

Mt. Hebron High School PTSA Minutes

January 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Laura Munns at 7:10 pm.

In attendance:

Cindy Anderson, Christine Daugherty, Erik Vaughan, Veronica Hall, Adrienne Brown, Mary Pearce, Beth Risinger, Dan Phatak, Debbie Baisel, Emily Rice, Caroline Bodziak, Nhung Tran, Ginger Segala, Drew Cockley, Laura Munns, Erica Byrne

Welcome and Introductions:

Introductions of everyone in attendance at the meeting.

Approval of the November, 2015 Minutes:

MOTION made to approve the November, 2015 Minutes as written.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed. MOTION PASSED.

President's Report: Laura Munns

- The PTSA has a new website, with a WordPress foundation. Thanks to Dana Hemelt for updating it! The new site looks great and costs less.
- The Glory Days fundraiser ended 12/31, but we are still collecting receipts, and then plan to extend the fundraiser through January. It takes 8 weeks to receive a check, and we have plenty of time to renew for next year.
- Tara Anderson is the new BOD representative for ESOL.
- Karen Nitkin is collecting Viking Voices submissions, by the 20th of each month. The January deadline was extended until the 8th, due to the holidays.
- At the County level – the weekly HCPSS email has lots of useful links and information,
- The original plan was to have staff members at this PTSA meeting, but Susan Bradley (Student Services) had other plans.
- If anyone has questions about Canvas / Synergy, call Student Services.
- Next month we will have a visual presentation of Canvas.
- In October, Linda Donatich talked about helping ARL, since they do not have a PTA. MTH PTSA contributed to ARL, and received a lovely thank you which was passed around.

Treasurer's Report: Veronica Hall

- There is not a lot going on right now.

- Everything has been filed, and sales tax will be paid at the end of the month.
- The contract for After Prom is written up, but not yet signed. The costs have already been negotiated.
- We are in the process of changing banks, to Howard Bank, because the customer service at M & T Bank has not been good. For example, one of the Scholarship Funds was being charged \$10 per month, and they were not willing to negotiate. The goal is to also have Howard Bank as a sponsor for After Prom. Next week the money will be moved, and signature cards will be completed. We also need new articles of incorporation – the old articles said “Mount Hebron” and listed the address as “Old Frederick Road”. The new articles should say “Mt. Hebron” and “Route 99”. A check will be sent to receive new documents.
- There were no questions about the budget.

Principal’s Report: Mr. Cockley

- There is a meeting tomorrow evening – and everyone is encouraged to attend – about scheduling and staffing for next year. 6-7:30 is for parents of current 8th graders, and 7:30-8:30 is for current MTH parents. There is not a hard copy of the course catalog this year, but it is available online. At the meeting tomorrow, there will be discussion about changes to programs, requirements (and changes) for graduation requirements, how to plan, an explanation of Digital Education, courses at HCC, and more.
- The next 3 weeks are especially important for parent involvement. Teacher recommendations are complete, and a hard copy will be sent home on 1/12. The form is due, with signatures, on 1/22.
- Enrollment: 2015/6 projection was 1460, 1510 is actual. 2016/7 projection is 1580. The Budget will be announced tomorrow by Dr. Foose, so Mr. Cockley will have more information about budget and staffing.
- Parent Teacher conferences will be held on 2/4 and 2/5. The sign up will open on 1/25.
- There is an after school program beginning on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with transportation (there is a Google Doc for sign up) for one hour. The program will start small, with the goal of finding funds to continue long term. The school is targeting students who will benefit from and need this service. They will offer support in Algebra and English to 9th and 10th graders.

Committee Reports:

SGA Liaison: Erik Vaughan

- We finished the Canned Food Drive, which ran from 11/16-12/21, with delivery on 12/23. We assisted 166 families, and collected more than 61,500 cans!
- The Winter Dance is coming soon – more details to follow.

- March is Staff Appreciation.
- Hebron for Hope will hold a Nighttime Rally.
- Elections will be held in late April for next school year.
- The Blood Drive will be held in March.

Membership: Caroline Bodziak, Emily Rice

- We currently have 710 members (last year we had 740 at this time). We are only \$300 shy, and still have a few months left.
- We will make another announcement in the January Viking Voice.
- The final tweaking of the Directory is being completed, and it will be printed, and attached to Membership cards and sent home.
- Susan Brinkman – Goldman has been entering grocery receipts. Safeway is no longer participating.

