

## **Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes**

### **October 24, 2019**

**In attendance:** Joy Klineberg, Natalie Lindquist, Abby Koenig, Jean Kennedy, Ellen Shields, Michelle Agnew, Simona Ghetti, Noel Bruening, Laiman Adams, Jon Joskowiec, Maggie Levin, Gayatri Sakar, Heema Govindjee-Merchant, Deepali Bhargava, Deepa Kulkarni, Kate Giorgi, Mollie D., Julia van der Zeeuw, Beth McMullen

#### **1. Call to Order (Michelle Agnew)**

#### **2. Approval of September Minutes (Abby Koenig)**

- Minutes were approved.

#### **3. ASB Student Leadership Report (Molly, ASB Vice President)**

- 9<sup>th</sup> graders took the PSAT on 10/22.
- Spirit Week (10/21 – 10/25) is going well.
- ASB is participating in a Halloween decorating contest between Holmes, Harper and Emerson. District staff will judge decorations on 10/30.
- Volleyball just ended; 7<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball just started.

#### **4. Math Department Presentation (Scott Grensted)**

- The Math Department is facing a significant challenge as far as student readiness in CC3 (CC3 is the old Algebra 1).
  - Students in every math class takes a readiness test in the first two-three weeks of school.
  - Typically, a 70% pass rate on the readiness test indicates that students are well-prepared.
  - In the six sections of CC3 at Holmes, readiness scores ranged from 23 – 62%.
  - Readiness scores in Integrated I and II were much stronger.
  - CC3/Algebra 1 has historically been a course that requires extra attention.
  - There is a lot of tutoring available for CC3 students, and team teaching also provides additional support.
  - The low CC3 readiness scores may in part be attributed to the fact that all student advance to CC3 from CC2 regardless of their grades (<10% of students fail CC2 and advance to CC3 anyway; students who don't pass CC3 take it again).
  - Per Ms. Kennedy, as context, overall Holmes did really well in CAASP testing in math last year.
- Holmes has a terrific math teaching team: Gretchen McMeekin (Integrated I, CC2/3), Kimiko Yamamoto (Integrated I, CC2/3), Kerri Sattler (CC2, CC3), Kevin Luu (CC2, Integrated I at DHS), Dylan Reed (Integrated I, CC3) and Scott Grensted (Integrated II, CC3)

- Teachers are using innovative strategies to engage and inspire students (e.g. an outdoor algebra walk to illustrate graphing).

#### **5. Membership Report (Natalie Lindquist)**

- There are currently 145 PTA members.
- A total of \$14,793 has been received in direct donations.
- A total of \$2,175 has been collected as PTA membership dues (\$850 less than projected in the budget).

#### **6. Treasurer Report (Deepali Bhargava)**

- Checks #1791-1796 were approved.
- Band teacher Clyde Quick is asking for a new sound and computer projection system for both the band room and the gym.
  - An estimate for the band room system is \$7,000; for the gym, \$6,000.
  - Mr. Quick and Ms. Kennedy will be meeting soon to discuss funding for both new systems.
- PE/Athletics have purchased new volleyball nets which benefit all PE students.
- In addition to the PTA Science Department grant of \$300, Ms. Giorgi has received \$325 in parent donations to help cover the cost of fetal pigs for dissection in the spring. She now only needs \$375 to cover the full costs.

#### **7. Unfundraiser Report (Heema Govindjee-Merchant)**

- The Unfundraiser supports special grade-level events and replaces an auction as a school-wide fundraiser.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade event is an assembly program, "Breaking Down the Walls," which aims to promote a positive and unified school culture.
  - Breaking Down the Walls will take place on December 5 and 6.
  - Every 7<sup>th</sup> grader will attend the assembly as well as workshops.
  - The company that runs Breaking Down the Walls also runs Link at DHS and has earned a good reputation within the district as a reputable and well-run organization.
  - A request for parent volunteers to help with the assembly and workshops will be coming soon.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade event is an assembly program with internationally recognized inspirational speaker Scott Bakovich, highly recommended by Harper as well as by Holmes students who heard him speak recently at a Leadership conference.
  - Scott has spoken at Harper the last two years.
  - He's willing to do an evening presentation for parents at no cost if Holmes and Harper can coordinate the timing of their assemblies.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade event is a day-long hike to Marin County (weather permitting).
  - Unfundraiser donations cover chartered bus transportation to the hike.
  - The 9<sup>th</sup> grade hike is a highlight of junior high for many Holmes students.

- The goal for the Unfundraiser is \$11,000.
  - Suggested amount per family is \$175 - \$200, though any donation is greatly appreciated.
  - Donations can be now also be made online through the PTA website: <https://hjhpta.org/unfundraiser/>

### **8. Counsellor Report (Ellen Shields)**

- The counseling department is hoping to host a screening of *Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER*, the follow up movie to *Screenagers*.
  - The cost to show *Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER* at Brunelle is \$650.
  - Holmes is hoping to partner with Harper, Da Vinci or DHS to show the film.
- Marijuana tax money is replacing money that used to come from Davis Schools Foundation. This money is earmarked for drug counseling.
- Kaleb Boas, a drug counsellor from Recovery Happens, has recently given interactive presentations about substance abuse in 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade health classes.
- While vaping, alcohol and drug use remain concerns, the larger health issue at this time seems to be sleep deprivation.
- The first lunchtime session of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Health is starting on Monday. The second session will be in February.
- Counsellors continue to meet with students to connect with them on an informal basis.
- Mistreatment presentations for each grade level are coming soon. Sexual harassment discussed in an age-appropriate way is one of the issues discussed.
- 40-45 students will be participating in training for Holmes Student Advocates (HSA), an anti-bullying program, on November 14.
- Eye to Eye, an afterschool mentoring program for students with learning disabilities/ADD, meets weekly on Wednesdays after school.
  - Students are paired with mentors from UCD who also have learning disabilities.
  - Currently there are nine students and nine mentors participating.

### **9. Administrative Report (Jean Kennedy)**

- Since students have been purchasing junk food in large quantities during snack break, as of November 1, the cafeteria will no longer sell cookies and chips during snack break and will only sell breakfast items (breakfast sandwiches, milk/apple juice, fruit).
- Students recently took the Youth Truth survey. Results will be available in December or January.
- The results of CA Healthy Kids, a survey given to 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in April 2019, just became available.
  - Vaping: 4% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 11% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders reported ever having used e-cigarettes; 3% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 7% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders report currently using e-cigarettes; 0% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 3% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders report using e-cigarettes at school.
  - Safety: 4% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 9% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders report feeling unsafe at school.

## **10. Committee Reports**

- There is currently an opening on SPAC for an EL representative from Holmes.

## **11. Adjourn**