

## HMS PTO General Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2010

**Attendance:** Suzanne Heneghan, Maria Kallis, Cindy Dressler, Patti Carras, Liz Monson, Julie Liesse, Karen Knecht, Christine Allen, Mary Cass, Ginny Lorenc, Lynn Schaub, Nancy Hamp, Cindy Scalzo, Joellen Vanek, Nancy Weller, Becky Arbor, Fran Gartner, Stephanie Domiano, Tammy Mason, Lisa Simons, Lourdes Beard, Meg Cooper, Kiki Liston, Anita Moriarty, Susan Joyce, Lynne Bloomfield and Dr. Henrikson.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Co-President Stephanie Domiano at 9:35 a.m.

**Recording Secretary's Report:** The HMS PTO General Meeting minutes from November 11, 2009 were distributed by Mary Cass, Co-Recording Secretary. Stephanie Domiano pointed out the misspelling of Dr. Henrikson's name in the Principal's Report. This will be corrected. Nancy Hamp moved the minutes with the change be approved; Liz Monson seconded. The minutes from November 11, 2009 were unanimously approved.

**Presidents' Report:** Stephanie Domiano reported that the new Superintendent, Dr. Renee Schuster will start work July 1<sup>st</sup>. Prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Schuster will spend four weekends in the District working with the School Board. At the January 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting there will be a vote on the proposed budget cuts. See the D181 website for details. Parents are encouraged to provide input to the Board Members prior to this meeting. Stephanie also circulated many thank you cards received from the staff at HMS to the PTO.

**Treasurer's Report:** Liz Monson, Treasurer, provided an updated copy of the HMS PTO financial statement. Final \$'s were reported for Dues and Directory (\$940 favorable to Budget), Magazine Sales (\$200 favorable to Budget) and School Supplies (\$1700 favorable to Budget). Liz will be contacting committee chairs with a financial recap. She encouraged everyone to submit timely expense reimbursements and reminded the PTO that forms are available on-line.

**Principal's and Asst. Principal's Report:** Dr. Henrikson reported that the staff has moved into the new office space. They are in the process of working out the necessary signage and new security process. The end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter is Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Reports card will follow 2 weeks later. The District is asking schools to have a dedicated SELAS week that will be January 25–29 at HMS. The grade-level presentations will include Breaking Down the Walls presented by HCHS students, a cyber bullying tri-fold pamphlet as well as

education focused on empathy and a broader picture. Dr. Henrikson also discussed a possible Mother/Daughter Tea to address 6<sup>th</sup> grade issues with girls moving away from old friends and to new ones as well as exclusion in the downtown Hinsdale area after school. She mentioned there are some 7<sup>th</sup> grade issues relating to the use of Facebook and no major social issues in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Committee Reports:**

- The Book Fair will be the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Music groups will participate and summer reading books will be available. Please go to [bookfair@hmspto.org](mailto:bookfair@hmspto.org) to volunteer.

- Now that construction is complete, Box Tops will be collected again. There will be some kind of competition between advisories, so start saving.

- Nancy Weller reported the Wellness Committee has been working on placing more variety in the vending machines like Veggie Snacks. They changed vendors to obtain better pricing. They are having problems with the water vending machine and it was suggested that they change out a water fountain to operate as a bottle filler which was done at HCHS. They also would like suggestions for healthy program ideas. One suggestion was made to address all the vegetarian/vegan questions that seem to be of interest to middle school students.

- Stephanie thanked the Teacher Appreciation Committee for the dinner that was put on for the staff during Parent/Teacher conferences.

- Maria Kallis from the High School Liaison Committee reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Family Night at HCHS was January 7<sup>th</sup>. Guidance appointments will take place January 26–February 10. These must be scheduled with HCHS Guidance. The Hinsdale Library will be open late every Sunday eve until 9pm for the rest of the school year.

- Cindy Dressler reported that Spirit Week is targeted for the last week in February with a possible grand reopening of HMS. The committee is looking for ideas/suggestions. It was suggested that they should tie it in with the Book Fair.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

- District 181 Foundation will be putting on a Believe in Green Environmental Expo at CHMS on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be open to the community.

- The Executive PTO Board is putting together a Nominating Committee with the goal of identifying volunteer leaders from all feeder schools for positions in the 2010/2011 school year. Please forward any suggestions to Stephanie and Elaine as soon as possible.

•Susan Joyce reported that she has been on the Board of Friend of the Orphans in Haiti. She is looking for suggestions on how HMS might like to get involved to help this group after the devastating earthquake. Jane Herron offered to put this on the Peer Leadership meeting agenda for today and also offered to support any adult program that might be put together.

**Adjournment:** The business meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

### **Special Guest Presentation—Transitioning to High School: Panel of 2009 HCHS graduates and parents answer questions**

College freshmen Kelly Labrash, Nancy Lauer and Emily Domiano answered questions along with parents Meg Cooper, Lourdes Beard and Nancy Weller.

Some of the tips for incoming freshmen:

- Schedule a study hall during the day especially if you are involved in sports, music or other after school activities. A junior year study hall helps since there is a lot of testing during this year.
- Learn to organize and manage your time.
- The science and math classes provide a great foundation for learning to study on your own which will help in college.
- Summer school can be used to lighten the load during the year.
- Choose subjects that are of interest to you for Honors/AP level classes.
- Use the Home Access Center for grade information throughout the year. Knowledge of your grade helps you to prioritize the amount of study time necessary for a given class.
- You can petition for a different class level.
- Latin is valuable to strengthen vocabulary and for SAT preparation.
- Naviance is a Guidance tool that provides college information. You will be provided with an id to use the system while attending HCHS.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Hamp and Mary Cass, Co-Recording Secretaries

1/20/10 8:08 AM