

HMS PTO General Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Julie Liesse at 10:06 a.m.

Secretaries' Report: The February 2011 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Special forum with candidates for the D181 Board of Education:

Four of six candidates (Brendan Heneghan, Michael Nelson, Marty Turek, Glenn Yeager) attended and answered prepared questions from Julie. The session was recorded and is posted at www.hmspto.org. The remaining two candidates (Susan Nedza Lastres, Scott Musil) were given the option to submit written answers and Lastres's response is also posted on the HMS PTO website. Candidates discussed their experience with D181, how frequently they attend board meetings, and what they see as priorities if they are elected. Opinions on how the board and D181 administration have responded to issues facing the district recently and where they should be headed were offered.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Annette Phillips reported that Bookfair expense and profit numbers are still coming in. Profits from this event will go straight to the MRC.

Presidents' Report: The PTO nominating committee is still looking for people to fill the 2 Vice President spots (these individuals will become President in the fall of 2012), and Recording Secretaries.

In order to continue with the "Above the Line" activities begun during SELAS week, the students will be encouraged to nominate each other when they observe acts that are beyond normal expectations. Nominations will be displayed in the hallway, and students will get a certificate from Dean Vorreyer. The PTO will be initiating a similar program to honor teachers and staff who go above and beyond the call of duty by exhibiting strong, positive behaviors.

Principal's Report: Title 1 report-The school had \$51,000 in funds based on the number of fee waiver students attending HMS. Money was spent on electronic classroom supplies to enhance differentiated learning and to pay for extra staff time so children needing help in math/reading could have assistance before and after school.

There are several new staff members at HMS due to medical and maternity leaves. The school will host a meet and greet so that parents can get to know them.

Encore class requests for next year's 7th and 8th graders will be handled through the parent portal this year.

During the month of March the Wellness Committee is promoting healthy life choices to HMS students. Healthy food choices and the PE Fit Lab are part of their program.

New Business: The Cooking Club was able to have their first event by going to a class at Fullers Kitchen.

There are currently 16 formal fundraising efforts carried out at HMS each year. There was a discussion as to whether that is too many for one school. Parents are concerned as to who drives these efforts---students or staff? Do we need to re-focus the activities, or survey the students to see what is important to them? It was suggested that a service club or committee be formed to sort out the various events.

Submitted by Co-Recording Secretary Cindy Scalzo