

## Holmdel High School PTSO

Dec 8, 2014

Robin Grossman called the meeting to order at 9:35 p.m. The PTSO meeting took place in the auditorium. Robin pointed out the fire exits and asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for Timmy McDonnell's recovery. Darlene Kiss made a motion to accept the November minutes. Carole Lyons 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

### President's Report

- Karen sends her regrets. She would much prefer to be at the meeting but is in surgery as we speak.
- She sent this message for her report:
- *As part of the continuing investigation into the feasibility of implementing a rotating schedule at Holmdel High School, a group of teachers, students, and parents visited Chatham High School on Tuesday and Madison High School on Friday. I was able to go on the Friday trip. Madison has had the rotating schedule for three years. We interviewed teachers and students who had been at the school before the change and now. They unanimously said they would never go back to the old schedule. The new schedule allows time for reflection on topics and creates less stress for students and teachers. That lack of stress and easy interactions among students and faculty was very evident. Walking the hallways during the unit lunch made me feel like I was seeing a vibrant intellectual campus. One student reported that she still worked as hard as before the change but she felt less stress because she had more time for reflection and in depth study of a subject. She didn't feel frazzled because each evening she was preparing for only six subjects instead of the eight. As those of us who went on the Friday visit discussed what we had seen, we felt that we had seen an atmosphere of learning that was worthy of further investigation*
- Later in the meeting, we will hear from some of the other participants.
- Next Site Visits: Wednesday, Dec. 10th - Livingston HS
- Thursday, Dec. 11th - West Windsor-Plainsboro North HS
- Friday, Dec. 12th - West Morris Central HS
- News from Other Schools: Fundraising activities are in full swing at the different schools.
- **HFEE:** Planning a Poker Night, Jan 30 at Red Oak Diner. Also a 5K race in the spring, Battle of the Faculties is planned for March 26. HFEE is encouraging people to use their Matching Gifts benefits to donate to HFEE—Do that for PTSO too!
- **Satz:** The administration has eliminated the Jr. Honor Society and instituted two other honorary type activities that are more appropriate for the middle school developmental stage. These are a President's Award for

Educational Excellence which requires a 90 GPA and two teacher recommendations, and a Student of the Month identification.

- **Indian Hill:** selling Go Cards, discount cards for local businesses. If you want one, go to Indian Hill website or contact Deb Brew, who is here— identify her. She has cards with her. So buy them, get a discount and support Indian Hill. They are also ordering generic spirit wear if anyone would like something.

Important Dates

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

Jan 12: 9:30 a.m. PTSO Meeting-HS Auditorium

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

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

## Principal's Report - William Loughran – **Principal's Report - 8** **December 2014**

### **A Proposal for Time: Considering a Rotating Schedule at HHS**

As part of the district's goal of investigating instructional time allocations, we have been investigating the possibility of a rotating schedule at Holmdel High School. So far, we have hosted several information sessions and have visited both Chatham and Madison High Schools to see the schedule in action, and this week we will be visiting three more high schools (Livingston, West Windsor-Plainsboro North and West Morris-Central). By popular demand, we will be holding a second general information session next **Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm in the auditorium.** During the week of Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be distributing surveys to all stakeholders (students, staff and parents) to garner feedback about the rotating schedule proposal. A public presentation is planned for the Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.

## Enrollment (15 Oct. 2015)

12<sup>th</sup> - 261

10<sup>th</sup> - 227

11<sup>th</sup> - 257

9<sup>th</sup> - 214

Total - 959

## Dates of Importance

### December

8 - **Fall Sports Awards (7:00 pm)**

9 - Parent Conferences (6:00 pm)

9 - HFEE Mtg. (7:30 pm)

10 - Site Visit to Livingston HS (Rotating Schedule)

11 - Site Visit to West Windsor-Plainsboro North HS (Rotating Schedule)

11 - **Chorus and Handbell Winter Concert (7:30 pm)**

12 - Site Visit to West Morris-Central HS (Rotating Schedule)

12 - **SAB Winter Dance (7:00 pm)**

17 - Rotating Schedule Parent Information Night (6:30 pm)

17 - BOE Mtg. (7:30 pm)

18 - **Winter Instrumental Concert (7:00 pm)**

23 - Early Dismissal (11:53 am) - Student Holiday Concerts (11:00 am)

**Teacher Representative** - Sherryl McBride and Kristin Boca-

### **COIN & Spanish National Honor Society**

COIN and the Spanish National Honor Society have teamed up to support "Little Angels of Honduras." This is a non-profit organization that is helping to build a hospital with neo-natal care and every t-shirt the students sell can save a baby's life! The students have sold them at lunches, during their free time and during the powder puff game.

The Spanish National Honor Society (co-advisors Kathleen Taylor and Kristin Boca) in conjunction with Bridges at the Shore, have adopted 15 Spanish speaking children/families from Red Bank for the holidays. Students formed groups of 4-6 students and purchased gifts from the childrens' wish lists. The children range from 6 months to 9 yrs. old. The students were

responsible for buying and wrapping these gifts. Some students have volunteered to hand deliver these gifts through Bridges at the Shore in December.

