

Holmdel High School PTSO
February 8, 2009
Meeting Minutes

PTSO president, Mary Pomarico called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The PTSO meeting took place in the back section of the HS auditorium. Mary pointed out the fire exists and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary pointed out that additional copies of the draft minutes were located at the end of the hospitality table.

President's Report

- Mary reported that at President's Council, Superintendent Duncan expressed her desire to reach out to the community as she had when she first joined the district and welcomes private meetings. After spending significant time on the business of the district she feels a need to reconnect with the people.
- Mrs. Duncan will also make a point to attend parents meetings when her schedule allows.
- Mary asked for volunteers for the nominating committee.
- Nominating Committee was selected to help establish the next Executive Board for the PTSO.
- The nominating committee consists of Chris Hazel, Anne Pearl, Anna Li, Francine Campis, and Karin Swan with alternates, Debbie Bohny and Mary Lou Moramarco.
- Mary announced Eric Swenson's presentation.

Principal's Report

- Principal Bill Loughran announced that report cards sent out early in anticipation of snow day.
- A traditional African dance assembly is scheduled for Tues. 2/16.
- Holmdel High is tied for 4th place based on SAT scores in state compared to other normal public schools. List excluded the vocational schools. Holmdel High is first in Monmouth. Source: <http://mathacle.blogspot.com/2010/02/2009-rankings-of-new-jersey-high.html>
- Thursday, Feb. 18th, the Holmdel Township Education Association (HTEA), in association with Central Jersey Blood Bank, sponsoring blood drive at Holmdel High from 7:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. in the gym.
- Students will need a permission from parents and a complete permission slip to donate.
- "A Day in the Life at Holmdel High School" will be featured in Asbury Park Press on Feb. 25th. 11 students participated writing the articles, taking photos, interviewing, working with APP editors. Finished piece online at www.app.com on 2/24, printed 2/25.
- Added another TV production course, TV Production will satisfy Visual and Performing Arts Credits.
- All 9th graders beginning 2010 must take Financial Literacy and Economics course for 2.5 credits to meet State mandate effective 2010 during freshman year. Course will be given through the Business Ed. Department. Freshman course only.
- Visual Arts will now offer Honors credit for honors credit for advanced courses in Sculpture, Drawing, and Art Studio. Allows students to continue art education and achieve honors credit giving more attention to the art curriculum.
- *Senior Option* will be available to seniors beginning 2010. Seniors in good academic standing can choose '*senior option*' as a period one course allowing them to begin their academic day at period two. Typically, students have more than enough credits to graduate by end of senior year. Selecting senior option would allow these students to use period one to arrive later to school, meet with counselors, study, relax, and/or eat. There are many upsides to this stress reducing option. It is anticipated that 50% of student would take advantage of the option for their senior year.
- For those questioning the 'appearance' of senior option...other Top Ten NJ high schools are offering this. Our Guidance Director, Mr. Swenson contacted several leading universities that responded positively to Holmdel's Senior Option provided students maintain a rigorous schedule during the 6 periods in which they are participating.

- Principal Loughran segued to Jill McCracken's (PTSO Teacher Rep) portion of the meeting with a video from a New York Times Op-ed called, "Advanced Pressure". The video featured educators from top high schools that teach Advanced Placement courses. The educators speak of the enormous pressure placed on students to get into and take AP courses just so they can list it on their transcripts. The educators in the video complained that they are forced to race through material to 'teach to the test' ignoring the point of such classes which was to offer an advanced class for students who had a particular interest in that area of study.
- Great discussion followed. Ideas like limiting number of AP classes for a student to help lessen intense pressure. Parents at the meeting were concerned as well, but felt the colleges should make the first move with regards to limiting the number of AP classes a student can take in one year.
- Barbara Garrity also brought up the fact that school districts beginning after Labor Day shorten the preparation time for AP tests which are given nationally in May. Our students have a three week handicap.

PTSO Teacher Representative

- Jill McCracken responded to the NY Times video by addressing the importance of sleep and the lack thereof for many of Holmdel's students just to keep up with the workload. As a teacher of AP Psychology, Ms. McCracken pointed out that learning consolidation takes place during REM (rapid-eye movement sleep). REM sleep does not occur until after 6 hours of continuous sleep.
- Italian Honor Society having Pasta Dinner on March 4 for UNICEF. \$10-\$12 per adult.
- The National Honor Society fundraiser, Cinderella's Closet at the PNC, raised \$16,000.
- Heroes & Cool Kids training is happening at Vonage. Mentoring skills will be used at Indian Hill.

