

**Holmdel High School PTSO**  
**Dec 9, 2013**

Teri Perez called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. The PTSO meeting took place in the auditorium. Teri pointed out the fire exits and asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Teri Perez made a motion to accept the November minutes. Lucia Van Name 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

**President's Report**

Superintendent's council met:

- Barbara Hilyard warned drug use is reaching epidemic rates in our area. Heroin in pill form is particularly popular.
- Fundraising in full swing in all four schools.
- Anticipating a meeting with Food Services in the 2014. Please send any comments or complaints to Mary Lou or Karen.
- Important Dates: April 26 – Comedy Night

**Principal's Report** – Mr. Loughran - **Parent Conferences**

Parent Conferences conclude tomorrow evening, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm), in the commons. Early feedback has been mostly positive. Please email with any suggestions, etc.

**Presentation to BOE - Grades and Exams**

I made a presentation to the BOE on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> in which I made several recommendations regarding our current grading system and exam format. They were:

- Add "+" grades to B, C, and D (7-8-9) - no A+
- Eliminate formal mid-terms in lieu of mid-year assessment as part of 2<sup>nd</sup> MP
- Increase weight of final exams to 10% of overall grade
- Extend exam exemptions to seniors AND juniors with "A" average going into final, as well as to any student with a "B" average in an AP course going into final - provided the student also took the AP test.

The feedback at the meeting was mostly positive, but no final decisions were made - I meet again with the C&I committee on Friday.

### **Department Testing Schedule - Winter Break**

Dec. 18 - Math / English / World Languages / PE

Dec. 19 - Social Science / Science / Electives

Dec. 20 - **No Tests or Quizzes (Early Dismissal - Winter Concert)**

### **December Dates of Interest**

9 - PTSO Meeting (9:30 am)

10 - Parent Conferences (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm); HFEE Meeting (7:30 pm)

12 - HHS Holiday Choral and Bell Concert (7:30 pm)

13 - "ECO Night" - sponsored by HHS ECO Club (6:00 pm)

18 - HHS Winter Instrumental Concert (7:00 pm); BOE Meeting (8:00 pm)

20 - Band and Chorus Concert (11:00 am); Early Dismissal (11:53 am)

Mary Lou arrived to resume the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Teacher Representative Report- Anna Ranieri and Sherryl McBride

PTSO    December 9, 2013    Faculty Liaison Report

### **From the Theater Department**

Students in the Acting elective enjoyed a field trip to New York City to see *Newsies* on Broadway on November 13th. The day began with a workshop with Adam Kaplan, a member of the *Newsies* cast, who taught the students a song and a dance from the show. Participants also had an opportunity to have a question and answer period with Adam where he discussed his education, his experiences auditioning, and some backstage stories on the show. The workshop was followed by lunch at Bubba Gump's and a matinee performance of the show. It was an educational and enjoyable day for students, teachers, and parents.

### **Poetry Out Loud**

Most of the classroom winners have been selected for Poetry Out Loud and we are looking forward to the school's contest on January 10th. From there, winners can proceed to compete at the regional and then the state level.

### **Politics Club**

The Politics Club hosted a special presentation led by Dr. Carol Freund, a local Clinical Psychologist who lost her brother during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. Dr. Carol Freund recently returned from Guantanamo Bay where only the detainees, a judge, prosecutors, defense lawyers, witnesses, a lottery selected press pool, and close family members of those nearly 3000 people who were killed on September 11th, 2001. Dr. Freund had the opportunity to see firsthand the so called TRIAL OF THE CENTURY.

Dr. Freund prepared a one hour long PowerPoint presentation for the Politics Club that included her interactions with both the prosecuting and defense teams as well as her experiences at the Guantanamo Bay Military Commission Pre-Trial Hearings for Alleged 9/11 "Plotters" that include Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the suspected "mastermind" of the 9/11 attacks.

### **Congratulations**

#### **To Student Abigail Slade**

Abigail Slade, a junior, has earned 1 of the 3 "principal" ballet roles in this year's Nutcracker Ballet. She will be performing the role of Dewdrop with the Company of Dance Arts in *The Nutcracker Ballet* at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank.

### **To schools for earning the "Asthma Friendly School Award"**

The Pediatric / Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey (PACNJ), sponsored by the American Lung Association in New Jersey, recently honored Holmdel Township Public Schools with the "Asthma Friendly School Award" for the 2012-2013 school year, applauding the district nurses for their hard work and effort in qualifying. This award was given in recognition on behalf of our Certified School Nurse's continued efforts to enhance the quality of care for our asthmatic students throughout the school day, along with providing annual in-service training to staff on Asthma Management as well as engaging our families regarding continued asthma awareness and the unique challenges that students face on a daily basis. As part of this commitment to excellence, Holmdel Township Public Schools and the district's nurse's completed six steps toward establishing an 'Asthma Friendly School Environment' mandated by the state and have become part of the 15% of schools throughout New Jersey to qualify for the award.

Holmdel Township Public Schools completed all of these educational programs and took a proactive approach to implement a program on indoor air quality by having our School Superintendant, Mrs. Barbara Duncan, sign the 'No Idling Pledge' for school buses in an effort to reduce pollutants that can trigger asthma episodes, by establishing an Indoor Air Quality Team in each school, and by having the lead IAQ person for the district and the HHS School Nurse, Mrs. Mary Carlsson, attend the mandatory IAQ training session offered by PEOSH back on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012. All of these steps ultimately led to a reduction in school absenteeism as well as a decrease in the number of asthma episodes students may experience throughout their school day.

