

Mt. Hebron High School PTSA Minutes

October 7, 2015

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

In attendance:

Dana Hemelt, Cindy Anderson, Nhung Tran, Brad Chase, Shanta Robertson, Zeby Chaudhy, Tahir Chaudhy, Erin Lanthier, Cindy Anderson, Lisa Higdon, Christine Daugherty, Caroline Bodziak, Trisha Heath, Sangita Katheria, Mary Pearce, Erik Vaughan, Darcy Bellido de Luna, Veronica Hall, Jyothsna Muduganti, Debbie Baisel, Adrienne Brown, Lisa Solomon, Dan Phatak, Ginger Segala, Jane Kipchirchir, Sumitha Samy, Amy Cargiulo, Linda Donatich, Lisa Scarbath, Laura Munns, Erica Byrne

Welcome and Introductions:

Introductions of everyone in attendance at the meeting.

Approval of the May, 2015 Minutes:

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

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

Approval of the September, 2015 Minutes:

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

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

President's Report: Laura Munns

- The Viking Voice is published monthly, and is a collaboration between the PTSA, Viking Backers, Music Boosters, Administration. It is a great resource for parents. The dates for publication have changed, and information must be received by the 20th of the month, for publication on the first of the following month.
- Directory – we are waiting to receive the information from the County. With Family File completion, MTH is in third place for high schools (behind Centennial and Hammond) with 72% complete. Parents are receiving direct emails correspondence if the information is not complete, but this also means those families will not be in the directory. The information is coming to us from

the County, already compiled on a flash drive. We need a coordinator for this easy job for next year.

- Wellness Policy – on 9/17 an updated policy passed unanimously: “A Principal may permit special celebration up to 12 times per year, later than last lunch, which is prepared commercially”. The new policy will not include any regulation on beverages.
- Thank you to Erin Lanthier for compiling all of the volunteer information for each committee.

Treasurer’s Report: Veronica Hall

- The 2015-2016 Category Budget was handed out and reviewed.
- Highlights include: the carryover budget, no changes to the general revenue, an increase in mulch revenue, and the disbursements are the same.
- There were no questions about the budget.

MOTION made by Ginger Segala, seconded by Cindy Anderson to approve the Category Budget for 2015-2016 as written.

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

- The Financial Statements were handed out and reviewed.
- For After-Prom, most of the columns contain 0’s because there were no expenses through the end of September.
- For the General Budget, we received \$950 for SAT Prep, but this was a reimbursement from last year. Hospitality spent \$1500 on the teachers luncheon.
- Membership has raised \$6215 through Monday, but we haven’t paid State or National dues yet. So far, we have 581 members, through September (not including teachers). We have exceeded the budget for Membership, but it is still less than last year.

MOTION made by Dan Phatak, seconded by Amy Cargiulo to approve the Financials as written.

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

Principal’s Report: Mr. Cockley

- He is doing a lot of learning, of how things work at MTH and why, and about the strengths of the school.

- He is spending a lot of time and effort on Canvas, Synergy and Professional Development.
- The turf field is complete and it looks great.
- As Interims are coming out, students start to panic. It is important to emphasize that it is a long year, and to assist them with the learning process. Suggestions include NHS tutoring, forming study groups, etc.
- Goals for this year include school improvement – regarding SAT’s, AP’s and engagement. If students are engaged, they do well and want to come to school. Sports, clubs, activities, etc. are very important.
- He would like to connect with all of the liaisons for different student groups, especially for under-represented groups.
- It is important for each student to set goals, and stretch goals. They should consider who they can talk to, to achieve the goal. Mentoring and internships are very helpful. How can they reach their goals? Through connections!
- Questions? What kind of help would he like from the liaisons? It will be helpful to have a representative who can help get families to school, and with communication.
- Why are AP classes / tests helpful for students? They are a college and career readiness indicator. AP classes are the most similar to college instruction. 55% of MTH graduates pass their AP exams with a 3 or higher. 75% of eligible MTH students are taking AP classes. Individual colleges vary with what AP score they will accept for credit, but the level of course attracts colleges. As a goal, he would like every MTH student to take at least one AP class in high school, if they plan to attend a 2 or 4 year college. AP classes can also fill in Gen Ed college requirements, allowing for more flexibility with classes.
- Colleges look at 3 things: GPA, standardized testing, and the transcript. Howard County has an Early College Program, as early as 10th grade. There is an upcoming field trip to the ARL.

