Haverford Middle School PTO

September 11, 2018

Meeting Minutes

PTO Board Members in Attendance: Sarah Maxwell, Leidy Cowling, Jenn McNicolas, Stacy Collins, Peggy Hermann

Meeting was called to order at 7:05, and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Treasurer’s report – Jenn McNicolas

* There have been approximately $5,400 in dues paid to date. Most have been received from our website/Paypal and the 6th grade parent orientation last spring. Hoping to get more at Back to School nights. A few budget changes were made from last year to be more in line with last year’s spending. Ways and Means was increased. Part of that includes the $400 the PTO agreed to give Sheli Hay for library shelving/storage. This was approved last year, but we are waiting on Sheli to submit the request form.
* Dan Horan commented that the budgeted donation to the Potter Cup is very generous and we could use that money elsewhere if needed. Potter Cup raises a lot of money each year. After discussion, a motion was made to reduce the Potter Cup donation to $0 and keep the Ways and Means allowance at $2000. Motion was approved.
* A question was raised about expected income for the PTO. It was noted that we do no other fundraising other than collecting dues and collecting boxtops.
* A motion was made to approve the budget. Motion was approved.

President’s report – Sarah Maxwell

* The first newsletter went out last week. The plan is to send out regular communication to parents.
* Everyone is asked to get the word out about PTO membership. We are looking for volunteers for Back to School nights.
* Annual dues are $20 per family. Our website is www.Hms-pto.com.

Teacher report – Jon Smerecky

* Club and activities have started. 6th grade activities fair will be next week. Student Council is looking for new members. There is an application process. Young Minds Change Lives, a new club that started last year, is open to new members. Rebecca Stumpf is the advisor. Musical theater club will have its first meeting on September 17th and will meet every Monday after that. Club meetings are typically announced during morning announcements, but interested students can also contact the club advisor through the club page of the school website.
* The first Activities night will be 9/21 from 7-8:30pm. Open to all grades. The cost is $5.
* Fall sports have started this week. Students interested in cross country should see Mrs. Young.
* Teachers hope to see everyone at Back to School nights.
* Auditions will be happening soon for special choral groups. See Mrs. Langley’s website for more information.
* District initiative – teachers focusing on building relationships with students. Letters or emails reaching out to students and parents were sent out.

Upcoming events

* 6th grade Halloween dance, Oct. 26th – Cristel DiVincenzo and Heather Chickery are co-chairing.

Old business

* There are several open volunteer spots:
  + Food truck event coordinator – March - book the food trucks and coordinate the event the day of.
  + 8th grade dance – May
  + Volunteer recognition chair – new role, highlight volunteers on a regular basis, write ups will be published on PTO website.
  + Nomination committee chair – April – point person for bringing in next year’s board.
* Membership – Leidy Cowling – Parents can join the PTO through the website or at BTS night. She will be sending out sign up links for volunteers to help at BTS nights to help things run smoothly. We are looking for volunteers to help input parent and student information into the directory system.
* Spirit Wear – Megan Salvesen – The order deadline is Friday. Orders will not be available at BTS night. They will be picked up directly from C&M. C&M will notify parents when orders are ready, typically 2-3 weeks after the sale is over. Only 33 items have been sold so far. PTO sale is the same timing as athletic wear sale going on through the school. We will have a winter sale with delivery in time for holidays. If anyone is interested in items that aren’t listed, let Megan know, and she can talk to C&M. Someone suggested having simple t-shirts available for sale at BTS nights and other events. PTO did that in the past but was not that successful and it took a long time to sell the inventory. We can reconsider if there is enough interest.
* Box Tops – Can earn money multiple ways in addition to clipping box tops such as entering sweepstakes and scanning receipts. We have earned $168 so far this year. The next collection date 10/19.

New business

* BTS nights – sign up link will go out this week for volunteers.
* Giant A+ - money earned goes straight to the school, not through the PTO.
* School Board – Yasemin Celikkol reported on summer Board meetings (June – Sept 6). The Board is working on a resolution to be a welcoming district. This is still being updated. They are working on an updated discipline policy. The district hired 20 new teachers for this year and Chatham Park Elementary has a new principal. Teachers attending training over the summer. The new plans for Lynnewood Elementary and high school renovations are on the district website, under the school board tab.

Principal’s report – Dan Horan

* Focus goals for the year –
  + Safety – the administration has been working with the police department to develop safety plans. A parent night will be held to share the overall philosophy. Specifics of the plan will not be shared. Students and teachers will be doing more dynamic safety drills.
  + Math performance – district goal. Math performance is currently very strong.
  + Fostering belonging – this has become a more formal goal. Encouraging teachers to reach out to students and parents and make connections.
  + Staff and student wellness – the first Wellness Day will be on 10/31 and will focus on school safety. There will be a parent preview night in advance.
* BTS nights will start in auditorium then go to homeroom and follow your student’s schedule. The focus of the night should be on the curriculum.
* Student Led Conferences will be school wide this year. The school received very positive feedback last year from the 6th and 7th grade teams that participated. It was emphasized that parents do not have to wait until conferences to have individual meetings with teachers. There is weekly team time set aside for this purpose. There should be fewer scheduling issues with student led conferences.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.