Mulch Sale: Darcy Bellido de Luna

- We are still looking for someone to shadow the Volunteer Coordinator, and to take over next year. We may break the job into parts to make it more manageable.
- We are looking at dates for the sale, which may be shorter this year.
- We will contact neighborhood group, to post and advertise the sale through Google Groups.
- Signs (Christine Daugherty): The cost is \$275 to make 50 new signs, which will include the updated PTSA website. We need good, busy intersections, for signs.

Staff Appreciation: Deb Baisel

- Read out loud a nice thank you from the Special Education team.
- The November tissue box drive was successful - 164 boxes of tissues.
- In December, goody bags with notes were given to the day and night custodial staff and cafeteria staff.
- In January, the focus will be on bus drivers and nurses.

Hospitality: Laura Munns for Marisa Berry

- The Soup Dinner for conferences was successful, but complicated because it was hard to re-heat the soups.

PTA Council: Ginger Segala and Dan Phatak

- The Superintendent's Liaison made the report.

- The Operating Budget Proposal for 2016-17 will be presented on Thursday, January 7 at 4 pm. Parents and community members are invited to attend, to learn about the budget and to provide feedback.
- The Board will take action on the 2016-17 School System Calendar at the January 14 BOE Meeting.
- There are several upcoming PARCC Information Sessions: 1/6, 1/11 and 1/12. The details are all on the HCPSS website.
- There is a Career Academies information session on 1/14, 7-9 pm at ARL.
- Washington Post Awards Nominations are due on 1/8.
- All high school students are participating in a Strengths Inventory. If we are interested, Scott Ruehl will come to a future PTSA meeting to further explain. There were a lot of questions at the PTAC meeting about how the school system will use these results.
- Engagement Scores: MTH has high scores (they went down last year, but last year's Seniors were the most engaged in the County); Highly Disengaged Teachers in the County went down from 18% to 11%.

Senior Banners: Karen Chanmugan

- We are working on finalizing the sale dates.
- We will include information in the Senior Packet – including an order form, when the banners will be hung and taken down.

Directory: Laura Munns

- We received the file today, which is password protected.
- Every student is included, so it will be expensive to print.
- There is the possibility of changing the format and putting it on the PTSA website, with password protection.

MOTION made to attempt to put a Password Protected PDF on the PTSA website, listed by student last name, available only to PTSA Members.

Motion made by Ginger Segala, seconded by Veronica Hall.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed. MOTION PASSED.

After Prom: Christine Daugherty and Caroline Bodziak

- We did a lot of shopping for prizes on Black Friday.
- The Angel Tree, for gift card donations for prizes, yielded \$330 so far.
- A parent donation letter will go home in April, asking for money and food.
- There is a meeting on Friday, to finalize more details.

PAAS: Adrienne Brown

- There will be a Multi-Cultural night on February 20.
- We are looking for SAT tutors to support the students on Saturdays, from 9-12.
- We are looking for new fundraising ideas.
- We are planning a Black History Month Celebration – details to come.

Patapsco PTA: Cindy Anderson

- The PTA is sponsoring Ask Dr. Foose on March 15 at 7 pm in the Cafeteria.
- Questions must be submitted in advance.

Other: none

Old Business: Laura Munns

- **By Laws and Nominations:** At the February meeting, a Nominating Committee will be formed. The President and Treasurer are both term-limited, so they can not continue in their positions.

New Business: Laura Munns

- **Baccalaureate:** We need to look at locations and a date. We also need a Coordinator, and a speaker. This is a nice tradition and we would like to continue. Is there a parent of a Junior who would like to coordinate?
- **Gift of Thanks:** We would like to do more supportive things for the staff. Laura and Mr. Cockley have discussed ideas. This is a program and fundraiser, which includes staff appreciation. The teachers could make requests for gift cards they prefer at the end of the year. The program involves providing information to parents to buy gift cards at discounted rates through the escrip program (Great Lakes Scrip Center). Questions included how to make this equitable for all teachers. The conclusion was that we may need a different fundraiser which would benefit Staff Appreciation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm. Submitted by Erica Byrne, PTSA Recording Secretary.