

**Holmdel High School PTSO**  
**April 13, 2015**

Karen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The PTSO meeting took place in the auditorium. Karen pointed out the fire exits and asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Leslie Costantino made a motion to accept the March minutes. Donna Disko 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

**President's Report**

**President's Report**

- Welcome back after a too short spring break. Hope everyone had a relaxing time. The month since our last meeting has been very busy.
- I hope everyone who was considering a leadership position for next year has submitted your name to Lucia Van Name, chairwoman of the Nominations Committee.
- Notices about the nominations for the PTSO elected board positions were sent to the entire HHS population via the newsletter as well as the PSG newsletter for 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as a visit by Lucia to the PSG. I still have some forms with me if you would like to volunteer for an appointed position. Please volunteer if you are able. Right now we need bake sales and hospitality committee members. The Nominations Committee will present their slate later in the meeting.
- Chartwell's Food service. I will be meeting with them in May if you have compliments, concerns, or suggestions.
- HFEE: Battle of the Faculties was held on March 26 and I heard it was a fun time for all.
- Next: 5K race around Bell Labs property on May 31
  - Village School: May 29 Carnival
  - Satz: Having their clothing drive right now 4/13 to 4/18 Clean out closets and help Satz. Deliver bags to beside door 26 in back of Satz.
- April 25 is Community Day. All parent groups will share a table at the event. Mary Lou found the PTSO sign for the table.
- The Eco Club is sponsoring a drive for recycled beauty products. Bins are in the main office.
- Volunteers are needed for the Earth Day event at Bayonet farms
- Debbie Brew has a running list of community service hours available for students. Contact her if you would like to be put on her email list.

**Interim Principal's Report** - Zina Duerbig –

- The second round of PARCC testing will begin on April 20 and run through May 7. We will follow the same schedule as the first round of testing. The director of guidance will send more information out to parents.  
Advanced Placement Sessions went well during the first round and students took advantage of the free time.
- Junior Prom is coming up on May 15 from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at Doolans in Spring Lake Heights. No student is permitted to leave the prom until the court has been crowned. There will be an assembly prior to dismissal on May 15 to insure the safety of the students. The Holmdel police have been invited to do a safety presentation. More information to come from Ms. Lepore.
- There is no such thing as a "Junior or Senior Cut Day". All students are expected to attend school on May 18.
- George Scott, the head of the NJ Traumatic Loss Coalition, will be coming in to do a presentation on reducing stress and anxiety for the junior class.
- The children are wonderful here at HHS. We have 23 National Merit Finalists, which is an amazing number!

**Teacher Representative** - Sherryl McBride and Kristin Boca- April 13, 2015 –  
PTSO Faculty Representative Report

**Finalist for Princeton University's Distinguished Secondary Teaching Award—Ms. Michaud**

Earlier this year our very own science teacher, Suzanne Michaud, was nominated for Princeton University's Distinguished Secondary Teaching Award. The rigorous application process involves not only her resume and personal statement of her teaching philosophy and experience, but also letters of support from students, a faculty member and principal. Ms. Michaud has made it into the top ten finalists from public and private schools around New Jersey. As a result, a representative from the program came to HHS and met with students, teachers, administrators and Ms. Michaud herself. The four winners receive an award during Princeton University's Commencement.

**Science League**

The March 12 meet for the New Jersey Science League for Area 22 was held at Freehold Borough High School. In true Holmdel fashion, we took first place in all categories, Bio1, Bio2, Chem1, Chem2, Phys1 and PhysC. The tests are now much more difficult,

as they contain material that is not normally covered in high schools at this point of the school year. In most of the categories, we won by a very impressive margin!

### **Moody's Mega Math Challenge:**

Both of the HHS Moody's Mega Math Challenge teams performed superbly. Holmdel High School fielded two five-person teams (the maximum allowed) for the 2015 Moody's Mega Math Challenge. On the weekend of February 28th and March 1st, each team gave up a weekend day to write a research paper on a topic supplied in the morning. The paper had to be researched, written, and submitted by the evening of the same day the students received the topic. Our team of Celine Choo, Matt Ferreira, Hannah Lee, Andrew Li, & Laura Lin was a Semi-Finalist, finishing 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> place in the county out of 1,128 papers and earning a Team Prize of \$1,500 in scholarship money. Our second team of Kevin Leung, David Lin, David Ohm, Bilal Shaikh, & Vivian Tsai was one of 53 teams to earn Honorable Mention.

