

## Holmdel High School

PTSO General Meeting Agenda -- September 18, 2019

### Call to Order -- Fire Notice -- Pledge

### President's Report -- Barbara Singer

- The PTSO has already been underway, having had their first meeting.
- The Welcome Back breakfast went very well.
- Barbara introduced the former and new Board members;
- Darlene Kiss: as corresponding/Facebook secretary
- Sarann Jennings (2<sup>nd</sup> VP Fundraising) who put in a plug upon introduction for the need for baskets for Fall Fling
- Recording secretaries Diana Kwan/evening meetings and Colleen Quinn/morning meetings
- Alicia Baylock: 1<sup>st</sup> VP membership; was busy at Back to School night getting memberships
- And Heather Behal; Treasurer, deals with all the money

Barbara thanked all the "old" and new board volunteers

### Principal's Report – Mr. Brian Schillaci

- Welcomed us all back; said it has been a wonderful start to school year; and not just due to catching his breath from his first year.
- Paula Rispoli is his new secretary
- Tremendous help to him are "his student centered, so helpful already in this first month" vice principals, Ms. Riggi and Mr. Brown, who were given a round of applause
- Ms. Riggi; introduced herself as "a former supervisor at Somerville but happy to have moved here. Past few weeks have been amazing. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming."
- Mr. Brown; was the Dean of Students at Old Bridge; and a former teacher for 18 years. "First weeks have been amazing and overwhelming in a good way. All has been great so far."
- Study hall; students must make sure to check in. This is their responsibility for the purpose of safety and security
- Code of conduct created last year by committee is cut and dry
- Daily announcements are back, thanks to Ms. Riggi and Mr. Brown.
- The Principal spoke about Officer Martin; our school resource officer. Was not able to be at the meeting but is still with the high school. He met with students in class meetings; he let kids know of his presence; talked about drills and safety procedures; and the staff reviewed these procedures as well.
- Update on 2020 – construction going well; there will be engineering space and a TV studio; hopefully in the second semester of this school year these will be unveiled. Construction right on target where we need to be.
- **Staff news;** congratulations to Mr. Dave Gurney for being awarded Teacher-of-the-Year!
- Congrats as well to the Educational Services Professionals of the Year - Elizabeth Abadiotakis and Cheryl Marzigliano

- Marriages; Congrats to Mr. Mike McCormick, and Ms. Kim Herthel who were each married over the summer.
- New staff  
Shannon Davis (Health/PE)  
Chris Arcchi (also Health/PE)  
James Devivo (Theatre)  
Shannon O'Hara (Dance)  
Adam Berger (Math)  
Jessica Zezza (English)  
Robert Pietrocola (Engineering/Technology) came back after leaving; staff very glad he is back
- Alicia Farese (New Sup. Humanities)
- Principal spoke about the connection and spirit in the building being tremendous. He thanked the PTSO and the parents who hosted the lunch, which connected and brought staff together.
- New students to HHS are meeting Friday morning, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, for a bagel and welcome. There are about 30-31 new transfer students to HHS family
- Reminder that Holmdel attire and/or blue and white to be worn on Fridays
- **Teacher representatives for PTSO** - Sheryl McBride / Laurence Cogger once again
- Sheryl spoke and said anything we need to not hesitate to ask. If there is anything they can do to help communicate ideas or elicit responses from the faculty, please let them know.
- She said the fabulous Welcome Back lunch was "refreshing and wonderful." And that the thoughtfulness and PTSO efforts are much appreciated by the faculty.
- She will be working with Alicia on faculty dues for membership and she has collected from 23 people thus far.
- Sheryl earned a spot at the National Endowment for the Humanities seminar this summer, entitled "From Immigrants to Citizens; Asian Pacific Americans in the Northwest." While there she studied immigrant experiences of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, collaborated with educators across the country and developed ways to incorporate what she learned into activities for students.
- **Chartwells** was not on agenda but they came to the meeting to introduce themselves and hold a discussion for any questions.
- Lauren Walsh is our on-site manager
- She printed out a list for us regarding their program; the payment system etc. This list is on the school website as well.

Questions that were asked by parents at the meeting.

- If the lunch payments link to our checking is there a delay?

**Answer:** the payments happen in batches; and as a result, they can delay. Best recommendation to put on the day before

- Some parents getting alerts that there is no money in the kids' account.

