

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 9:37 by Kathy Adelman. PTO Exec Members present: Kathy Adelman, Hala Alhindi, Dennis Brown, Karen Choi, Laura Gambla, Deborah Kloubec, Nellie McCarthy

1. Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting which had a short agenda but a team of guest speakers.
2. Secretary's Report. Kathy Adelman moved to approve the minutes from September's General Board Meeting. Deborah Kloubec seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report. Laura reported that the Magazine Drive is the main income item this month, which has been very successful thus far. There is a PTO-sponsored 7th Grade Outreach speaker today.
4. President's Report. None
5. Vice President's Report. Above the Line: First Quarter Drawing. Hala passed out nomination forms for Above the Line to be added to the existing nominees, and a \$25 card was awarded to Mrs. Pietro.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Magazine Sales (Chair – Sharon Theoharous). Sales-to-date are similar to those of last year. So far, \$40,691 has been raised compared to \$39,446 last year (not including the reach-out (mailers)). As a reward to the students, there will be an Inflatable Party on Thurs 10/17 at 12:40–2:40 on the bowl in front. Volunteers are appreciated; please contact Sharon Theoharous.
 - b. HMS–HCHS Liason (Linda Rio–Reichmann). Linda said that tonight the Parent Networking Group (IEP, 504 Special needs) is holding a parent advocacy meeting at 7:00 at Central. Also, The Community Speaker Series is hosting its first speaker for the school year: renowned author and educator Jenifer Fox. She will be speaking tonight at HCHS and tomorrow morning at the Community House. Her presentation is titled, "Who is this kid in my house?...Discovering



and developing your child's strengths." The next HCHS PTO meeting is Oct. 16 at 8:45, followed by a 'conversation' at 10:00. The focus of the parent presentation will be about how students learn, managing workloads, different learning styles, etc. 8th Graders will be taking the Explore Test on Saturday, Oct. 19. Monday, District 86 voted Bruce Law as the permanent Superintendent, he has been here since August as temporary Superintendent. Hiring of the new HCHS Principal is underway. The plan is to hire someone by Winter Break , so he/she will have time to transition into the role by July.

7. Title 1 Report. Ruben reported that we partnered with a DuPage County program. A Literacy Coach will be working with the students, and she will be working with 6th grade LA classes shortly. The goal is to maximize the service to benefit the students.
8. Principal's Report. Martha spoke about MAP testing. Students who showed dramatically lower scores (about 5% of students) may be re-tested, and parents will be notified. MAP provides criteria for re-testing (i.e. they take 15 minutes or less on the test, or there is a 10% drop from spring scores, or they got less than 40% correct.) Martha and Ruben will talk to the teachers about goals for students beating their most recent score. It's a good incentive for the next set of tests, and teachers will be given specific areas for each student on where to focus to improve the life skill of test-taking.
9. Guest Speakers: Education Support and Student Services. Student Services is made up of 6 very talented and highly educated women. The team consists of Kate Eggert, Kasia Kula, Kate Klara, Amy Uscila, Maria Jandak, and Dominica Davis. All but Dominica Davis were present and spoke. Kate Klara discussed the social and emotional needs of the students. 92 out of 833 students have an IEP and 42 students have an academic 504. All 833 students are receiving RTI (response to intervention). They emphasized that they are available daily for any student in crisis. There are also 19 peer buddies who help with special needs students and they are always looking for more help.

The top issues at HMS include: anxiety/coping, self-regulation (controlling impulses/emotion or problem solving), peer relationships and effective social skills, communication, decision making, and conflict resolution, academic skills/support and executive functioning. The team offers short term counseling, in-class discussions about specific topics like bullying, stress and self-esteem, consulting/collaborating w/teachers, proactive programs, crisis, and community connections. Most often students are referred from teachers, but sometimes parents and students refer students to Student Services, and some students drop-in on their own.



Student Services has a webpage that can be accessed through ClassJump, where links and PDF docs are available about stress, homework, etc, and the team is open to suggestions for additional links. The team is willing to come back after January to discuss social media, especially SnapChat and MyFm.

10. Miscellaneous. There was discussion about 8th grade behavior on the bus and in the portables, as well as teacher/student conflict. Hala raised concern about the Health Class photos/teaching and Ruben said he will look into parent preview of sensitive subjects before presenting to the students.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am