### **Economics--Fed Challenge**

Mr Guastella had five students take part in the Fed Challenge on March 17th in New York City. Four former AP Economics students Joe Blazer, Keven Leung, Jack Chu, Rahul Illango and one current AP Economics student Bill Shaikh took part in Holmdel High School's inaugural attempt. Students were asked to present a rigorous economic report complete with recommendations on future Fed Reserve policy to a panel of New York Fed associates. Our students performed well and enjoyed the experience immensely. They worked extremely hard on their presentation and should be commended for their determination and desire to take on a significant challenge! The team actually produced the exact course of action using the same reasoning and data that the FOMC (The Federal Open Market Committee) came out with the next day.

### **Chinese Classes**

Chinese classes had a Chinese Dinner on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Crown Palace in Middletown. Forty-five students participated. They learned various names of dishes on the Chinese Menu, and they also tasted them. They had to be able to describe which dishes they liked and didn't and explain why. We also recognized a couple of students who have had an amazing improvement in this semester !!! Some parents joined us for dinner too.

### **First Aid**

Thirty-three seniors in Ms. Emery's First Aid class become American Heart Association certified in CPR, AED, and first aid!

### **Broadway Fieldtrip**

Students from Acting and Chorus enjoyed a day in New York City focused on the Broadway musical *Kinky Boots*. The day began with a 90 minute workshop where one of the stars of the show taught the students the song and dance from the finale. Students of all abilities and experience participated and performed with enthusiasm. Students also had an opportunity to ask questions of the professional regarding her education, the audition process, and other shows she has performed in. We enjoyed lunch together and made a quick stop at the Hershey and M&M stores before we were seated for the matinee of the show. Everyone reported that they had a wonderful time.

### **Science Fairs**

Ms. Blaha reports that ten of our Honors Advanced Research students attended the **40th Jersey Shore Science Fair**, entering six papers in four categories. Five out of the six HHS entries won ribbons! They competed with over 600 papers presented from 35 schools. Students had to have defend their papers and have an impressive poster. (Mr. Baronowsky provided invaluable help in preparing the laminated color slides for the kids' posters.)

Our participants and their papers:

Individual Projects:

Botany: **Adam Kahn:** Effects of Increased Ambient Carbon Dioxide Levels on Plant Growth

Medicine: **THIRD PLACE!!!!**

**Maya Rukshin:** The Diagnostic Value of the Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio in Stroke Recognition

Microbiology: **HONORABLE MENTION!**

**Laura Lin:** The Isolation of DNA-J, a Chaperone DNA from *Landoltia punctata*

(partnered with Rutgers University)

Team Projects: All three of our papers won ribbons in this category.

**HONORABLE MENTION:**

**Joseph Blazer, Jack Chu, Kevin Leung and Rahul Ilango:**

Using Volatility for Parameter Setting in Average Volume and Price Change Indicators

(Thank you, Mr. Guastella!)

**THIRD PLACE:**

**David Lin and Shira Li (Livingston High School):**

Investigating the Application of Cellulose in Biodegradable Flame Retardant Polymer Blends

(partnered with StonyBrook University)

## **FIRST PLACE!!!!!!**

**Michael Buontempo and Peter Genovese:**

Cost Effectiveness of Magnetically Launched Lower Earth Orbit Satellites  
(Thank you, Mr. Keller!)

Additionally, Maya Rukshin, Michael Buontempo, and Pete Genovese went on to compete in the next round, the **Delaware Valley Science Fair** in Philadelphia. There, **Maya Rukshin won a special award** from the Research Division of Johnson and Johnson, and they company has invited her to present her paper at their headquarters!

Furthermore, Maya Rukshin won **second place in** her division in the **2015 Technology, Culture, and Society High School Competition sponsored by the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering**. Maya was the only non-team entry in a field that included high achieving high schools from the tri-state area (NY, NJ and Conn.). This was a multi-tier competition on the use of Big Data in research, culminating in an all day competition in which the students are intensively questioned on the papers the students submitted utilizing big data in their paper. Maya entered her paper: 'The Diagnostic Value of Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio in Stroke Recognition'. Her second place win earned her a trophy and a large partial scholarship to NYU.

### **Senior Class - from the Commander-In-Chief**

Seniors in Mr. Dowd's classes discussed the topics raised in this year's State of the Union address and debated those issues which they felt were most important. Each student focused on an issue of personal importance and penned a letter to President Obama expressing their views. In mid-March, we received a personal response addressed to the Senior Class at Holmdel High School and we wanted to share his message with all graduating seniors.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 10, 2015

Dear Students:

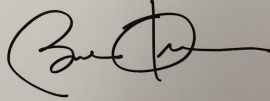
Hearing from thoughtful, engaged students like you gives me great hope for the future, and I am glad you took the time to share your views with me.

