

Holmdel High School PTSO

Feb 9, 2015

Karen Strickland called the meeting to order at 9:35 p.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 for Mr. Loughran. Regina Steffany made a motion to accept the January minutes. Leslie Costantino 2nd. All approved.

President's Report

HCAA Talent show was great last Thursday; it was a packed house!

As you know Mr. Loughran has taken a medical leave of absence. We wish him good luck in his recovery. In the meantime, the rotating schedule discussion is on hold.

Mr. Swenson will be here today to talk about the upcoming testing schedule.

The HCAA had a wonderful Teacher Talent Show event. They have given the community a new event to look forward to and thanks to the teachers who shared their talent. I'm impressed.

I met with Chartwell's representatives and all seems well with the food service. They are still working on a system to preorder sandwiches. If anyone has suggestions or concerns about the cafeteria, please let me know as our next meeting will be in May.

The lower schools are still rallying their communities for the upcoming Battle of the Faculties selling color coded t-shirts and other paraphernalia. It should be a big deal. Our own Project Graduation has a way for high school students to be involved.

Important Dates

All PTSO meetings are on Monday Morning, 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

March 9: 9:30 a.m. PTSO Meeting-HS Auditorium

April 13: 9:30 a.m. PTSO Meeting-HS Auditorium

May 6: 10:00 a.m. Teachers Luncheon-HS Commons

May 11: 9:30 a.m. PTSO Meeting-HS Auditorium

June 8: 9:30 a.m. PTSO Breakfast Meeting

Assistant Principal's Report - Owen Bonner – Mr. Loughran is on medical leave.

- Teachers and staff will have an informational meeting on the upcoming PARRC exams and procedures that will be in

place from a building perspective.

- There will be informational class meetings for students about the PARRC exam and what they will need to know.
- Still working on the schedule, but classes will be shortened during the PARRC exams to allow time for testing
- SAB dance was held last Friday. Attendance was down with only 50 students attending vs 150 students the year prior. It could be due to having to reschedule the event several times since Dec. Parents suggested renaming the event a "hang out" instead of a "dance". It may attract more students.
- HCAA Talent show was a huge success!
- Battle of the faculties is set for March 26 and the staff and students are very excited about this event.

Great Accomplishments so far by our Winter Athletic Teams:

- Last Thursday was Senior Night for the Girl's Basketball Team.

- This Thursday, Feb 12, will be Senior Night for the Boy's Basketball Team.
- The Swim Team is in the State Semi-Finals tonight.
- The Boy's Indoor Track team earned 6th place / Group 2.
- The Girls Track Team earned 3rd place/Group 2.
- The National Honor Society induction took place with 89 new members.
- The transition from marking period 2 to 3 was seamless
- Mr. Westrol is retiring this year and it will be a great loss for the school.

Teacher Representative - Sherryl McBride and Kristin Boca-

Holocaust speakers

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015 all students in US2 & APUSH2 (basically, the entire junior class and a handful of seniors) attended one of three assemblies on the Holocaust for their study of WWII. Two speakers, Ruth Rosenfeld and Manny Lindenbaum, are Holocaust survivors. The third, Renee Geller, is the daughter of two survivors. Students listened to the personal stories and were able to ask questions at the end. Back in the classrooms of Ms. McBride, Mr. Gelpke, Ms. Lepore, Mr. Gurney and Ms. Murphy students discussed what they heard and compared stories of the different presenter.

Overall, the students were impressed by the speakers and their general messages, which include tolerance, “Don’t be a bystander,” and “You have the power to change the world.” Presently, Mr. DeNovellis’ Advanced TV Production students are working to compile the video that they took of all of the presenters. We look forward to having this as a resource for years to come.

CrossFit Games

There are currently 3 students; Nick Mendez, Melissa Mendez and Andrianna Greberis who have signed up to compete in the World Wide Open - Teen division of the CrossFit Games! This is a worldwide, online competition that begins February 26th and runs for 5 weeks. Each week the athletes will be given a WOD (workout of the day) that they must perform for time, they then record that time(score) online for that week. There is a new WOD each week and they repeat this process of doing the WOD and recording their score and having it verified by a certified judge each week. Then each week when they log into their account they can see where they stack up to all the other teens in their age group around the world. It is all a very exciting 5 weeks of competition.

They will be performing all of their WOD's here at the High School in our CrossFit space, "CrossFit Stronger" and their scores will be verified by physical education teacher Melinda Brenner, as she is a certified judge. A certified judge is required to verify the score to ensure that everyone is held to the same standard of each and every movement in the WOD which is very important when competing.