Presentation from Eric Swenson, Director of Guidance

- Naviance is up and running. Students and parents received a letter and a login card to register to Family Connection, a website to help students plan for their future. About half have registered already.
- Allows students to do create a profile and do a college search online.
- Students will be brought into guidance in small groups to have a Naviance introduction.

Officer's Reports

VP Membership – Anna Li

- Six more families have sent in \$10 membership fee.

VP's Fundraising – Lisa Lograno and Roseanne Wriedt

- Our biggest fundraising effort is the letter fund drive asking families to make a contribution by check to the PTSO. The letter has gone out to all families in the district. This effort supports Project Graduation, the Junior Prom, student scholarships, service awards and hospitality events.
- 3rd request going out in March.

Recording Secretary – Karin Swan

- Karin pointed to hard copy of the draft minutes on the hospitality table. Draft minutes were also emailed to those who are on the PTSO email list for review.
- Barbara Daly made a motion to accept the January minutes. Roseanne Wriedt second the motion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report – Francine Campis

Mary Pomarico read Francine's report.

Income (interest income, membership dues, fundraising, bake sales).....\$1,680.54

Expense\$0

Bank Balance as of 01/31/2010.....\$17,429.96

- A motion was made by Karin Swan to approve the Treasurer's Report, Debbie Bohny 2nd the motion. All approved.

Corresponding Secretary – Cindy Spalliero

- No report

At this point, PTSO President, Mary Pomarico handed the meeting over the Membership VP, Anna Li as she had to leave.

Committee Reports

Arise – Rebecca Pruitt – no report

Bake Sales – Maria Martorelli - \$60 generated from November sale. Next sale – 2/16

BOE – Barbara Daly

- District goals online.
- Code of conduct online
- 78 student in the National Honor Society
- Holmdel Student, Siemens Award Winner.
- Resignation of guidance counselor
- HS teacher, Mr. Keller taking leave of absence
- 2010-2011 school calendar online
- New guidance counselor, Wendy Melillo
- Bloustein Scholars- 27 seniors earned Bloustein Scholar recognition from the Higher Education Authority of New Jersey. In order to be eligible, students must exceed a minimum score on their SATs and also be in the top 10% of their graduating class. List of names will be published in the next high school newsletter.
- All-Star Musicians- 4 students earned recognition in All-Shore and All-Region ensembles. List of names will be available in the next high school newsletter.
- Dr. Shelton is resigning from the Board of Education.

Booster Liaison – Lisa Burke - No report

9th Grade Class Liaison – Debbie Bohny - No report.

10th Grade Class Liaison (Class of 2012) - Pam Lynch

- Wed. Feb 17, Officers of class of 2012 will be selling chocolate covered strawberries and other goodies after school in the Commons.
- Order forms for Old Monmouth Candy sale will be distributed 2/16. Sophomores have three weeks to sell candy.

11th Grade Class Liaison – Robin Wetmore – no report

12th Grade Liaison – Michelle Finchler – no report

Holmdel Alliance – Petrina Picerno

- Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month in the HS library
- Sadly, the Breakfast for Dinner fundraiser had to be canceled due to lack of participation from the parent community.

Holmdel Creative Arts Association (HCAA) - Anne Pearl

- HS musical *Gypsy and Dolls*, 7:30 p.m. on March 11, and 8:00 p.m. on March 12 and 13.

Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence (HFEE) – Barbara DiNicola

- The Gala is scheduled for April 17.
- Invite went out by email. Please forward to a friend. You can make a reservation online.
- Ad Journal. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.hfee.org/>

Hospitality – Linda Greco

- Teacher's luncheon in May
- The Holmdel High School PTSO is creating a cookbook to sell as a fund raiser. Send us your favorite recipes. Include your name, phone number, or email address and indicate if the recipe was used for a teacher luncheon or school function!
- Make your submissions for the cookbook in three ways:
 - By Email: holmdelrecipes@aol.com
 - By Mail: PTSO, P.O. Box 292, Holmdel, NJ 07733
 - Drop Off: Deposit it in the PTSO box in the main office.
- Cookbook title suggestions and illustrations are also welcomed.

Photocopier – Mary Lou Moramarco – collected \$165.10 thus far.

Get Out the Vote – There is no one for this role

Provisional Business - None

New Business - None

The next PTSO meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

Mary Lou Moramarco made a motion to end the meeting. Motion was second by Pam Lynch. By a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Swan
PTSO Recording Secretary