**Answer:** there is a Meal account and a General account; if you activate alerts for low payments, do that only on Meal account and turn alerts off on General account

- Are there vegetarian meals?

**Answer:** There are vegetarian options every day and most meals can be made vegetarian

The lunch website identifies what is vegetarian each day, as well as the website has daily menu

- Based on parent input at the meeting, Lauren said she will look into providing veggie burgers, and other options for both vegetarians and vegans. Lauren added there are garden salads each day, including ones with no meat, cheese or egg. There are a good number of vegetarian students and their parents want more proteins and more options. Again, Lauren will look into expanding these.
- Senior year lunch balances can be transferred to one's next child
- Email Lauren and Craig (particularly Lauren) with concerns or questions

Lauren Wolsch- Assistant Director of Dining Services 732-946-1814

[lwolsch@holmdelschools.org](mailto:lwolsch@holmdelschools.org)

Craig Lanzner- Director of Dining Services 732-946-1814

[clanzner@holmdelschools.org](mailto:clanzner@holmdelschools.org)

- Are there options for limitations on monies?

**Answer:** Yes, restrictions can be applied

But a designated dollar amount cannot be set per day; as HHS students use both buildings

Snacks should be able to be restricted in any of the schools

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **1st VP Membership - Alicia Baylock**

- Reiterated Back to School night went well and we have 114 memberships, including 49 Gold memberships.

About on par with past years' membership, perhaps slightly less due possibly to Back to School night being so early.

- Alicia described Gold Membership which covers luncheons for teachers at end of year; members get a magnet as part of membership which normally costs \$10; and a parking space raffle ticket where the winner gets a semester prime parking spot for your child or family members; Memberships were being accepted at the meeting today.
- Anyone who signed up online for a membership have had a raffle ticket entered for the parking spot.

### **2nd VP Fundraising - Sarann Jennings;**

Sarah spoke about Fall Fling; she needs baskets which will be raffled.

- This is a fun night for nice dinner; BYOB; will be held at Patricia's on October 15<sup>th</sup>; 7:30-9:30pm
- So far she has received donations for 2 baskets;
  - 1) 4 tickets to Disney hopper; and
  - 2) a dinner basket.

- If you have baskets or donations for baskets, please contact Sarann.
- We also need empty baskets.
- Barbara added we can combine donations; a gift card; a lakehouse, a bottle of wine can be added to others' singular donations to create a full basket
- A lot of the men came out last year; couples can come; not just women
- Sarann needs the donations by Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>
- Question: is there a solicitation letter?

**Answer;** Sarann said yes there is, and she will be sending it out.

- HCAA is donating a basket, Heather added.
- Fall Fling is this year's major fundraiser, along with the Parking Spot raffle and the bake sales.
- At the meeting the need for a Bake sale coordinator was requested.
- Darlene Field volunteered! Thank you Darlene!
- First Bake sale is October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurer's Report - Heather Behal**

Heather read from reports and supplied copies

- Overview; fiscal year ended aug. 31<sup>st</sup>
- \$11,000 was made
- \$210 went to Battle of Faculty
- \$1600 given to Project Graduation
- \$4000 given in scholarships to seniors
- \$4700 remaining plus \$25,000 is to be given to the high school – however, we are waiting until construction is complete to determine what is needed
- Barbara noted we do that donation with faculty input
- We also will ask students what they think the High school may need

### **HFEE – Mr. Dowd**

- Dowd has been trustee for 13 years - this year also secretary
- Playground at Village. Ribbon cutting was last Tuesday (September 10<sup>th</sup>). He is very pleased with outcome of the playground.
- HFEE website has photos of it; Driving on 520 can see it from the road
- Mural by Ms. Montana is a beautiful one which is raising money
- Battle of the Faculty very successful; this is event when colleagues and staff compete
- June 7<sup>th</sup> is 5K at Bells Works; this is a school and community event
- Spring Gala happens every 2 years. Next one is April 25h at Bell Works Ballroom
- Check out gala website
- Still looking for sponsors; spread word or suggest
- The size of the venue will be more accommodating at Bell Works as the Gala is becoming more successful and has sold out in the past
- Annual Giving Campaign; large gift initiative to be announced in November

## **Corresponding Secretary / Facebook - Darlene Kiss**

- If you want anything sent out, you must include Barbara **and** Darlene on your email
- Darlene read a thank you note from service award recipient Austin Fisher. He graduated and received one of the PTSO scholarships.
- Senior parents; look for applications in March/April for scholarships from PTSO. They come out through email and only the students get these emails so be aware. Parents of seniors cannot be on the scholarship selection committee.

