HMS PTO Meeting

January 14, 2020

Board Members in Attendance – Stacy Collins, Peggy Hermann, Leigh McCormack, Jenn McNicolas, Bernadette Lawson

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 and the November meeting minutes were approved.

**President’s report – Stacy Collins**

* Welcome to new families – happy to see so many new families come to the new family event held prior to the meeting.
* Introduced School Board members

School Board – Dave Schwartz, Larry Feinberg – President., Bridget Wiedeman – Vice President, and Superintendent Maureen Reusche.

* Strategic planning surveys have been sent out to parents and community
  + What type of experiences do we want our children to have in their years in the district?
  + How do we best prepare our children for life beyond their school years?
* Larry Feinberg reported on the following:
  + Board completed goals from last year
    - Training of new school board members
    - Renewal of superintendent contract
    - Brookline school sold to township
    - Lynnewood construction progressing
  + Initiatives for this year
    - Strategic planning process – met with focus groups of parents, community members for feedback. Encourage everyone to complete the survey.
    - Construction/renovations – Lynnewood elementary, high school additions (working with township for approvals to add 11 classrooms and add to common areas for music and athletics), climate control for Chatham and Coopertown elementary schools and new roof for Coopertown. Starting to look at replacing the HHS/HMS track.
    - Three new board members started serving in December – Laura Crispin (education policy), Dave Schwartz (engineer), Antoinette Snodgrass (attorney)
    - Teacher’s contract is up June 30th. Starting negotiations. Optimistic for successful results.
    - Increase hiring diversity
    - Green building, energy efficiency- proposal for the high school addition includes a green roof.
    - School starting times - monitoring what other districts are doing. Lots to consider – transportation. Our district buses to 130 different schools. Athletic schedules are also a consideration.
    - Legislative issues – strong advocates for public education in our local elected reps. Funding formula, voucher, tax credits, charter schools. Special ed at federal level – Haverford spends $10 million on special ed, 13% funded by federal gov.

**Treasurer’s Report – Jenn McNicholas**

* Income - $600 fall spirit wear, $387 winter spirit wear, $9066 received in dues for this year
* Expenses – conference snacks for teachers, outside planters

**Teacher’s Report – TerriLynn Seavey**

* Thank you to the PTO for snacks provided during conferences.
* Thank you to the other teachers who came to the new family event.
* Activities – Student council food drive – collected 2,600 food items. There are 42 students in the competition math club this year which is the largest ever. They will compete in the Delaware County Math Counts competition in February. 7th Heaven chorus came in 2nd in the B101 holiday competition and won $2000 which will be donated to school in need in Philadelphia. CHOP holiday toy drive – over 2400 items donated to CHOP. HMS musical performances will be on Feb 27-28.

**Upcoming Events**

* Food Truck in March –Looking to have around 8 trucks. Will reach out to last year’s vendors. Event will be located behind the school.

**Old Business**

* Spiritwear – There will be one more sale in the spring. If there are any items you would like to suggest, reach out to Megan Salvesen.
* Teacher Appreciation – We provided snacks on conference days. Planning for catered luncheon during teacher appreciation week in May.

**New Business**

* IDC – no report
* School Board Report – Recent meetings covered: curriculum updates, survey sent to parents about challenge of curriculum, textbook review. There may be a need to raise taxes to cover the budget currently being developed. Students are trying to reduce plastic use. HMS Cafeteria has eliminated straws and plastic condiment cups. HMS students will present to elementary schools to get them involved.

**Principal’s report**

* Wellness Day Preview – Self Care – January 17th Wellness day will focus on self care which is a new topic. Will cover physical, mental and emotional health.

Next meeting will be February 11th at 7pm in HMS Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.