' 50th Anniversary. Also under consideration for the 50th Anniversary are a Fun Run and speeches from Alumni.
- ASB is hoping to organize a city-wide 9th grade dance; the tentative date is January 20, 2017.

5. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)

- **THINK** posters (Is it **True**? Is it **Helpful**? Is it **Inspiring**? Is it **Necessary**? Is it **Kind**?) have been posted in all classrooms and have received good feedback.

- The mindfulness instructor who had planned to provide training in mindfulness backed out, so counseling staff are going to use money from the Davis Schools Foundation to train Holmes staff in mindfulness techniques.
- The goal of teaching mindfulness to students is to reduce stress; there is ample data about the benefits of mindfulness.
- The Berkeley Repertory Theater will be presenting a program about Hurtful Words during an 8th and 9th grade assembly on November 10.
 1. Berkeley Repertory Theater reworked their entire initial script to incorporate current 8th and 9th graders' concerns.
 2. The main message of their presentation is that words have a huge impact.
- Grade level mistreatment presentations by counseling staff reinforce messages about the impact of hurtful words. Counseling staff are working to incorporate student leaders into their mistreatment presentations.
- Davis consultant and Holmes parent, Orit Kalman, PhD, will be implementing a pilot program about conflict resolution in Leadership classes.
- DJUSD counselors are currently working on a K-12 document about how their work aligns with the three main educational domains (academic, social-emotional, and career prep). Counseling staff are very appreciate of the school board's focus on social-emotional intelligence.

6. Treasurer Report

- Karen Hamilton, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer Report.
- Motion passed to approve the Treasurer Report.

7. Membership Report

- Michelle Agnew gave the Membership Report.
- Currently, there are 309 members in our PTA, which totals \$4,635 in membership dues (the goal was \$5,000).
- To date, Holmes PTA has received \$12,780 in direct donations (the goal was \$11,500).
- 250 copies of the directory were sold, which generated \$1,250 in revenue. The goal for directory revenue was \$1,500; the direct donation surplus will cover the difference.

8. Unfundraiser Report

- Joy Klineberg gave the Unfundraiser Report.
- Leadership recently assembled the Unfundraiser mailing.
- Mailings should be in homes in early November.

9. Science Department Presentation (Caroline LaFlamme)

- The department is currently in the adoption phase of Next Generation Science standards.
- Science teachers have been devoting lots of additional hours to prep in order to align with the new standards. Many teachers routinely spend Sundays at Holmes preparing for the week.

- There are three new science teachers: Ann Holte , Kate Giorgi, and Ingrid Salim. Ms. Salim runs monthly meetings to support teachers in adopting NGS; her expertise has been very helpful.
- The delivery, not the content, of material has changed significantly with the new standards.
- Rather than simply telling students what they need to know, teachers determine where their students are and then support students' individual process of discovery/understanding. It is a time-consuming but ultimately effective and valuable approach.

10. Administrative Report (Jean Kennedy)

- Ms. Kennedy thanked the PTA for the staff birthday cards/gift cards that board members provided.
- All 9th graders took the PSAT on 10/19. Scores should be available in mid December. Students will get their booklets back so that they can see what questions they missed.
- There was a Music Assembly during the week of 10/17. Students loved it!
- Youth Truth surveys (district-wide climate surveys) were recently completed.
- Staff have been dealing with a lot of conflict stemming from social media and are still in the process of learning how best to handle this kind of conflict.

11. Committee Reports

- The school board passed resolutions to support CA ballot measures 51, 55 and 58. Copies of the resolutions were available for review.
- On 12/1, an emergency message was sent to phone numbers in the system; you have to opt-in to continue to get alerts.
- There will be early dismissal at 12:30pm on 12/23 for all DJUSD schools.

12. New Business

- Nutritional Services is hoping to start a Parent Advisory Committee.
- Interested parents can contact Dominic Machi, the Director of Student Nutritional Services, at 530-759-2186.

13. Adjorn