In a few short years, your generation will be charting America's course. And more than anything else, the progress we make will depend on your ideas, your commitment, and your willingness to change our country for the better.

Keep dreaming big and working hard. If you stay focused on your education and on improving your community, I know there are no limits to what you can accomplish.

Thank you, again, for writing. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,



## Officer's Reports

**VP Membership** –Allyssa Coffaro – 1 new family has joined

**VP Fundraising** –. 2<sup>nd</sup> request letter had yielded 18 additional families and \$1,1864.  
Write a Check has raised \$5,274 to date this year.

**Treasurer's Report** – Robin Grossman- Robin read the March Report.

Income (Annual Fundraiser, membership).....	\$1,149.00
Expenses .....	\$0.00
Ending Balance as of March 31.....	\$19,693.54
Expenses for gifts to school 2013-2014.....	\$7,700.00
Available Balance .....	\$11,993.54

### Project Graduation Banking Report

Opening Balance on 2/1/15 .....	\$9,776.40
Fundraisers	
• Foam Fingers Deposit.....	\$1,005.00
• Foam finger invoice.....	-\$212.93
• Donation.....	\$1,175.00
• Donation.....	\$.460

- Donation.....\$1,000
- Payment.....-\$950.00
- Balance as of 2/28/15.....\$12,853.47

Debbie Bergamotto made a motion to accept the March Treasurer’s Report. Leslie Costantino 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

**Corresponding Secretary** – Dani Page – No report  
**Recording Secretary** – Michele Shields – No report

**Committee Reports**

**ARISE Liaison** – Ana Vander Woude- The next meeting is April 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the Village School, room 137. It will feature a presentation on Least Restrictive Learning Environments by Nicole Pratt of SPAN. It will focus on the impact of placement and accommodations and provide information on how to better advocate for your child.

**Bake Sales** – Deidre Kane and Jennifer Yan – Raised \$48 last month. Will contact new bakers. Deidre will be leaving this position next year

**Dates:** The third Tuesday of the month.

April 21

May 20

**BOE** –Ana Vander Woude –

- Welcome to Ms. Duerbac, Interim Principal at HHS
- Accepted the resignation of Mr. Bonner
- Approved a new football coach for next year, Colts Neck H.S. teacher, Mr. Gregg LaCava
- Shane Fallon was appointed the new Supervisor of Health K-12 and Athletics for the district
- Accepted the retirement of teacher, Marilyn Kohlbecker
- Accepted a non monetary donation for a new poll vault kit the track team
- The Ad-hoc committee for the rotating schedule will report their findings back to the BOE at the April 22 meeting.
- It is budget season and parents are welcome to come out to the meetings and share their views on issues in the school district and where you feel enhancements should be made.
- The formal presentation of the budget will be at the April 29 meeting

Leslie Costantino had a question about the 2015/2016 school calendar only having 2 snow days built in, instead of 3. Anna explained there were a lot of factors involved. They wanted to give off for Veterans Day this year and had to

move back the last day of school to secure the Atlantic Club as our venue for Project Graduation. Leslie commented that it makes it very difficult on parents trying to schedule vacation time to specifically not miss school, and then only to have those days taken away and missing anyway. Anna will bring this up to the board and further discuss not taking snow days away from Spring Break in the future. Debbie Bergamotto said that you can listen to the BOE meetings online.

**Booster Liaison** – Roseanne Wreidt – HHS is hosting the Monmouth County Relays on May 6 and 8. Need volunteers to help run the concessions stand anytime from 3:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Dina Hamwi- Mr Gurney – Spring Break Pie Sale went well. A Car Wash is scheduled for May 2 from 10 to 3 in front of the Satz School. Need freshman volunteers to work the event and donations of towels, sponges and buckets.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Lisa Cronin – Alana Lazar – Held a successful candy sale. So far \$960 was raised. Bake sales are scheduled for the next few months.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Mary Lou Moramarco – Lauren Lepore – The Class of 2016 is hosting the "Holmdel's Got Talent" student talent show on Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be sold at the door. We have a variety of acts, including instrumental performances, singing, bands, and dancing.

Can you please share this information through your PTSO parent contacts? We would like to get as many people to attend as possible in order to make this a profitable fundraiser for the class. Can you also ask if any junior parents would be willing to donate refreshments to be sold during intermission (water, candy, chips, etc.)?

Thank you for your support with the class of 2016 fundraisers!

- Junior Prom is coming up and there is a lot of excitement and buzzing going on around it.
- Will need a list of volunteers to help out with distribution of graduation balloons in June. The junior class holds this fundraiser each year and parents can purchase graduation balloons that will be delivered to your home and tied on your mailboxes.

