

APPROVED Hingham High School PTO Minutes October 5, 2017

Attendance: Barbie Dwyer (President), Sara Ader (Vice President), Jane McGrath (Treasurer), Richard Swanson (Principal), Dana Donnelly, Deirdre Anderson, Liz Donohue, Edith Kitchin, Libby Lewiecki, Deneen Chippari

Principal's Report (Rick Swanson)

- NEASC Evaluation went well. All initial feedback has been positive. The full report is expected within 2 to 5 months. They identified some areas of improvement, including WIFI and HVAC. This is helpful if the outside report identifies these as things to work on, as it gives the school a little leverage with the town when asking for funding for these problem areas.
- New Athletic Director Jim Quatromoni officially took over from Margaret Conaty this week. She leaves behind a strong program for him to run. The athletes honored her last week and her retirement party is tonight.
- Freshmen class officers were elected. Highest number of candidates ever running for class office.
- A few new clubs this year, showing an active and interested student body.
- New staff members: Two new full-time nurses, important in responding to growing need in a bigger school and the socio-emotional needs of the kids. Some new teachers also. Everyone is off to a great start.

Treasurer's Report (Jane McGrath)

- Agenda sales came in a little under budget.
- About 60% of families have paid PTO dues, so still some outreach to do there.
- 2 fundraisers coming in November: Ski & Sport Sale and Fruit Center Marketplace (still not confirmed).

Secretary's Report (Sara Ader filling in for Michelle Ayer)

- Minutes of September meeting were distributed and approved.

Committee Reports

Weekly Bulletin (Edith Kitchin)

- Team of four alternates weekly posting content for delivery on Sunday evening. It's working out great. Thanked Dana Donnelly for helping set up system.
- Freshmen families have been added to distribution list.
- Discussion about setting communication with PTOs from other schools.

Hospitality (Liz Donohue)

- Reception for the NEASC went well on the weekend.
- Hosted pizza and salads for teachers on Curriculum Night.
- Planning some other events for the year: Valentines, Soup & Salad in March, Teacher Appreciation at year-end...

- Will advertise for contributions to entire school community instead of going to same people on committee all the time. Thinks that will work better.
- Looking for ideas for new things.

Directory (Jane McGrath updating for Nancy MacDonald)

Snafu with our printer, so went with Staples. More expensive. Looking for a good local printer if anyone has suggestions.

Century Club (Barbie Dwyer)

No report. Explanation of what this event is for people who didn't know. Takes place in May, sponsored by the Rotary Club. Intended as a way to reward members of the community who don't always get recognized. Invite based on the Top 25 unweighted GPAs and service to the community.

Ski & Sport Sale (Barbie Dwyer)

- Lost our volunteer who was to catalog the sales. This is an important position and we need a volunteer ASAP if anyone knows someone who is organized and good with spreadsheets.

All-town PTO (Barbie Dwyer from Liz Beinfang)

- Superintendent spoke about social emotional task force. Surveys will be distributed to parents, teachers, administrators and students in late fall. Encouraging feedback from everyone.
- MCAS testing for grades 3-8 will be electronic this year.
- SC member Cynthia Galko spoke on behalf of outreach committee to get a better idea of how SC can improve communication. Any feedback or ideas can go to Cynthia.

Webmaster (Libby Lewiecki)

Asked that each committee chair review the description of their committees on the PTO website to make sure they are updated and accurate. Send Libby any edits.

Mini Grants (Barbie Dwyer)

Applications are on the PTO website. Deadline is 10/10. Committee will meet 10/23 and the goal is to award grants by 10/31.

Class Updates

1. 2018

Senior Night (Dana Donnelly)

Committee meeting went well. People stepped up to lead committees. Dana working on timeline and needs. Confirming committee chairs.

Homecoming Dance

It's Sat. Oct 21 in the HHS Cafeteria from 7 pm to 10 pm. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold during the week of homecoming in the front lobby before school (not during lunches). All students are invited to attend but tickets are limited to 500. This dance has sold out in recent years, so encourage your children to buy their tickets early.

Holiday Fair

Will be hosted by Class of 2018 on Sat Nov 18. All clubs and teams are offered a table free of charge to sell merchandise. Outside vendors pay \$90. In exchange, organizers ask each club to send 2 volunteers on Friday Nov 18 or on Sat Nov 19 (8 am to 5 pm). If you'd like a table, you must register by Oct. 15. Email Courtney Bruno at cbruno@hinghamschools.org to register.

2. 2019 (Sherry Schilb)

Successful concession stand at first game. Ordered stuff for homecoming and holiday fair.

Finalizing for Junior Prom.

Need help at Holiday Fair from Junior Parents.

3. 2020 (Eileen Bevens)

Eileen Bevens got three parents to join her as class parent: Tina Sherwood, Mia Rotche and Heather Carroll. They had the concession at the game last week.

4. 2021 (Deirdre Anderson)

Successful concession but ran out of some of the food in the first half.

Class elections went well.

Climate suggestion to put up a positivity wall.

Suggestions for program in which upper classmen mentor freshmen.

New Business (Sara Ader)

Suggestion for an HHS PTO Facebook group and/or other social media presence to notify community about happenings and events. Good discussion on Social Media and enhancing spread of info through social networking. Something to keep in mind, but no resolution for now.