Holmdel High School

PTSO General Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2019 at 7PM

1. Message from the Executive Committee – Barbara Singer

* Meeting minutes will be posted on the PTSO website.
* 1st VP Membership – Alicia Baylock: Currently have 135 membership (but only 17% of the total Holmdel family). Encourages more family to sign up for membership which can be found in the PTSO website. $10 Regular Membership & $50 for Gold Membership includes a HHS car magnet and one free entry in this month’s PTSO Parking Raffle.
* 2nd VP Fundraising – Sarann Jenning: The Fall Fling Fundraising Event had a good turnout with lots of donations. The event raised enough money to almost cover the scholarships granted to seniors. Bake Sales is looking for volunteer to donate, sign-up link can be found on the Daily Announcement.
* Treasurer – Heather Behal: over $1000 in membership collection; over $2000 donation for hospitality such as teacher’s lunches.
* Corresponding Secretary – Darlene Kiss: please reach out if anyone wants to announce anything. Concession stand is looking for volunteers.

1. Message from the Principal – Brian Schillaci

* Principal Schillaci reiterated the Superintendent’s weekly message on the district’s continuous focus on building of communication, social & emotional learning, and expanding of the collection of student growth data to increase student achievement.
* 2020 updates: Seating, carpeting, and shelving in the learning center were installed. In addition to the new Robotics, TV Studio and Photography facilities. Planning to utilize these spaces by second semester.
* Sports: multiple conference games are coming up. Clubs: ongoing club fairs and activities led by students.
* Spirit Week – Various attires throughout the week. Lots of decorations on the hallways in preparation for Battle of Classes, Homecoming, Senior Night and Football game which will take place on Friday, October 25th.

1. Message from Teacher Representative – Laurence Cogger

* Sourish Jasti (senior) was just granted a provisional patent by the US Patent Office for his work previously done in Holmdel’s Honors Advanced Research class.  His work uses coffee grounds and used tea leaves as adsorbents for heavy metal ions.

* Recent graduate Shayna Ahteck (HHS 2019, MIT 2023) is part of an article in the November issue of National Geographic.  The article focuses on girls in science today. Shayna also completed key work in Holmdel’s Honors Advanced Research class.  The link to the article is below. Look at the caption below the picture of her hand showcasing her midi-key device, and down on the bottom, scroll through the slide show to find her; she is the fourth woman.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/10/girls-in-science-feature/?fbclid=IwAR0IGo7kM7uXIiag2sxN9ZZL1MDREkrBVSrovUPAHmbuAHMIbvLtNyxod_k>

1. Message from Class Liaisons

* Class of 2023 (9th): Needs Freshman parents to volunteer in assisting fundraising efforts for prom.
* Class of 2022 (10th): none to announce.
* Class of 2021 (11th): Selling student design t-shirts ($15) and sweatshirts ($20). Order Link can be found in the Daily Announcement email.
* Class of 2022 – Halloween Bake Sales.

1. Message from Project Graduation – Linda Fernand

* Project Graduation is an alcohol and drug free night for seniors to enjoy graduation. The event costs about $20,000 which provides food (dinner/breakfast/snacks), transportation and activites to all the seniors. The event will be held at the Monroe Sports Center. This past graduation year, about 200 out of 240 students attended the event. Project Graduation continues to look for more sponsorships and fundraisers. Parents whose kids are not seniors are encouraged to volunteer and food will be provided to all the parents as well.

1. Message from HCAA – Carolyn Frazier (Co-President with Jill Kaiserm and Heather Behal)

* Support art, pep band, etc.
* Membership is currently open.
* Pep band will be performing on Friday night (10/25). As part of fundraising, pop socket will be selling on Friday (10/25) with “H” on it.
* Selling concession at the Satz talent show on 10/24.
* November 4th is the next General Meeting.
* 7th graders are welcome to join the pep band as well.

1. Message from HFEE – Sean Dowd

* Supports a major project to enhance the educational experience of Holmdel students. Ribbon cutting for the newly built playground at Village School took place a couple of weeks ago. Received positive feedback during the fall festival and it was a hot topic in the first week of school. Ms. Montana also painted a mural on the wall.
* It is the time of the year to receive email for the Annual Giving Campaign. All the donations go back to the school. Parents will receive “Giving Tuesday” (after Thanksgiving) and “End of the Year Tax-Exempt” emails. Donations can also be made at the HFEE.Org link.
* Upcoming Gala which takes place every two years will be on April 25, 2020 at Bell Works.
* The cycle for mini grant will be disseminated before the holidays. Seniors are encouraged to apply as well as teachers.
* A word of advice from Mr. Dowd who is a teacher and parent at Holmdel – Project Graduation for undergraduate parents is a sense of paying forward, please support other classes as well.

1. Getting Into College Presentation

* Presentation slides can be found on the PTSO website.
* On Tuesday, October 29, 2019 Brookdale Community College will be offering a presentation on “College Admission and Strategy” presented by Peter Van Buskirk who was a Dean of Admission for 20 years and founder of the company **Best College Fit.** The event is sponsored by NJ Natural Gas.
* For any parents who would like to obtain college admission process for performing arts, please contact Barbara Singer at ptsocopresidents@gmail.com. Barbara has the email for a parent whose daughter is in a performing arts University in NYC for voice and acting.
* For any parents who would like to obtain college admission process through sports programs, please contact Julie at [stolkerj@gmail.com](mailto:stolkerj@gmail.com).
* Recommendations and Experiences from various parents:
  + Early Decision – if student is not sure about the college then don’t apply as the student cannot accept another school since there is a legal binding contract involved.
  + Rolling Admission – apply early than later as spots might be limited. Also, it will give the student a better feeling and relief that he/she has been accepted in a college by October. Have to accept the acceptance in order to confirm admission.
  + Encourage student to join the National Honor Society in Junior Year.
  + Encourage student to participate in Volunteer Works. Contact Debbie Brew at [volunteergroup@gmail.com](mailto:volunteergroup@gmail.com) to be added to the email distribution list.
  + Essays – College really wants 650 words when it suggest 500 to 650 words as this will demonstrate that the student is not doing the minimum. Student should tell the admission officer something different that the admission officer has not already seen. Make yourself standout.
  + School Visits – student should attend open house, meet with advisor, demonstrates strong interest to a desirable school. Attend college fairs at Brookdale and speak with the representatives from the schools.
  + Admission through Sports route – the level of involvement with sport or activities will give student extra points in evaluating the overall application. Every school has a different set of criteria in calculating their GPAs. Some schools may accept a student with a lower GPA who were involved in sport activities.
  + Student Profile – GPS may varies depending on the majors. For example, Engineering or Computer Science majors may have a different GPA criteria than Journalism.