

Hingham High School PTO Minutes February 1, 2018

Attendance: Michelle Ayer (Secretary), Sara Ader (Vice President), Jane McGrath (Treasurer), Dana Donnelly, Jodi Trinchet, Kathy Cronin, Rick Swanson (Principal), Jamie LaBillois (Asst. Superintendent)

Welcome (Michelle Ayer)—Michelle welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:55 am.

Guest Speaker (Jamie LaBillois)

- Dr. Jamie's conversation about the new computer science curriculum frameworks started in the Principal's Coffee hour at 8:30 and spilled over into the PTO meeting. He highlighted the HEF CODE:RED initiative to bring computers into the curriculum for K-12. Detailed info about the program and what this new curriculum aims to do is available at www.hinghameducation.org.

Principal's Report (Rick Swanson)

- Second semester started last week.
- 15 music students chosen for District Festival, 5 to All-states.
- Incidents of intolerance continue to be an issue and are being addressed but there are also many positive things happening at HHS.
- Wrestling team ended up Patriot League champs for second year in a row. At championship match, featured a Veteran's Appreciation event.
- Boys Hockey is ranked #1 in state and continue to do service for the school/environment. They will be highlighted in Sunday's Globe South section as lead story on their Slash the Trash effort in the cafeteria.
- Boys Basketball is top ranked on South Shore.
- Girls Basketball is doing Veteran's Appreciation night this week.
- Drama Club working on its Festival piece about the Holocaust. This piece provides another opportunity for discussion on racial topics.
- Academics—all 11th graders participated in National History Day for the first time.
- Quiz bowl team at WGBH led by Glenda Garland competed against Thayer. HHS is the only school that's qualified all 9 times to be on air in the years that WGBH has held the competition.
- HHS won an impressive 69 awards in the Globe's Art in Writing Competition.
- 50th Anniversary of HHS Metco program initiative. HHS was one of the first schools to participate in the program. Looking for ways to celebrate. 1 way will be through MLK Day celebration, which it's also the 50th anniversary of MLK death. Starting a weekly 1-minute feature on the Friday Show to have a student talk about how the message of MLK resonates with them. This will be a 10-part series, helpful in reminding kids about what we value in our community. Include link to Friday Show in PTO newsletter?
- Gymnastics booster parent requested gymnastic team events and results be included in announcements to generate more recognition of their accomplishments

Treasurer's Report (Jane McGrath)

Revenues

- All money to be collected for the year has been collected, with the exception of some senior night activities.
- We are over budget on dues, but we expected that since the freshman class is huge. About 60% of families pay PTO dues. A direct appeal in January to families that hadn't paid brought in another \$600 in dues.

Expenses

- We are in the process of paying out mini-grants. Shared a thank you note and photos from the Extreme Couponing activity. The class was able to buy \$1000 worth of groceries for \$500 and donated it to the Food Pantry.
- February 2018 faculty training session and parent presentation on bullying and cyberbullying by Elizabeth Englander of the MA Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University. HHS PTO is co-sponsoring this event with HMS PTO.

Secretary's Report (Michelle Ayer)

- Minutes of December meeting were distributed and approved.

Committee Reports

Hospitality (Pam Gillig sent in report)

- Doing a Valentine sweet in all the teachers mailboxes.
- Soup luncheon in March.

Class Updates

1. Class of 2018 (Michelle Ayer)

Prom will be at Lombardo's in Randolph. Holiday Fair and Homecoming made good \$\$, and prom tickets will likely be around \$20 each.

Michelle made the point to remind future classes to focus on spirit building activities over fundraising. Sometimes the classes focus all the energy on fundraising when it's more valuable to create bonding experiences.

Senior Service Day "Harbormen Helping Hingham" will happen April 13

Senior Night (Dana Donnelly) Senior night forms and payment information will launch via website next month.

- 2. Class of 2019** no update
- 3. Class of 2020** no update
- 4. Class of 2021** no update

New Business

All-town Education Forum (Michelle Ayer)

- First town wide education forum was last night, hosted by all 6 PTOs. Attendance was good. Great representation on the part of HPS staff and educators, as well as School Committee, Selectmen, etc. Demonstrated high level of commitment to the town and the schools.
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- Distributed book called ***Schools Cannot Do It Alone*** by Jamie Vollmer.

Next HHS PTO Meeting on March. 1, 2018 at 9:30 am in HHS Room 103.

The meeting will focus on filling PTO leadership and committee chairs for 2018-2019 and beyond.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.