

HMS PTO Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2012

PTO Officers and HMS Staff Present: Robin Thrana, Lisa Seplak, Sharon Johns, Laura Glenn, Heather Shalgos, Laura Gambla, Lisa Milligan, Karen Choi, Kathy Adelman, Ruben Pena, Martha Henrikson and Rocky May.

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Heather Shalgos at 9:35 a.m.

II. Secretary's Report:

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 9th General PTO meeting was made by Betsy Elman, Kathy Hanley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. President's Report:

Back to School Day committee chairs, Cathy Daly and Dawn Simon did a great job this year. Back to School Day was a very successful and helpful to HMS families.

School Supplies Chair, Kristen Evans did a great job this year with on-line ordering etc.

Amy Habeck and Mary Anne Clark were congratulated for their great work with the Student Directory. This is the first year for on-line directory access and the countless hours of work that Amy and Mary Anne have contributed were acknowledged and appreciated!

Thanks were expressed to Lisa Milligan for getting the HMS PTO Website up and running.

Thanks was given to Sue Shupe for her work to make the Newcomer Coffee a success. There are 45 new families in the HMS community this Fall.

Betsy Bruns and Anne Lorenz organized this year's Student Activity Fair on September 11th that went well.

Sandy Otto and Leslie Besecke are currently heading up the magazine sales fund raiser. Final day for turning in orders will be September 19th. Sales are trending ahead of last year.

Thanks were expressed to O'Neia Washington for brining coffee and treats to today's meeting. O'Neia is this year's PTO Hospitality chair.

Suzanne Wychocki, chair of the Recycling committee acknowledged Sue Shupe's efforts to recycle and repackage school supplies for HMS students in need. Sue Shupe was quick to point out that a lot of people contributed to the supplies recycling effort.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Laura Glenn will show budget to actual at every PTO General meeting each month. She will field any questions if anyone has questions.

V. Vice President's Report:

Kathy Adelman reported that the "Above the Line" recognition program for teachers will take place on a quarterly basis. Nomination forms can be picked up in the school office or found on the PTO web site under the resources tab. Comments or nominations can be e-mailed to VicePresident@hmspto.org. Karen Choi is the other VP working with Kathy for this excellence in teaching recognition program.

VI. Committee Reports:

Committee chairs introduced themselves.

A. Directory

Amy Habeck and Mary Anne Clark reported that in addition to the printed directory, an electronic directory will also be available to PTO members. They are using A-Z directories for this effort.

Live date for the on-line HMS student directory will be Monday, 9/17. PTO board went live 9/10 and the system is working well.

90% of HMS families' information has been verified for the directory.

All parents have access to the on-line directory through 10/31. If PTO dues are not paid by the Nov. 1st deadline, on-line access will be discontinued.

On-line and print directory info are one in the same.

Mary Anne is working on the print directory and it should be available mid to late October.

Question was asked if there is a program to pay for directories for those families that cannot afford them. HMS PTO Executive Board will investigate.

B. Magazines Sales

Ends 9/19. 40% of every sale comes back to the school.

C. Spartan Shack

Co-Chair, Kathy Hanley reported that the Shack will be opening 9/17. The interior of the Shack has been remodeled. Fullers donated paint for the interior. Kathy said there is a plan to modify the outside of the Shack to reflect the theme. Spiritwear will continue to be sold at the Shack. The Spiritwear chair, Michelle Beaulieu was complimented on her great selection of items that sold well at Back to School Day.

D. Family Resource Network

Co-Chair, Linda Rio Reichmann reported that the Dist 181 web site has information about the District 181 Family Resource Network (FRN). Parent group info is on the Web site as well. The HMS Student Services Personnel list was handed out.

Staffing changes. We have 2 school counselors and 2 social workers. 504 and IEPs handled by different staff.

Ruben said counselors were helpful last year and that is why counselor resources have been increased this year. Last year, Kate Klara saw 400 kids without mandated minutes.

Linda circulated information about upcoming FRN presentations. New Asst. Superintendent, Dr. Kurt Schneider will review goals for Dist. 181 Pupil Services on 9/17 and 10/11 at the Hinsdale Public Library and the Elm School MRC on the 17th and the Library on the 11th. Curriculum overview and transition plans will also be presented on 9/19 and 9/25 by Dr. Janet Stutz and Curriculum Director, Kevin Russell at the Hinsdale Public Library and Elm MRC respectively.