Committee Reports:

SGA Liaison: Erik Vaughan

- Welcome to Mr. Cockley, who has been very helpful to the SGA.
- Hebron for Hope funds all go to Johns Hopkins Children’s Cancer Research.
- The theme for the floats and wall for Homecoming is the Vikings Voyage through the Seasons.
- Spirit Week: Friday is pajama day, Monday is USA day, Tuesday is Costume Day, Wednesday is Hebron For Hope, and Thursday is Color Day.
- There will be a pep rally at the end of the day on Thursday, with performances by several student groups. This is the only time during the school year when the entire student body is together.

- Homecoming schedule: Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10:30, Parade from 11-11:45, Football Game at 1 pm vs. Reservoir, Dance from 7-10 pm.
- Soon they will start planning the Canned Food Drive, which begins on 11/16, and the food will be delivered on 12/23.

Membership: Caroline Bodziak

- In her Treasurer's Report, Veronica gave a good update.
- So far, we have 581 members, which is 150 shy of last year. We are hoping for a few more. Staff memberships have not been counted yet.
- Mr. Cockley offered to send one more dedicated email about Membership.
- Reminder: All Executive Members of the BOD must be members of the PTSA.
- The PTSA has two dedicated scholarships, and both the Senior and parent must be PTSA members to be eligible.
- Mr. Cockley did a great job with helping the staff to get excited about joining. The Social Studies team was the first complete team to join, and they received a breakfast basket.

PTA Council: Ginger Segala, Dan Phatak

- There is an ADHD Awareness meeting and presentation on 10/8 at 7 pm at Centennial HS.
- The Redesigned SAT Prep presentation is October 28, from 12-1 pm or you can watch live on the HCPSS website.
- There was a presentation by Lisa Boarman and Scott Ruehl about positive thinking and rephrasing.
- There was a presentation by Bill Santos about Indoor Mold.
- There was a presentation by Tonya Tiffany about the Health and Environment Committee.
- The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (AFPO) – includes how we approach planning, redistricting, building, and the County Executive is now looking at this information. The first meeting of the task force is 10/14 from 7-9 pm at the George Howard Building. Subsequent meetings will be held on 10/28, 11/4 and 11/18. All meetings are open to the public.
- The HCPSS Capital Budget is about \$25 million behind, and they are getting less money than requested. This drives home value, and may cause delays in new buildings.
- There were many complaints about Canvas / Synergy.

Class of 2018: Lisa Solomon

- There is an ongoing fundraiser – Innisbrook Wrapping paper, and the money raised will go for the deposit for Junior Prom.
- There are links to the sale on Facebook and the PTSA website.

After Prom Sponsorships: Lisa Solomon

- We are looking for businesses who may want to sponsor After Prom.
- We are working on signs that will go in front of the school, for more visibility for the businesses.

Other: none

Old Business:

- Nat Turner (PAAS rep) made the suggestion of opening the cafeteria after school for students to study. Currently, the policy is that students may only be in the school for 30 minutes past the end of school, and then there must be supervision. Mr. Cockley agreed to look into this idea and the legal aspects of it. The PTSA will look into providing volunteers for one hour a day.

New Business: Laura Munns

- Glory Days (restaurant) opened in August on Route 40, and we recently approached them about fundraising. They offer Glory Days Dining Dollars, which is a 60-90 day fundraiser. There is no certificate to use, but diners must turn in their guest receipt for MTH to get credit. MTH will earn 10% of all receipts during the time frame.

Viking Backers: Lisa Scarbath

- Thank you to everyone who joined the Viking Backers. Part of their budget goes to After Prom.
- Please buy spirit wear through the school, as it is the only spirit wear that supports the school.
- Kim Miller is working on copyrighting the Viking logo.
- We need a lot of volunteers, such as for concession stands (which fund ¼ of the budget).
- Basket Bingo is coming up on 11/20. Please buy tickets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Submitted by Erica Byrne, PTSA Recording Secretary.