

Mt. Hebron High School PTSA Minutes

September 2, 2015

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

In attendance:

Dana Hemelt, Cindy Anderson, Christine Daugherty, Darcy Bellido de Luna, Priya Krishna, Beth Risinger, Erin Lanthier, Nhung Tran, Patti Lizzo, Susie McShea, Dan Phatak, Patti LeConte, Marisa Berry, Ginger Segala, Erik Vaughan, Karen Channugam, Veronica Hall, Emily Rice, Nat Turner, Shanta Robertson, Dwayne Williams, Loren Henderson, Debbie Baisel, Kirsten Saxe, Lisa Higdon, Adrienne Brown, Amanda Peterson, Adele DeLibera, Caroline Bodziak, Mary Pearce, Linda Donatich, Yin Yoo, Laura Munns, Erica Byrne

Welcome and Introductions:

Laura Munns began the meeting by introducing all of the Executive Officers, followed by introductions of everyone in attendance at the meeting.

President's Report: Laura Munns

- Thank you to Dana Hemelt for taking over the PTSA website and for keeping it updated. Among other information, volunteer forms and other important paperwork can be found on the website.
- Orientation and Back to School Night went well. Laura present information about the PTSA at both events, and encouraged parents to be an active part of the PTSA.
- Dr. Foose made an effort to include all PTA Presidents in her time as Superintendent. She invited all of the Presidents to a meeting with Principals, the Board of Education, where she shared her goals for this year: "Engagement" is the buzzword for the year. In polls of teachers and parents, MTH has always come out on top. Laura has spoken with Mr. Cockley about ways in which to maintain this level of engagement. Dr. Foose is now planning ways to engage parents, and there will be a poll to learn more.
- New this year – the MTH PTSA added a Welcoming Committee and Staff Appreciation Committee. One way to get more people to attend meetings is to offer speakers – we are looking at the idea of having someone from each Academic Team speak at PTSA meetings, most likely in October, November and December.
- Laura encouraged everyone to use the HCPSS website to stay involved and get information. There is a Board tab on the website, which includes information on the accomplishments of the Class of 2015, as well as information about BOE meetings.
- We still have several vacancies on the BOD, but the following positions have been filled: Patti Lizzo (9th Grade Rep), Adrienne Brown (PAAS), Erin Lanthier

(Volunteer Coordinator), Dana Hemelt (Website), Debbie Baisel (Staff Appreciation), Joanna Fichter (joins Marisa Berry on Hospitality), Mary Pearce (joins Darcy Bellido de Luna on Mulch Sale), Amy Cargiulo (Scholarship).

Thank you!

- The Viking Voice deadline is September 9.
- Ms. Luongo wants to clarify that the Student Services evening hours will be a few times per month, based on need.
- The approval of the May, 2015 minutes will be done in October.

Treasurer's Report: Veronica Hall

- The books were audited by three PTSA members.
- A CPA was used in the past, but it is very expensive for the PTSA.
- If there are no issues with the audit, Veronica will file it tomorrow.

Principal's Report: Mr. Williams for Mr. Cockley

- Mr. Cockley was not available to attend the meeting, but promised to attend all of other meetings this year.
- The first two weeks of school have been positive. Thank you to everyone for helping and getting settled.
- MTH has a total enrollment of 1516 students this year. 410 in 9th grade, 402 in 10th grade, 356 in 11th grade, and 348 in 12th grade.
- It is anticipated that the turf field will be completed in time for the soccer game on 9/11, and the football game on 9/11. It looks great!
- The Cafeteria Space looks crowded in the first days / weeks of school, because students aren't sure where to sit, and seniors don't use the courtyard as much. There is enough seating in each lunch shift for students.
- In the first week of November, there will be a Leadership Conference with students. They will be charged with the question "What can make MHHS a better place" and allow time to brainstorm ideas. It is a great way to get students to take ownership of issues in school and to also build leadership experience.
- The Morning Drop Off Process is being monitored, based on a few concerns that were expressed to the Administration. They are trying to determine if there are consistent issues, or just one or two offenders.
- HCPSS Connect – parents should call the main office if they are experiencing problems with Synergy, Canvas or Family File. Parents should contact specific teachers if they have questions about a class, grades, or course content. Thank you to everyone for your patience. Teachers are not the experts, and it is taking time for everyone to learn the new systems. Problems are being experienced in all schools in the HCPSS, not just at MTH.
- The PSAT will be on 10/14. All freshmen take the test, and have the option to pay \$15 (online or by check) for results. This is the new 2 hour and 45 minute test,

- which is in line with the new SAT. 10th and 11th graders take it the same day, but do not pay for results.
- Questions? Canvas is coming soon for parents. Students can already see their assignments. In Synergy, teachers post attendance. Please remember, teachers are not experts; they are learning the systems also. Mary May is the MTH contact person, or email teachers about their specific class.