Ms. Boka and Sra. Taylor's classes have also hand written notes in Spanish and English to be put in the bag lunches made by Bridges that are donated to those in need throughout Monmouth county. Many of these families are Spanish speaking and Kathy Logan has asked for the help of our Spanish students.

Many students will also take part in the sorting event the 3rd Thursday of the month and the gift, lunch distribution that will take place the 3rd Friday of December. This is a wonderful time for students to see the connection to our community and to use their Spanish language skills!!

### **Officer's Reports**

**VP Membership** –Allyssa Coffaro – 16 new teachers have joined bringing teacher membership up to 69 teachers. 18 new families have joined bringing membership up to 35% of all HHS families.

**VP Fundraising** – Almost at \$5000 for Write a Check Fundraiser; Working on another push for this in January. Raised \$900 for Comedy Night.

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

Income (Annual Fundraiser, Membership, Pathmark Script, Bake Sales).....	\$341.68
Expenses (Comedy Night, hospitality).....	\$1578.61
Ending Balance as of Nov 31.....	\$17,968.38
Expenses for gifts to school 2013-2014.....	\$7,700.00
Available Balance .....	\$10,268.38

Donna Disko made a motion to accept the Nov Treasurer's Report. Leslie Constantine 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- Next meeting is 1/22 at 7p.m. at the HHS upper library. Claudia Weiss and Sandy Singer will be guest speakers re: socialization. A workshop on Wright's Law is set for Feb 19 at Brookdale Community College. Visit the ARISE webpage if you are interested in attending.

**Bake Sales** – Deidre Kane and Jennifer Yan – Raised \$54 from Nov sale.

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

**Dec 16**  
**Jan 20**  
**Feb 17**

**BOE** –Ana Vander Woude – Met on 11/19. Approved shared service agreement with Monmouth County. Approved two new courses in HS for 2015-16 year: “Language Arts” (benefits students who need extra help) and “Sports and Entertainment Marketing”. Next meeting is on Dec 17. The Reorganization meeting is set for Jan 7.

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

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Dina Hamwi- Mr Gurney – No report

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Lisa Cronin – Alana Lazar – Powder Puff Game was a success.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Mary Lou Moramarco – Lauren Lepore – No Report

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Donna Disko – Sean Dowd –T-shirts not selling as expected. Donna will contact Karen about the PTSO helping to get the information to seniors.

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

**HCAA** –Cindy Manning– Karaoke Night is set for Jan 9, (8p.m. to 12 p.m.) at the Shore Café. Tickets are \$50 for a five- course meal, sangria and song. Cash bar is available. You can purchase tickets via PayPal on PTSO webpage or email Karen Strickland for tickets. Teacher talent show is set for Feb 5 at the HS. Take a Seat Campaign is ongoing working with National Arts Honor Honor Society on a fundraiser making t-shirts. We finally have a FaceBook page. Thanks to Jennifer Yan for updating it.

**HDAA** – Kristin Echavaria – Dec is National Drunk/Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Hero’s and Cool Kids had their first meeting with Indian Hill Fifth graders and discussed sportsmanship and nutrition. Holmdel police now have a permanent drop box for unused RX drugs (pills only). Safeteensamerica.org is a great website to follow drug trends and suggestions for dealing with teen issues.

**HFEE** –Tom Minerva– Planning a poker night, Jan 30 at Red Oak Diner. Also a 5k race in the spring and Battle Of the Faculties is planned for March 26. HFEE is encouraging people to use their Matching Gifts benefits to donate to HFEE.

**Hospitality** – Emma Butler –Emma is not here today. Thank you to Chris Hazel for a beautiful and delicious holiday spread.

**Newcomers** – Colleen Fischer – No Report

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

**Photocopier** –Cindy Manning–No Report

**Programs** – Darlene Kiss and Darlene Field –

**Project Graduation** – Linda Jackman and Debbie Bergamoto – Raised \$2,800 from Skylar event and sold 417 tickets. Next meeting is Jan 14.

**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** – The audit committee is still in the process of reviewing the treasurer's books and will report back next month.

**\*The bylaws are on the website**

**New Business** – Several parents who visited Chatham and Madison High School shared their thoughts on a rotating schedule:

Ana Vander Woude – “Looking forward to the group coming together to discuss views”. “Concerned with freshman eating on the floor as a right of passage” “Other options should be available in response to parent concerns.”

Jennifer Yan – “One major benefit is less stress but the same amount of work.” “So important for students to eliminate stress and anxiety.” “New option allows students time to refresh and manage time better, increases social interactions and better prepares them for college and career.”

Lucia Van Name – “On the fence before, but really feel it will be a positive change after visiting. “Every parent who has time should take the opportunity to visit these schools.

Mary Lou Moramarco – “As someone who was skeptical, seeing the lunches and flexibility during this time period was very helpful.” I encourage other parents to go on site visits to get a handle on expectations”

Darlene Kiss – “Concerned with special needs and long class time.” “Visit quelled fears with regard to this.”

Roseanne Wreidt – “The lunch situation before visit was a concern, but visiting and speaking with kids changed that.” “The school was smaller in general, and they were able to accommodate.” “They can preorder lunch the night before to avoid lines.” “Also impressed by the Make-up Test Room (tutorial room).”

Leslie Constantine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Jackman 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next PTSO meeting will take place on Jan 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Holmdel High School Auditorium.