## **Class Liaisons: PTSO Facebook posts Class fundraising events**

### **Liaisons done with faculty and parents; Board tries to coordinate and not bombard**

**Class of 2023 (9th)** - Mr. John Harkness (faculty advisor)

**Class of 2022 (10th)** - Vasilias Loucopoulos and Melissa Menges (faculty advisor)

- Heather reported Sherpas are on sale now by/for this class

**Class of 2021 (11th)** - Heather Behal / Jen Baker and Alana Lazar (faculty advisor)

- Parent Jen Baker reported; this class is selling candy bars; if you want to sell a box at work please contact her.
- Friday Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> the parents of students in this class are to work the snack stand during the football game.
- Krispy Kreme fundraiser in December.
- Vintage sweatshirts and/or T-shirts are in development for/by this class

**Class Reports 2020 (12th)** - Gita Movva and Kimberley Herthel (faculty advisor)

- Parent Gita Movva reported; last day to order Nest hoodies is today (Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>). The Nest refers to the area in the football stands where all the students congregate during games.
- \$25 per Nest sweatshirt delivered to HHS for free
- Senior class working at concession stand this Friday night (Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>)
- First bake sale is next Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> need doughnuts

## **Cathy Kudisch (School Assistance Counselor) spoke.**

- She loves her job! Her emphasis is on teaching resiliency, mindfulness and mediation.
- She says vaping is an issue.
- Parents can tell your child to go talk to her. She prefers one-to-one discussions; in a classroom setting no child will express concerns about vaping, drinking, bullying etc.
- She loves collaborating with parents.
- She will be meeting with Youth Alliance Board who want to talk about drinking and vaping;
- Barbara added last year the PTSO had a great meeting with Ms. Kudisch, and that the students love her and feel comfortable talking to her.
- She is also here for parents as well; she works great with Nursing dept. and will keep all calls confidential.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Project Graduation - Linda Fernand/Nicole Salzano

- Darlene and Barbara said anyone can join this committee
- Project Graduation is the last day of school; fundraising is done all year long
- Darlene described it as a very fun evening, and she has been part of it now for 9-10 years.
- SaveAround coupon book sales have begun; \$25 a book, proceeds for Project Grad

Darlene had books at the meeting, and she will deliver them if anyone is interested.

- Senior parent donations have started to come in.
- Lawn Signs for “Senior Hornet Lives Here” are starting to be delivered.
- There is a Project Grad meeting tomorrow night (Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>) in library at 7pm.

Any age/year parent can come.

- \$20,000 budget used for that one night; kids come back here at 4:30am

### **Chairperson for bake sale**

- Darlene Field volunteered during this meeting
- First Bake Sale Tuesday 10/16. Donations greatly appreciated. See on-line signup

**ARISE** Liaison – no one present at meeting

### **HCAA** - Heather Behal: Creative Arts Association

- Parents that support the arts in the district
- happy to hear of new dance and theatre teacher
- funding comes from membership
- Back to School night presence; they have sponsorship levels so check it out
- they sell art products and items at music and theater events;
- At Village they do finger thumbprints and turn those into art pieces which are then sold
- They have cocktails and craft evenings and/or painting and wine events
- End of year; photo contest involving each school and all the photo entries are then made into a calendar; with the winning photo as the Cover Photo.
- Meetings are held the first Monday of every month; 9:30am near school library.
- Please feel free to come ideas; sports have moved ahead to impact our school so lets' move ahead with the Arts. The goal is to get folks to attend art events like they do with sports.

**HDAA**; Diane Parquet drug alliance; new volunteer and liaison. Was not present today.

**Newcomers/Sunshine club**; looking for volunteer to contact new families, or grieving families etc. messages of welcome or condolences

### **BOE**

- Liaison – Mrs. Liu was the BOE board member who spoke at the meeting

This is her final year of being a board member; she will continue to support school and students

- District Goal; administrator and superintendent suggested these 4 goals;
  1. Social emotional learning; promote and elevate social interaction; bullying and handle emotions of stress with all the stuff out there; to feel good about themselves