Committee Reports:

SGA Liaison: Erik Vaughan

- On 8/14, the SGA met with Mr. Cockley, and also gave his tours of the building.
- On 8/16, the SGA went to Terrapin Adventures for Teambuilding.
- On 8/19, the SGA provided breakfast for the teachers.
- On 8/20, the SGA helped with Freshman Orientation.
- On 8/27, the SGA helped with Back to School Night.
- On 8/28, the SGA hosted the Hebron Hula, which was well attended.
- Upcoming events include: Freshmen Rep Elections, Hebron for Hope (fundraiser and t-shirt sales, as well as a hospital visit), and the Canned Food Drive.
- SGA meetings are held every Wednesday after school, and these meetings are primarily for the Board.
- Each class has a Class Board- who paint the wall and make the Homecoming Floats, among other activities.

Welcoming Committee: Nhung Tran

- We welcomed three new parents – from France, New Hampshire and Chicago- before the PTSA Meeting.
- We will host another Meet and Greet on 10/7, from 6-7 pm for new families and freshmen parents.

Membership and Directory: Caroline Bodziak

- We have had active membership drive at the Freshmen Orientation, Back to School Night and Fall Sports Orientation.
- From the first 2 events, we had 174 members and over \$500 in donations, for a total of over \$3000 in revenue. There are many more memberships and donations coming in, to add to the total. We currently have \$7085, which is a little higher than this time last year. We have to send \$4.25 of each membership fee to National PTA.
- Student memberships cost \$5, so we only keep .75.
- There was a great response to the opportunity to use credit cards. Due to the 2.75% fee, we may only use it for higher amounts in the future.

- PTSA Membership cards will be sent home with students in the end of September.
- Directory: the County is providing us with the information for the Directory (via Emergency Card information), but we will not have the information until late October.

Hospitality: Marisa Berry

- Joanna ran the Back to School week luncheon. We spent \$1500 on food from Carrabba's, which was good food, but we ran out of food and had to order pizza.
- The next event will be for Fall Conferences.

PTA Council: Ginger Segala

- There are lots of BOE Committees, asking for community members to get involved. Ginger passed around a complete list, which included: Sexual Discrimination, Tech Security, Graduation Requirements, Calendar Planning, and Charter Schools. Please sign up if you are available and interested.

Viking Backers: Patti LeConte

- We are also running a Membership Drive. You can join online (for a \$30 minimum per family). At the \$65 and \$100 level, you will receive a car magnet.
- Volunteers are needed to help at the Concession Stand at the 9/11 football game vs. Centennial HS.
- The next meeting is 9/8 at 7 pm.
- Basket Bingo is 11/20. Tickets are sold by each fall team, and the event always sells out.

Staff Appreciation: Debbie Baisel

- Debbie is being helped by Beth Risinger and Trisha Heath.
- They are looking for practical ways to help staff, such as gifts that are low on cost and high on sentiment.
- They do not want to encroach on the Hospitality Committee.
- Today they gave each staff member a piece of paper with a saying / thank you and a candy.
- In November, they will hold a tissue box drive.
- In February, they will request hand written notes of appreciation from parents and students.
- They will talk to Erin Lanthier about contacting volunteers who checked "other" on their volunteer form.

Class of 2018: Laura Munns for Lisa Solomon

- Lisa met with the class sponsors.

- There is a Facebook page set up for parents.

Mulch Sale: Darcy Bellido de Luna

- Everyone on the Committee is graduating this year, so volunteers are needed to shadow: Volunteer Coordinator, Order Processing.
- There is a huge need for general participating and for trucks on the delivery date.

Other: none

Old Business: none

New Business: Laura Munns

- Presentation of the 2015-16 Budget, and Vote by the Executive Board.
- Veronica started with the General Operating Budget, and reviewed it line by line. The budget is the same as last year. There is a new line item for Community Outreach (to provide gift cards for the teachers at Homewood School). This year we are not paying an accountant.

MOTION made by Erin Lanthier, seconded by Cindy Anderson to approve the 2015-2016 General Operating Budget.

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

- Veronica reviewed the After Prom Budget, line by line as well. The decision was made to keep the ticket price at \$10. Veronica was able to negotiate with the YMCA, who agreed to but the cost by 40% (the pool will not be available, but it was barely used in past years, and is very expensive).
- Laura suggested a Motion to add a Line Item of Sponsorship to the After Prom Budget. We would like to use the Banner Vendor to make Sponsor Banners to put in front of the school.

MOTION made by Dana Hemelt, seconded by Erica Byrne to add a \$250 line item to the After Prom Budget for Sponsor Banners.

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

- If we have not raised enough money in Sponsorships by January, we may need to add a fundraiser.

MOTION made by Caroline Bodziak, seconded by Christine Daugherty to approve the amended 2015-2016 After Prom Budget.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Submitted by Erica Byrne, PTSA Recording Secretary.