Linda said she has a link on PTO web site for questions related to the Family Resource Network and relevant upcoming presentations.

E. School Supplies

Chair, Kristen Evans said the PTO raised \$6,511.63 through school supplies sales. This is more than last year. Kristen reported that the PTO signed up with the vendor for next year. A larger percentage from sales will be shared with the PTO next year for signing up early. 509 school kits were sold this year.

VII. Title 1 Report

Vice Principal Martha Hendrickson reported that 20 Recycled School supply kits were given to the 38 Title 1 kids. EPI supplied packaging so volunteers could package the recycled supplies the same way the new supplies were packaged for continuity among the students.

Just under 5% of HMS students qualify for fee waivers, so we qualify for additional federal funding to be used for reading tutoring for Title 1 students and others if space is available. Mentoring and Explore test prep will be added to Title 1 programming.

Martha also reported that Title 1 funds will be used to purchase a cart of 30 new iPads to be used by Title 1 students and others if extras are available.

Staff is currently being trained with iPads. Two carts are available with iPads for teacher checkout.

There will be a special evening of conferences for parents of Title 1 students.

VIII. Principal's Report:

Principal Ruben Pena reported that \$52,000 in Title 1 funds have been allocated to HMS for this school year.

Ruben thanked the PTO for successful Back to School Day and Activities Fair Day.

Ruben reminded parents that the high school Explore placement test will take place on Saturday, Oct. 13th for all 8th graders. The test will be administered at Hinsdale Central High School in the morning of the 13th.

Christine Allen shared that Explore web site has sample test questions and suggested kids practice so they know what to expect.

Ruben reported that this school year there is only one Core class with 31 students. Combined 7th/8th grade student math class has been a creative and successful solution to maintaining class sizes of less than 30 students.

On Thursday, November 1st, Sarah Migas, an Internet Safety Specialist from the Illinois Attorney General's office will speak to kids for a SELAS program day.

Ms. Migas will also be at our next PTO meeting on Wednesday, October 10th to speak to parents about Internet Safety.

IX. Special Presentations: Committee Chair Procedures

A. President

Co-Presidents Heather Shalgos and Robin Thrana announced that Karen Schefke is chairing the lost and found committee. Karen is recruiting members for the committee. Please contact Karen if you are interested.

On January 9th, the HMS PTO meeting will be dedicated to having current college students who are HMS alum, speak to our parents about their experiences transitioning from HMS to high school and from high school to college. Heather and Robin encouraged those parents with students in college who previously attended HMS to recruit their child to be one of our guest speakers. Please contact Heather and Robin at President@hmspto.org.

B. Treasurer

Laura Glenn shared treasurer procedures. Asked committee chairs to stay within their budgets. To contact Laura Glenn or Laura Gambla you can e-mail them directly with questions at Treasurer@hmspto.org. Deposits or check requests can be dropped off in the school office PTO Treasurers mailbox.

Expense reimbursement forms can be found on the HMS PTO web site or in the school office PTO treasurer's mailbox.

Tax exempt cards are available from Laura Gambla so that taxes can be waived when buying items to be used for PTO activities. Tax exempt cards will also be available in the school office PTO treasurer's mailbox. Taxes cannot be reimbursed by the PTO.

C. E-correspondence Secretary

Lisa Milligan passed out directions for committee chairs to include information and submit for inclusion in the HMS PTO weekly e-blast and newsletter. Thursday is deadline to submit info.

Lisa demonstrated web site form. Lisa suggested using Word or Pages to draft info then cut and past in post box on form.

Logos and pictures can also be posted through the form. Files can also be attached. Include links in post. Give timeframe that post should run.

E-mail Lisa with any special e-blasts you may want to send out.

Kathy Hanley extended special thanks to Lisa for all of her work in establishing the HMS PTO web site.

Upcoming Dates:

9/19 - Magazine Sale Ends

10/10 - PTO Meeting. Guest Speaker: Sarah Migas, Internet Safety Specialist, Attorney General's Office

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Johns, Co-Recording Secretary