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Donna Disko – Sean Dowd – Waiting on a final price for the prom. The junior and senior classes are short on funds because donations that



normally go to the class were donated to victims of Hurricane Sandy. Because of this the price for prom tickets will be higher than in past years.

**Facebook** – Vicky Entwistle - Thank you for regular updates. It is a very useful site.

**HCAA** –Cindy Manning –  
Past

- Sold concessions at the District Music Show. There are amazingly talented students in all the schools.
- A great was had by all the TV/Film Department Baseball Tournament that was held on 3/31
- Transform a Tee Winners
  1. Patricia Luk
  2. Emerson Cooper
  3. Amy Zhao
  4. Aishyarya Kalyanaraman

Upcoming

- Photo Contest for grades 1 -12. Submit your entries to [HCAAPhoto@gmail.com](mailto:HCAAPhoto@gmail.com). More information is available about this at [HolmdelParents.org](http://HolmdelParents.org)
- Next meeting is April 16. Dr. McGarry will be attending to discuss arts survey results
- The Indian Hill Musical “Rock Around the Clock” will take place on April 21 (note this is a change from the district calendar date)
- WRS Talent show is on April 23
- Village School Grade 1 Musical is on April 30
- Scholarship forms are available for seniors in the guidance office until the end of the month
- As always we have car magnets, shirts, and dedication plates available for sale.

**HDAA** – Kristin Echavaria – Sudden Impact Presentation is set for June 5, the day of the Senior Prom. We need 10 to 15 parent volunteers to help out with this very important event. College students are welcome to volunteer as well. This board position will be vacant next year.

**HFEE** –Ana Vander Woude –. There will be a 5K Race and Walkathon around Bell Labs property on May 31 in honor of Senor Hausser. His family will be at the event.

**Hospitality** – Emma Butler – The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is coming up next month on May 6. The theme will be Italian. Donations and Volunteers are needed. Please contact Emma if you donate an item or volunteer to help out that day. We need a volunteer to chair this committee next year, as Emma is moving on.

**Newcomers** – Colleen Fischer – No Report

**OneCause Fundraising** – Kim Jeanos – No Report

**Photocopier** –Cindy Manning– The photocopier is broken. A service call has been scheduled.

**Programs** – Darlene Kiss and Darlene Field – No report

**Project Graduation** – Linda Jackman and Debbie Bergamotto –

- Selling Graduation Lawn signs now through May 4<sup>th</sup>. \$25 non-personalized \$30 personalized
- Need volunteers to make/buy desserts for graduation night
- Need check-in chaperones for graduation night
- Our email address is [holmdelprojectgrad@gmail.com](mailto:holmdelprojectgrad@gmail.com)
- We will be selling foam fingers at the Parent Group table on Community Day

**Publicity** – Joanne Colella – We need a representative to gather information on PTSO events, take pictures etc.. and send information to Joanne at the Holmdel Journal for FREE PUBLICITY!

**Special Projects** –Emma Butler- No Report

**Student Directory** –Teresa Slade and Alisha Baylock – No report

**Sunshine** – Alyssa Coffaro – No report

**Website** – Jennifer Yan - Thank you for updating the website

**Provisional Business** – Robin Grossman, Dina Hamwi and Karen Strickland were able to purchase furniture, rugs, and televisions for the student lounge. Items should be in next week. It was identified that the funds designated for a portable sound system, have also been yet to be used by the school. A suggestion was made to use these funds for the lounge instead. Anna Vander Woude moved to look into whether the sound system is an actual warranted need for the students. After researching this we will vote on it at the next meeting.

Regarding the rotating schedule, the ad hoc committee met lead by Dr. McGarity and voted 14 to 4 to move initiative to the BOE. The committee will present their findings to the BOE on April 22.

**New Business** – Lucia Van Name thanked the nominating committee and presented the 2015/2016 PTSO Executive Slate:

- Co-President- Melissa Mohr
- Co-President- Karen Strickland
- Vice President Membership- Alicia Baylock
- Vice President Fundraising- SallyAnn Mosey

- Vice President Fundraising –
- Treasurer – Robin Grossman
- Co- Corresponding Secretary – Michele Shields
- Co- Corresponding Secretary – Colleen Fischer
- Corresponding Secretary – Dani Page

**We will leave the slate open and vote on it at our next meeting.**

- The Holmdel Green Committee is sponsoring their “First Community Garden”. The opening ceremony is today at 3p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Debbie Bergamotto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carol Lyons 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next PTSO meeting will take place on May 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Holmdel High School Auditorium.