

**Holmdel High School PTSO**  
**November 9, 2009**  
**Meeting Notes**

PTSO president, Mary Pomarico called the meeting to order at 9:40 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 asked if everyone had received the minutes via email. The PTSO is choosing to distribute the draft minutes via email to the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and those that have requested to be on the school distribution list. Mary pointed out that additional copies of the draft minutes were located at the end of the hospitality table.

**President's Report**

- The President's Council met and the web page for the parent groups is still in the developmental stage. Mary asked if anyone had ideas or wanted to work with the web teacher on the project, they should contact her.
- Mandie Peart, Human Resources Manager, will do a presentation on the district's Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, and Hazing policy for the membership at the next PTSO meeting in December. It will also appear on the district website once it is approved by the BOE.
- T.V. Teacher, Mr. Kaiserman is looking for donations of older cameras, video cameras, and TVs that parents may be discarding. Please contact Mr. Kaiserman via email, if you are interested in donating your unwanted electronics.
- The Guidance Department is moving forward with new innovations. Eric Swensen, Director of Guidance will do a complete presentation on the Noviance system in January. This system will facilitate students' and parents' efforts when looking for appropriate colleges for themselves or their child.
- We met with Food services. There were no complaints received by the parent groups to pass on to Chartwells. Please note, when ordering a sandwich, students must request Boars Head brand specifically if they want it at the premium price of \$4.75 which comes with a side salad and bag of chips.
- We have a family in need. A mother of three in the Holmdel schools is not well. The presidents of the parent groups have been contacted to ask for a parent to oversee leaf raking by student volunteers. Please contact Mary if you can lead this effort.
- Satz School organized a clothing drive for Nov. 11 through Nov. 19. Please drop off clothes in plastic bags in the back of Satz at door 26. This is a great way to clean out closets and raise money for the school.
- Operation Medicine Cabinet was announced. It was held November 14. Unused or expired medications were collected at Holmdel Town Hall from 10- 2 p.m. and disposed of in a non-hazardous manner. Residents should not be flushing old or expired medicine down the toilet as it can taint the water supply.
- Please join e-alert on the district web page if you want to receive automatic updates of school district news.

## **Principal's Report**

- Principal Bill Loughran reiterated that if your child is sick, they should stay home.
- The district has seen a rise in absenteeism, but it may just be the usual cold and flu. The staff is healthy as of this meeting.
- Parent-Teacher conferences will be held after the Thanksgiving break and are set for the following dates and times:
  - Monday, November 30th -- 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
  - Tuesday, December 1st -- 6:30 pm -- 8:30 pm
  - Wednesday, December 2nd -- 12:40 pm – 1:45 pm

*Conferences are scheduled for eight minutes each. To schedule one or more of these conferences, your child should sign up directly with each teacher you wish to meet. Teachers will have appointment sheets available in their classrooms beginning November 16th.*

- Spirit Week will feature the Powder Puff game and bonfire which is scheduled for Tues. evening, November 24.
- We are considering a semi-formal dance (Winter Ball) for the second weekend in December. Student participation in the past for such events has been low so at this point we are hopeful that interest in an event such as this may develop.
- A proposal called *Senior Option* was discussed at length. Possibly beginning 2010, seniors in good academic standing could 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 proposal which will be a pilot at first if approved. It is anticipated that 50% of student would take advantage of the option for their senior year. More information on this will be distributed once fully discussed and approved.*

## **PTSO Teacher Representative Report**

- Teacher Rep, Jill McCracken announced upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences reminding parents that the student has to sign the parent up for a time slot on the available conference dates and times.

## **Heroes and Cool Kids Presentation**

- Athletic Director, Randy Westrol and Holmdel Alliance Volunteer, Valerie Zudonyi presented on behalf of *Heroes and Cool Kids*, a program they have been running for three years in the Holmdel school district.

*Heroes & Cool Kids, which began operating in 1998-99, is a not-for-profit organization based in New Jersey. The program utilizes the services of current and former professional athletes whose personal life experiences enable them to train high school student leaders. The high school is using this program to train 40 of our high school students to meet with and mentor our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Indian Hill. The students are trained extensively on how to discuss and teach important life skills, including sportsmanship, conflict resolution and positive lifestyle choices highlighting drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention.*

<http://www.heroesandcoolkids.org/>

- Mary Pomarico made a motion for the PTSO to donate \$500 to the Heroes and Cool Kids program for this school year. Mary Lou Moramarco 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.