2. Homework; we want to make another effort to feel better about homework; will be important issues; put together tests and conflicts; want to help the students
  3. Holmdel 2020; convenience and safety issues; remind children to be careful
  4. Communication; 2-way communication; in the past parents have brought concerns to staff and BOE thru PTSO. Please follow chain of contact hierarchy; coach, teacher etc. and do not go straight to BOE.
- Barbara talked about next meeting-Demystifying College; if a parent has been through the process with college applications, decisions, etc. come to this meeting. We want parents who can give help, the inside info.
  - This will not be recorded so that parents can speak openly: how to secure the most financial aid; how to deal with sports recruiting etc. Send Barbara your name if you plan to attend at ptsocopresidents@gmail.com
  - Debbie Brew: spoke regarding how she runs group of over 600 students for community service in and out of district. She has a plethora of volunteer opportunities for National Honor Society, college applications and/or just to give back. Also, for specific fields; i.e. medical. Contact Holmdelvolunteergroup@gmail.com

Parent question; is there a liaison for National Honor Society

**Answer:** there will be a meeting regarding this very point on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> which will provide more info

Pep Band issue was raised. Barbara provided following background;

- Ensemble band kids used to be required to do public performances; including play at football games.
- That requirement was changed with the argument that kids were giving up their personal time.
- The football game requirement was removed from curriculum;
- Numerous seniors spoke to BOE to keep it a requirement.
- Now it is voluntary.

Every parent who spoke on this topic at the meeting were distressed at the loss of the band; the loss of what the band provided for the players/dance team, and what the band brought to the whole atmosphere. Also the falling apart of a true ensemble within a multiple instrument band.

- Heather is working with Athletic dept. to get pep band hats and shirts; this year senior band members will be part of senior celebration game night; getting band members varsity letters was a new adjustment as of last year – to recognize them as the other Friday night participants. The hope is to give band members incentive to voluntarily still choose to come and play at the games.
- One parent explained the band members were not boycotting the game as any sort of protest to anyone at the school, but to the BOE, specifically to make a statement. This parent said kids have been crying and upset by the downward spiral of the band; and that there are only 3 performances now, and no football games.
- Some kids didn't want to use their own instruments in case of weather/rain. It was suggested to put musicians under a protective tent

- Question was asked by a parent; how can a curriculum be changed without parental and/or staff knowledge and input?

**Answer:** the BOE looked over the issue, and allegedly solicited info from teachers and students, and then made the band's presence optional. Ms. Seeley said they appreciate our input and they are hearing more now, of the upset over what has occurred. They will be "making informed decisions by winter; identifying students who may want to be part of the band without the requirement of playing at games. We don't want to hurt the program. If it was a setback for some students, that was not their intention," Ms. Seeley said.

- Barbara noted this has been a repeated issue in years past; they used to be required to go to all games - home and away - so then the resolution was changed to the requirement was only to play at home games.
- Barbara asked does the PTSO want to take a stand on this issue?
- One lady who was at the BOE meeting where this change was evidently enacted, upon hearing the BOE person say this issue was discussed there, refuted that saying she did not hear one word that the band presence was no longer required.
- The parent pointed out the entire band was there at BOE meetings in May and June begging for it be a requirement to preserve this very favorite activity for the kids who are only now freshman and sophomores.
- Nothing on BOE meetings' agendas about this issue. So how can we as parents know/ believe that issues were discussed if never mentioned on agenda or minutes?
- Parental articulation that it was a travesty that the kids voiced their opinion for the requirement, and it was still denied by BOE
- It was noted the Band director always allows missed games if needed
- As a parent Barbara spoke of her daughter who said she needs to be at the game this weekend vs going away with family because she doesn't want to miss the game. It matters to these students.
- Parent pointed out the district does not do a good job of including parents who are to be liaisons. She also expressed feeling that parents are not utilized to get maximum potential out of student/parent perspectives
- Barbara urged us as parents to write the BOE and give our thoughts and concerns
- And/or get to a BOE meeting; the next one is 7pm on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at Indian Hill
- Parental input included if a student does not wish to play at games, then simply don't join the band. And, if every other participant in a club has required practices and performances, they know they better show up. Why is there an exception being made for Pep Band?

**THE NEXT PTSO MEETING IS October 23, 2019 at 7:00pm** HHS Auditorium

Demystifying College Presentation Immediately following

**The drawing for the raffled parking space are held during the PTSO general meetings, and this morning the winner was Gita Movva, parent to Ajay! Meeting was adjourned at 11:25am**