

Holmes Jr. High PTA General Meeting Minutes September 19, 2019

In attendance: Joy Klineberg, Natalie Lindquist, Abby Koenig, Jean Kennedy, Ellen Shields, Michelle Agnew, Gretchen Schroeder, Simona Ghetti, Noel Bruening, Kayoko Shiraishi, Joanna Stone, Michelle Buzbee, Tarri Swanson, Gloria Purnell, Karen Fee, Patricia Catta Preta, Deepali Bhargava, Deepa Kulkarni, Liz Hall, Kate Giorgi, Dianna Henrickson, Mollie D., Julia van der Zeeuw, Beth McMullen

1. Call to Order (Michelle Agnew)

2. Approval of April/May Minutes (Michelle Agnew)

- Minutes were approved.

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

- The first dance of the year is tomorrow night.
- ASB recently had a Club Fair.
- Elections for 7th grade Site Council and 7th grade President were just held.
- ASB hosted a 7th grade Welcome Rally.

4. Science Department Presentation (Dianna Henrickson, Science Department Co-Chair, and Kate Giorgi, 9th grade Biology teacher)

- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were released in 2013 *without* any curricula, which presented a significant challenge to teachers.
- NGSS emphasizes observation, question-asking, and data collection/interpretation rather than rote memorization.
- 7th grade science teachers at Holmes are piloting Amplify, a NGSS curriculum designed by the Lawrence Hall of Science.
- West Ed, an education research company, will be studying Amplify's efficacy. Some DJUSD schools in the study are using the Amplify curriculum, and others are not. Holmes 7th grade science classes are part of the test group using Amplify.
- 8th grade science teachers are piloting other curricula (Lab-Aids, Experiencing Science, and Discovery Education).
- 9th grade science classes are still using an older curriculum for Biology.
- Thank you to the PTA for their contribution to the Science Department. The money will be spent on lab supplies.
- Kate Giorgi shared information about fetal pig dissection in 9th grade Biology and Ag-Bio.
 - 9th graders dissect fetal pigs in the spring over the course of three weeks.
 - The dissection is a highlight for many students.
 - The cost of the fetal pigs exceeds the science department's budget.
 - The total cost for all pigs is about \$1,000.
 - The PTA has already committed \$300 to help cover the cost.

- Ms. Giorgi asked the PTA for \$600 more. She will also be asking for parent donations.

5. Approval of 2019-20 Budget (Michelle Agnew and Deepali Bhargava)

- Michelle reviewed income and expenses for the proposed 2019-20 budget.
- The PTA currently has a reserve of \$14, 927, which is at the upper limit of normal recommended by the CA State PTA.
- There was a lengthy discussion about what would be an appropriate amount of reserve to spend down this year. The ideal reserve for our budget is about \$8,000 - \$10,000.
- A motion was made to amend the budget to spend down \$3,000 of the reserve.
- The 2019-20 budget with the above amendment unanimously passed.
- More of the reserve could be allocated to spend down later in the year depending on income from Direct Donations and the Unfundraiser.

6. Treasurer Report (Deepali Bhargava)

- Deepali submitted the Treasurer Report.
- The Treasurer Report was unanimously approved.

7. Auditor Report (Gretchen Schroeder)

- Gretchen submitted the Auditor Report for January 2019 – June 2019. There were no discrepancies during that period.
- The Auditor Report was unanimously approved.

8. Membership Report (Natalie Lindquist)

- Natalie will be submitting the Membership Report via email soon.

9. Unfundraiser Report (Michelle Agnew for Heema Govindjee-Merchant)

- Donation requests for the Unfundraiser will be going out in mid-October.
- The Unfundraiser pays for grade level events that are chosen in consultation with staff and teachers.
 - 7th grade: Challenge Day
 - 8th grade: TBD
 - 9th grade: bus transportation to Bay Area hike
- There was discussion about Challenge Day and how it was received by students last year. Both positive and negative comments were shared.

10. Administrative Report (Jean Kennedy)

- Thank you to the PTA for the back-to-school lunch for staff.
- The next SPAC meeting is on October 11. All parents are welcome.
- There is city-wide student walk-out tomorrow to raise awareness about climate change.
 - Participating students will be walking to the library and then downtown.

- Students will be leaving at the end of 3rd period and returning before 6th period.
- Participating students will be marked unexcused for 4th and 5th periods.
- Students who are committed to the cause and who sign out and sign in will still be allowed to attend the dance tomorrow night (ordinarily students with unexcused absences are not allowed to attend school dances).
- Parents of participating students will receive an automated call about the unexcused absence.
- Students will be taking the Youth Truth Survey in either Social Studies or Health classes between October 7 and October 16.
- 9th graders will be taking the PSAT online on October 22.
- The Fall Summit (formerly Articulation Day) with a 12:30 dismissal is on October 24. There will be a rally that day.

11. Counselor Report (Ellen Shields)

- Macara Nicoll is the counselor for 7th graders with last names A – Ma.
- Marci Sarette is the counselor for all 8th graders and for 7th graders with last names Mc – R.
- Ellen Shields is the counselor for all 9th graders and for 7th graders with last names S – Z.
- There are now counselors at all DJUSD elementary schools.
- The counseling staff is currently working to connect with every student on an informal basis.
- Ms. Nicoll recently gave a presentation to 9th graders on self-care and anxiety.
- There will be a suicide prevention presentation soon in 7th grade Health.
- Assigning electives this year was challenging given how impacted schedules are. Counseling staff acknowledges students' frustration and apologizes to students who did not get the electives they wanted.

12. New Business: DPU (Abby Koenig) and RISE (Patricia Catta Preta)

- Davis Parent University (DPU) presents Katherine Reynolds Lewis on October 16th from 7 – 9 pm at Brunelle. Katherine Lewis is the award-winning author of *The Good News About Bad Behavior: Why Kids Are Less Disciplined Than Ever—And What To Do About it*. Reserve free tickets at www.davisparentuniversity.com.
- RISE, a program to reduce solid waste and improve recycling, is looking for parent volunteers during lunchtime. One of RISE's main goals is reduce plastic water bottle usage. Please contact RISE coordinator Patricia Catta Preta if you're interested in volunteering.

13. Adjourn