

HHMS PTO MINUTES AUG 15, 2016

In attendance: Cathleen Palmer, Connie Hynes, Holly Amsler, Karen Bassett, Marsha Weaver, Mr. Krammes, Kristen Boehnlein, Jetta Dunsford, Amy Cardwell, Carrie Schmidt, Christy Eurton, Sarah Millies, Betsy Hasenour, Susan McKay, Amanda McMonigle, Ann DeJong, Melissa Wehneman, Sharla Carter

*July minutes approved as is

Programs/committee report:

-Walkathon info going out to students and teachers the week of 8/15.

-Mr. Krammes will have each grade come up with ideas and then vote on the crazy activity he'll do. (if the school reaches the goal)

-We'll use "sign up genius" asking for walkathon volunteers

-Rain option will need to happen closer to time (possibly all grades go together on one day on track or gym)

-Signs went up around school entrances/exits promoting walkathon.

-We're continuing discussions regarding RAK. We're planning a Fall and Spring outreach. We'll need chair and co-chairs for each.

-Spirit wear current orders due 8/17. Fall order will be placed and delivered before xmas break. Spring orders taken in March.

-Jetta will be the current "ongoing fundraising" events- Texas Roadhouse has increased their donation amount to 20%

-Discussed the holiday bazaar and if it's in our best interest to continue. We made a decent amount last year and will most likely continue this year. We'll need to get contacts involved to pass the torch since current chairs will be leaving HHMS soon.

-Sharla Carter is chairing success cards this year. They will be distributed Oct 24th, Jan 9th, April 3rd. We may need volunteers to assist in passing out the cards during lunch hours.

Communications report- Karen is doing a great job figuring out how we should communicate and what options are most effective for parents. We're brainstorming ideas on calendar options, how many and how often emails should go out.

Principal report:

- PTO gives each teacher 90.00 to spend in the classroom anyway they wish. Teachers are very appreciative of this.
- Students are loving the new cafeteria and positive points will create an incentive to "rent a booth" during lunch time. No issues so far with seating.
- Current enrollment at HHMS is 1655 students- up 44 from last year
- Picture day went well and was completed in 1 day. Less than 40 kids did not get their picture taken.
- Pool renovations are complete, the final phase was the rubberized deck surface and PE class has been able to use the pool the week of 8/15.
- First HHMS football game will take place 8/18 @ 6:00.
- Campus life will organize a tailgate party before the game 4-6
- Jaguar mascot has been selected and will be at events this year.
- Plans being made to discuss open house with Central Office. Possibly allowing 2 days, review of the PTO survey and parents concerns.
- Locker numbers and combinations were left off schedules intentionally this year due to school renovations and cleaning.
- DC trip payments are finalized and 221 students will go. We're about 6k in the hole due to the bus/trip costs but this will not be passed onto the students. The deficit will be made up by other means.
- Other discussions with school superintendants included class size and team teacher requirements. Decision was made to not take on a split teacher schedule- pros did not way out the cons. Student to teacher ratio is still an important issue that will continue to be discussed.

New Business:

Teacher appreciation and involvement

- Send out PTO agenda to all teachers- encourage teachers to email suggestions and any feedback to involve teachers more.
- Send out teacher "surveys". Questions will help to get to them better and allow PTO to include teachers in RAK days and show appreciation on b-days.
- Teachers are encouraged to communicate any needs they have that PTO can assist with.

- "Jaguar" cart to give teachers a snack, 1 grade per quarter

- Bring Locker and Bus parents back the first few weeks of school. Parents would help kids with locker issues so that teachers can concentrate on their classes. They would also help students get to the correct bus/slot.

- Have students sign thank you cards to send to our sponsors

- Give 7th grade students the opportunity to help PTO after school hours to earn community service credit.

Parent discussion points:

- Christy Eurtion voiced her opinion regarding open house. Specifically how crowded and unorganized it seemed. It was impossible to meet teachers and her 5th grader felt very overwhelmed by the experience. It was also difficult trying to deal with the stress of open house the night before the 1st day of school. Mr. Krammes replied with his discussions with central office. He's interested in the "open house survey" results and will be passing that information on.

- Christy Eurtion and Ann DeJong voiced concerns regarding student to teacher ratio/class size. Mr. Krammes replied by explaining his discussions with the central office.

***Next PTO meeting will be 9/19 @ 4:00**