**Officer’s Reports**

**VP Membership – Anna Li**

- We have collected 45% of the membership dues from high school families so far.
- The membership will be recognized in next month’s newsletter.
- Please send in your membership fee of \$10 per family so we can have 100% participation.

**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.
- As of this meeting we have collected \$1,700.
- Go to Friday’s Restaurant on Thursday, November 19 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. where 20% of your total bill will go to the school.

**Treasurer’s Report – Francine Campis**

Francine read her report.

Income (interest income, membership dues, fundraising).....	\$5,779.28
Expense (membership expense, hospitality, student directory, fundraising, P.O. Box rental Fees and postage).....	\$510.89
Bank Balance as of 10/31/09.....	\$17,877.97.58

- The audit is still in progress.
- A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Anna Li 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The report was approved.

### **Corresponding Secretary – Cindy Spalliero**

- No report

### **Recording Secretary – Karin Swan**

- There was a brief discussion regarding emailing *DRAFT* minutes to the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and those that have requested to be on the school distribution list in an effort to deliver the information on a timely basis.
- Hard copy of the minutes will still be available at PTSO meetings and accessible on the school web site after they have been edited and approved at the next PTSO meeting.
- A motion was made to approve the October minutes. Francine Campis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the October minutes were approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Guidance Meeting – Rebecca Pruitt**

- 'Transitions' has changed to a mandated program for freshman, to help prevent children from falling through the cracks, increased the numbers of counselors and is addressing some of the issues of children experiencing isolation.
- Some parents know don't know who the guidance personnel are and their function or how their role has changed.
- It was suggested that a district letter and/or parent newsletter or a back to school night presentation introduce the guidance personnel. Could be beneficial to have a guidance day where the students meet their counselor.
- Goal is to change the perception of the guidance department as a resource to be used prior to college application time.
- Grade level meetings with guidance department-also parent meetings are possible future options.

#### **Bake Sales – Maria Martorelli**

- \$75 generated from October sale.
- November 17 was the next sale after school.

#### **BOE – Barbara Daly**

- Two new courses will be offered fall 2010 and 2011. They are Financial Literacy & Economics and Intro to Music Theory.
- Mrs. Patricia Satkovich, HS math teacher, will be on leave January 8, 2010 through April 8, 2010.

#### **Booster Liaison – Lisa Burke**

- No report

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Debbie Bohny

- No report.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** (Class of 2012) - Pam Lynch

- Finishing the Yankee Candle sale. Profit should be around \$2,000.
- A chocolate sale is scheduled for December 3 after school in the Commons.
- Students will be gift wrapping for donations at Barnes and Noble on December 14 from 4-10:00 p.m. Please wear school apparel if you have it.
- Tentative date for restaurant night is December 16 at TGI Friday's in Hazlet. Portion of the profits to go to class of 2012.
- Sophomores are in charge of the concession stand this year at the Powder Puff game that is scheduled for November 24. We need parents to volunteer.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Liaison** – Robin Wetmore

- No report

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison** – Michelle Finchler

- No Report.

**Holmdel Alliance** – Petrina Picerno

- Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month in the HS library

**Holmdel Creative Arts Association (HCAA)** - Anne Pearl

- Fall Play: *It's a Wonderful Life* scheduled for November 19, 20, and 21.
- Meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the High School library conference room.

**Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence (HFEE)** – Barbara DiNicola

- The Gala is scheduled for April 17.
- The Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence will embark on a fundraising initiative that will bring the Sony Virtuoso all-digital language lab into the district for use by the World Language program.
- The digital learning system enables multimedia-based software for teachers and students to share course materials, record conversations and develop language proficiency.
- For more information, visit our website at <http://www.hfee.org/>

**Hospitality** – Linda Greco

- No report

**Provisional Business**

- None

**New Business**

- Cookbook fundraising proposal was revisited.

- The PTSO made a commitment to outlay \$500 for printing to be recouped in the first 100 copies sold.
- Pre-orders may include a copy of a previous and popular Holmdel High School cookbook.
- The new book will feature new recipes submitted by the families of Holmdel students. A motion was made by Petrina Picerno to fund the project and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebecca Pruitt. Cookbook fundraiser approved.

A motion was made to end the meeting by Mary Pomarico and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Francine Campis. The meeting was adjourned by 11:10 a.m. The next PTSO meeting will be Monday, December 14, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the high school auditorium.