NHS

The Helen Akerson Chapter of National Honor Society at Holmdel High School proudly inducted eighty-nine new members on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015. Beautiful music was provided by Vivian Tsai, Allison Chu, Ian Lovoulos, Julia Shapiro, Hannah Friedman, and Rachel Brudner. The event was MCed by Bilal Shaikh; NHS president. Other members of the NHS executive board (Hannah Friedman, Allison Chu, David Lin and Andrew Li) spoke on the four pillars of National Honor Society: **Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service**. Each inductee chose a faculty mentor that presented the inductee with their membership card and pin. Thirty-seven members of the faculty were given this honor this year. Many individuals were touched to see the special bonds that have formed between the teachers and students. The exchange of pins and certificates is a definite highlight of the ceremony. Following the closing remarks by Dr. Robert McGarry, everyone was invited to a dessert reception in the commons. The desserts were provided by the families of the inductees. Photographers were available so that the inductees could get a photo taken with their mentors and families. Behind the scenes, current members helped the event run smoothly by ushering, folding the programs, setting up and cleaning up the reception and countless other small jobs. What a lovely evening!

The Spanish Honors Society and C.O.I.N. (Children of Impoverished Nations) Club

First, the Spanish Honors Society and C.O.I.N. (Children of Impoverished Nations) Club teamed up to aid a charity called Little Angels of Honduras. Its mission is to support better conditions for pregnancy, birth, and newborn care in Honduras, in hopes of reducing the country's extremely high rate of infant mortality, which is over 20 deaths per 1,000 live births annually, the 3rd highest in the western hemisphere. The Holmdel Spanish Honors Society and C.O.I.N. Club sold "Hope for Honduras" t-shirts during lunch periods throughout November and at the annual Powderpuff game, raising over \$1800 to donate to this amazing charity.

Our next volunteer effort was through Bridges at the Shore, right in our own community. This program works in bridging our world with the worlds of those who are homeless or low-income throughout our area as well as in New York City. Students from Spanish Honors and C.O.I.N. had the opportunity to give clothes, food, and other necessities for the holidays. Through Bridges at the Shore, the Spanish Honors Society also completed a project working with the children of the Manantial de Vida Church in Red Bank. Most of the members of this church come from low income families and do not have the means to give their children expensive Christmas presents. Spanish Honors Society bought and wrapped dozens of toys and brought them to the church for each of the children. They were all so excited and thankful for the gifts we gave them! Meeting these children and bringing smiles to their faces was an incredibly rewarding, heartwarming, and unforgettable experience. It was also a great exercise in Spanish-speaking and communication for the students.

Dougherty's Constitutional Convention

If you walked into room 405 last Thursday and Friday, you would have felt as if you walked back in time. The students were in colonial garb and the tables were arranged in thirteen pods with candles, ink wells, and quill pens. The teacher, Kathleen Dougherty, was fully dressed as George Washington. The topic? The Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Prior to this, the students were assigned a signer of the Constitution. They were responsible for knowing to which committees their signer was a member and to understand their state's viewpoints on various topics discussed during the four months of this Constitutional Congress: Articles of Confederation, Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, Great Compromise, representation, slavery, and finally the difficulties in the ratification of our country's constitution.

The convention was compressed into two days of intense discussion and debate. Students were informed of the topic to be discussed, and then they were to, organically, stand and deliver their opinions on the topic. Open debate then ensued, often demonstrating the regional differences developing at that time. Eventually, a motion was made on a compromise, the issue was resolved, and the next issue was brought up for discussion.

All in all, the students demonstrated their knowledge of this auspicious event in our country's history. And, had fun in the process.

Officer’s Reports

VP Membership –Allyssa Coffaro – Melissa Mohr made a motion to list all PTSO members in the next newsletter to drum up more membership and remind families that have forgotten to join. Jennifer Gudelis 2nd. Motion approved 10 votes to 3.

VP Fundraising – 2nd request for the “Write a Check” fundraiser will go out this week. Thank you to Linda Jackman and Debbie Bergamotta for their help.

Treasurer’s Report – Robin Grossman- Robin read the January Report.

Income (Annual Fundraiser, Membership, Pathmark Script, Photocopier, Bake Sales).....	\$353.02
Expenses (Write-A-Check, Hospitality).....	188.75
Ending Balance as of Jan 31.....	\$18,197.87

Linda Jackman made a motion to accept the Jan Treasurer’s Report. Kristin Echavaria 2nd. All approved.

Melissa Mohr and Regina Steffany report that the audit of the treasurer’s books is complete and the books are in good order with no discrepancies found. Mary Lou Moramarco made a motion to accept the auditors report, Cindy Manning 2nd. All approved.

