

## Hingham High School PTO Minutes November 2, 2017

### Call to Order 9:40AM

**Attendance:** Barbie Dwyer (President), Sara Ader (Vice President), Michelle Ayer (Secretary), Richard Swanson (Principal), Deirdre Anderson, Liz Donohue, Rindy Hesselman, Jodi Trincheta, Liza O'Reilly (School Committee liaison)

### Principal's Report (Richard Swanson)

- MCAS results are in and although there are a small number of students who did not meet proficient on the math test, HHS retains its Level One Assistance and Accountability designation. Those students who did not score proficient will be able to retake the exam.
- Fall athletics have been exciting and busy with several league championships won and increasing fan support at games. Dance team is heading to state competition in 2 weeks and we wish them luck.
- HHS Football has the honor of playing the annual Thanksgiving Day with rival Scituate at Fenway Park on Wednesday, Nov 22 at 7:30PM (estimated kick off time). Tickets are available at [redsox.com](http://redsox.com). Fan busses may be arranged so look for more information on transportation. It will be great to see Hingham well represented at the game, so encourage your friends, neighbors and family to join the festivities.
- Homecoming was a big success and a spectator mentioned that HHS homecoming is becoming the town's "other 4<sup>th</sup> of July" and a real community event.
- The dance did sell out in record time and the school will review ticket sales, venue, etc., and consider making changes to future dances due to their increased popularity.
- New clubs continue to be added, showing an active and interested student body.
- The Music Departments Fall Concert was well attended with SRO and the performances were amazing.
- The HHS drama department presents this fall's musical, "*Chicago*", which will run Thurs Nov 16-Sat Nov 18 and performances are expected to sell out.
- Shout out to the Dance Team, who continues to dominate Green Team's "Slash the Trash" competition by winning a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year in a row with a score of 100%: meaning they achieved a perfect score in ensuring not a single piece of recycled or compostable material ended up in the trash.

### Treasurer's Report (Barbie Dwyer for Jane McGrath)

- Budget remains on track and nothing new to report.
- Sport & Ski sale is this Saturday, Nov 4. Volunteers are still needed! This is the PTO's biggest fundraiser and needs many hands to make it a success.
- The Fruit Center Fundraiser is scheduled for Nov 6-Nov 12. Shop at Fruit Center, present the HHS PTO coupon, and the PTO will receive 20% of the proceeds of your purchase.

### Secretary's Report (Michelle Ayer)

- Minutes of October meeting were distributed and approved, with two name spelling corrections.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Mini Grants** (Sandra Lynch and Monica Iaria-by email)

- There were 18 grant applications totaling \$11,200 and all grants were funded; some partially, for a total of \$9,831.
- Award letters are being distributed to recipients.
- Discussion of moving mini-grants to a rolling basis (rather than beginning of school year) and moving grants that are submitted/approved each year to a separate, permanent line item on the PTO budget.

#### **Hospitality** (Liz Donohue)

- Great start to the hospitality year and the staff is so appreciative.
- Next event is the Thanksgiving Pie give-a-away so look for more information on delivery dates and consider donating a pie or two.

#### **Climate Committee** (Deirdre Anderson)

- The mentoring program between upper classman and freshman is off to a great start with upper class students taking the lead and embracing the idea.
- The goal is to partner junior and seniors with freshman to help them with the transition to high school; model good behavior; and be a peer resource on navigating high school.
- Mentors attended Freshman Advisory meetings and are planning events with their mentees, such as a Gingerbread House building event on Dec 6. At 6:30PM in the HHS cafeteria.
- Freshman parents: the upper class know it can be awkward for freshman to engage with upper classmen but they ask that you encourage your student to reach out and engage with their mentor.
- There is much buzz about the mentoring program at other schools (HMS and elementary) and there may be discussion about expanding the program across schools.

#### **All Town PTO Presidents/All Town PTO** (Barbie Dwyer for Liz Bienfan)

- Discussed clear policy for communicating with parents about incidents that happen at schools and the School Department is working on improving communications to parents.
- Dr. Galo is also supportive of the PTO president's idea for a community forum in January/February among parents, administration, school committee, staff, police, superintendent and other interested stakeholders to reduce the online/social media dialogues that can be unproductive.
- Social and Emotional surveys have been sent home to parents via email so please complete these important surveys. Students will be taking their surveys in school.
- The PTO President's from each school have agreed to a regular meeting the Monday prior to Dr. Galo's All-Town PTO meetings. Next meeting, Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

- SNAP has a fundraising event on Sunday, Nov 19, Thanks for Giving Fall Family Sports Day at South Shore Sports Center from 3PM-5PM. See their website for details.
- It was noted that the other PTO's have a community engagement committee (usually one person) who organizes speakers and other community events.
- Discussion and recommendation to establish this committee at HHS was agreed upon.
- The committee could co-ordinate the lists of merchandise being sold at community events like Homecoming and Holiday Fair.

### **Class Updates**

#### **1. 2018 (Michelle Ayer)**

- Homecoming concessions and the dance were a big success. Students took the lead on running ticket sales, decorating, getting volunteers to work the stands, and while there were some lessons learned, it was great to see the students take the lead.
- If you have a student in the Class of 2018, join our new FB page: 2018 Class Parents. This page will supplement email correspondence (not replace it)
- The annual Holiday Fair on 11/18 from 9AM-4PM will be hosted by the Class of 2018 and we need several parent volunteers to collect entry fees and sell raffle tickets.

#### **2019 (Sherry Schilb by email)**

- Recently created a FB page so please share/invite with other parents.
- Homecoming was a success and they sold out of merchandise
- They will have a merchandise table and run concessions at the Holiday Fair
- Looking for a junior prom venue and will be surveying students

#### **2020 (Jodi Trincheta)**

- T-shirt "coupons" were a big hit at homecoming. Wearers of the t-shirts who shop/dine at the companies listed on the t-shirt get discounts.

#### **Class of 2021 (Deirdre Anderson)**

- First homecoming was a success for the students who sold merchandise and really owned the process.
- The class parents have created a FB page.

### **PTO Business (Barbie Dwyer)**

- MARC joint funding request with HMS PTO for \$600 to retain speaker Dr. Elizabeth Englander, an expert on cyber bullying and social media was discussed (approved?)
- Recognized was the need for a community engagement committee/head to organize events like this and keep track of presentations to ensure presentations are kept current and timely. For example, social host law information has not been presented for several years and could be refreshed.
- Discussion on how to attract more parents to attend these important presentations.

Meeting adjourned 11:20AM

Next Meeting Thursday, December 7, 2017, 9:30AM Room 103