The District's four Certified School Nurses were recognized by the Holmdel Township Board of Education at their November 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting for their contributions to the district, accompanied by their respective Building Principals and Mrs. Meryl Gill, Supervisor of Nurses.

Congratulations Holmdel!

### **Officer's Reports**

**VP Membership** –Allyssa Coffaro – 52 new families joined bringing our membership up to 311 families and 37% of all HHS families. We are offering a special incentive to all families who join before Dec 31. Each family will be entered into a drawing to win 2 free tickets to Comedy Night.

**VP Fundraising** –Teri Perez, Roseanne Wriedt – A few more Write-A-Check donations have come in. Peach Wave Fundraiser was not well attended. Comedy Night is set for April 26. Teri and Roseanne will set up the event but will be unable to attend the night of due to scheduling conflicts. They will need volunteers to help the day of and evening of the event. Michele Shields volunteered to help run the event that evening.

**Treasurer's Report** – Robin Grossman- Robin read the November Report  
**Income ( Annual Fundraiser, Pathmark Scrip Rebate, Membership Dues, Bake sales).....\$1,235.68**  
**Expenses (Bank fees, hospitality, Year Book Ad).....\$996.88**

**Ending Balance.....\$11,608.72**  
**Kristin Echavaria made a motion to accept the November Treasurer’s Report.**  
**Andrea Wojtunic 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.**

**Corresponding Secretary – Dani Page – No report**

**Committee Reports**

**ARISE Liaison – Darlene Kiss- No report**

**Bake Sales – Deidre Kane and Jennifer Yan – Last bake sale raised \$60. Next sale is scheduled for Dec 17.**

**BOE – Barbara Daly – Marybeth Curry is retiring.**

**Booster Liaison – Roseanne Wreidt – No Report**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison – Lisa Cronin – No Report**

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison – Mary Lou Moramarco –Thank you to the booster club for all of your help at the powder puff game. Raised over \$1000 despite inclement weather. Donated left over candy to Skylar (Project Graduation) event.**

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison – Donna Disko– No report**

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison – Lucia Van Name – Congratulations to the Seniors and their victory in the Powder Puff game.**

**Facebook – Vicky Entwistle- No report**

**HCAA – Julie Stolker – Principal Howard attended the last meeting as well as student representatives from the photography, theatre, music and TV clubs. We are considering asking student representatives to attend all meetings to keep open lines of communication between HCAA and the cultural art clubs at HHS, Mr. Loughran was invited to attend future meetings as well. Try outs are next week for the HS musical Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Review”.**

**HDAA – Kristin Echavaria – Hosted “Great American Smoke-Out” event in November along with the Youth Alliance. Ran a Drug and Drunk Driving program in December. Heroes & Cool Kids participants had training in November and will be mentoring at Indian Hill this week. Discussed local problem of overdosing. NJ continues to be the heroin capitol of the U.S. Highest incidents are in Monmouth and Ocean County. A new “Good Samaritan” law has been passed protecting a person from arrest for drug use or possession if calling to save another person from an overdose.**

**HFEE – Need A Representative – Annual Giving Campaign is winding down and is close to reaching their goal of \$25,000. The annual gala will be a wine festival featuring wine tastings, as well as live and silent auctions. They will host their 1<sup>st</sup>**

Poker Night at the Red Oak Diner on Jan 31 at 7 p.m. The cost will be \$15 for a buffet dinner and \$100 cash buy in.

**Hospitality** – Emma Butler - We need a new coffee pot. Mary Lou mad a motion to spend up to \$125 on a new 35 cup coffee pot. Leslie Constantine 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. Leslie reminded everyone to be sure to use our tax ID exemption # when purchasing items for the PTSO.

**Newcomers** – Colleen Fischer – No report

**OneCause Fundraising** – Kim Jeanos – Sign up to do your holiday shopping on-line!

**Photocopier** – Vicky Mazzei – Collected \$10

**Programs** – Darlene Kiss, Darlene Field and Lisa Lograno – College night ran smoothly and was well received by parents. Thank you cards were sent out to all volunteers.

**Project Graduation** – Linda Jackman -Debbie Lynch – Approximately 350 students attended this popular event raising \$2500.

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

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

**Student Directory** –Teresa Slade – **All directories are delivered.** There is an overage of approx \$1,400 to be distributed between all 4 schools.

**Sunshine** – Laurie Fontana – No report

**Website** – Jennifer Yan - Thank you Jen and committee for updating the website!

**Provisional Business** –

Kristin Echavaria made a motion to adopt the new mission statement. Robin Grossman 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

Holmdel High School PTSO Mission Statement:

The Parent Teacher Student Organization or PTSO is a non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization created to promote the general welfare of all students and to enhance communication between parents, staff and students. The PTSO is non-profit 501© (3)corporation. Our mission is to support the Holmdel High School mission stated below:

Holmdel High School, in a safe, student centered and rigorous learning environment, promotes academics, athletics, and the arts, values the cultural diversity of its community and, through varied curricular and co-curricular programs, empowers all students to develop their potential into achievement and take their place in our global society as ethical decision makers and life-long learners.

**New Business** – Andrea Wojtunic suggested having a guest speaker come and address the drug issues in our area. She suggested a parent of a child who had a bad reaction to heroin and is now in a vegetative state. We may want to look further into this and find a presentation appropriate for the entire school in addition to parents. There have been no recent drug assemblies at the HS in the past few years. Perhaps the local police department would be interested in presenting one. It may be prudent to schedule it around prom time. The PTSO would be happy to sponsor such an event.

Teri Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vicki Mazzei 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11a.m.

The next PTSO meeting will take place on Jan 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Holmdel High School Auditorium. All PTSO members are welcome.