Corresponding Secretary – Dani Page – No report

Recording Secretary – Michele Shields – No report

Committee Reports

ARISE Liaison – Ana Vander Woude- No report

Bake Sales – Deidre Kane and Jennifer Yan – No report
Upcoming Bake Sale Dates: (The third Tuesday of the month)
Feb 17
March 17
April 21
May 20

BOE –Ana Vander Woude – No report

Booster Liaison – Roseanne Wreidt – No Report

9th Grade Class Liaison – Dina Hamwi- Mr Gurney – No report

10th Grade Class Liaison – Lisa Cronin – Alana Lazar – No report

11th Grade Class Liaison – Mary Lou Moramarco – Lauren Lepore – Held a fundraiser at TGI Friday's in Hazlet on Jan 22. We have been conducting bake sales twice a month. Are currently planning the "Holmdel's Got Talent" student talent show, which is the junior class designated fundraiser of the year. Preparations for the junior prom are in full swing. We have secured a DJ and a photographer for the event. A prom planning committee will be organizing shortly for all students to have input on the theme and decorations.

12th Grade Class Liaison – Donna Disko – Sean Dowd – No report

Facebook – Vicky Entwistle - Thank you for regular updates.

HCAA –Cindy Manning – Teacher Talent Show was a huge success with about 600 in the audience. Thank you to the teachers, administration, custodial staff, HS crew and audience members. Enjoying a nice lull through the rest of Feb. Will be helping Ms. Lazar with the District Art Show in March and Mr. Denovellis with the Film Festival in April. Other upcoming dates include:

- March 2: High School Musical
- March 12: Music Concert
- March 12 – 14: HTG Winter Musical "Anything Goes"

HDAA – Kristin Echavaria –

- January was "Great American Smoke Out" month
- Heroes and Cool Kids trained at Vonage last week and are mentoring 5th graders this month.
- This year juniors will see the video on drunk and drugged driving the day of the Junior Prom, similar to the seniors on Senior Prom day.

HFEE –Tom Minerva–

- Poker night was a big success
- 5k race around Bell Labs Property scheduled for March 26
- HFEE is encouraging people to use their Matching Gifts benefits to donate to HFEE – Do that for PTSO too!

Hospitality – Emma Butler –No report

Newcomers – Colleen Fischer – No Report

OneCause Fundraising – Kim Jeanos – No Report

Photocopier –Cindy Manning–No Report

Programs – Darlene Kiss and Darlene Field – No report

Project Graduation – Linda Jackman and Debbie Bergamotto –

- Still have a few KidStuff books left
- Selling foam fingers to all schools for the Battle of The Faculties for \$5 each
- Sending a letter to senior requesting donations for Project Graduation
- Will need chaperones for graduation night. See Debbie or Linda if interested or email holmdelprojectgrad@gmail.com
- Next meeting Tuesday Feb 24 at 7 p.m. in the HS Library Conference Room.
- ShopRite and Stop & Shop gift cards are available email for see Debbie or Linda to purchase

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 – Books have been distributed.

Sunshine – Alyssa Coffaro – No report

Website – Jennifer Yan - Thank you for updating the website

Provisional Business –

New Business –

Mr. Swenson, from guidance, provided a presentation on the new PARCC testing that will be used this year. The presentation as well as information on PARCC readiness is available on the HHS website. In response to the presentation, individual concerns and comments were raised by members including:

- **Being against the tests because teachers spend too much time preparing for them and not teaching what is important.**
- **Pearson, the authors of PARCC, is “Big Business” and many state politicians may allow these tests because of less than scrupulous reasons.**
- **As a parent you can refuse to allow your child to take the Parcc exam by providing a letter 5 days prior to the test stating your refusal.**
- **Worries about the benchmarks or standards that will be used next year once the results are in.**
- **If a certain percentage of students do not take the exam will there be a penalty for the school and what is it?**

Mr. Swenson said the big difference between the HSPA and PARCC is that PARCC is administered completely online. Mr. Bonner assured us that PARCC is nothing to get nervous over. “Historically, Holmdel has done well on all standardized tests

and we expect to do well on these.” “ It is our job as a public school to administer the exam and we will follow through .”

The following committees were formed:

Nominating:

1. Lucia Van Name
 2. Roseanne Wriedt
 3. Melissa Mohr
 4. Alicia Baylock
 5. Mary Lou Moramarco
- Alternates: Kristin Echavaria and Cindy Manning

Scholarship:

1. Linda Jackman
2. Debbie Bergamotta
3. Mary Lou Moramarco
4. Karen Strickland
5. Alicia Baylock

Gift Committee:

1. Alicia Baylock / 9th Grade
2. Melissa Mohr / 10th Grade
3. Debbie Bergamotta/ 11th
4. Roseanne Wriedt / 12th Grade
5. Karen Strickland
6. Robin Andersen
7. Robin Grossman

Mary Lou Moramarco said a new law went into effect that allows 10% of students in any NJ school to transport students cross - district. If a student can prove they are not receiving an appropriate education in their respective school they can transfer to another school in their district and that school must accept them if they are not at full capacity.

Mary Lou Moramarco made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin Grossman 2nd. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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