**November 9, 2021 PTA Meeting Minutes**

**PTA**: Hammond Elementary School PTA, General PTA Business Virtual Meeting, via Zoom

**Date:** November 9, 2021

**Time**: 7:00-8:15pm

**In Attendance**: Kristina Kunkle, Stephen Price, Opeyemi Awolesi, Melissa Zawadzki, Crystal Hypolite, Nina Shearer, Jana Cowperthwaite, Joanne Odom, Jackie DeBella, Rosa Yu, Jamie Barrios, Zhihao Liu, Bisi Okubadejo, Ryan Andrews, Robyn Bell Dickson, Mrs. Ciarapica, Megan Grosso, Eugene Summers, Kathleen Denny, Christina Felsen (PTACH), Vicky Cutroneo (BOE Cluster)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**: Kristina Kunkle Roll call, Introductions
2. **Review and approval of minutes from September 21, 2021**: Opeyemi Awolesi

Megan Grosso moved the motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Kathleen Denny.

1. **Reports of Officers**
2. Treasurer's Report: Stephen Price

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2021-2022 Budget** |  | Budget |  | Actual |  | Variance |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Fundraising Receipts |  | $ 30,275.00 |  | $ 101.18 |  | $ (30,173.82) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Fundraising Expenses |  | $ 8,070.00 |  | $ - |  | $ 8,070.00 |
| Total Organization Expenses |  | $ 3,805.00 |  | $ 122.72 |  | $ 3,682.28 |
| Total Project Expenses |  | $ 36,025.00 |  | $ 1,497.54 |  | $ 34,527.46 |
| **Total Expense** |  | $ 47,900.00 |  | $ 1,620.26 |  | $ 46,279.74 |

Cancelled multicultural night and reallocated the money to Education Grants to each grade.

1. Membership Report: Kathleen Denny

We currently have 202 PTA members, we added 31 new members from the last meeting in September 2021.

1. PTACH Report – Christina Felsen

* Legislative update – Redistricting, capacity etc. are issues that will be brought before the General Assembly.
* Christina shared the [11-1-21-PTACHC-Legislative-Power-Point-Presentation.pdf](https://www.ptachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/11-1-21-PTACHC-Legislative-Power-Point-Presentation.pdf) and encouraged parents and the PTA to be familiar with these legislative updates and provide some input to PTACH’s advocacy.

1. **Old or Ongoing Business – Kristina Kunkle (President)**

* Spirit Wear shirts have been picked up and others will be sent home in a book bag as they become available.
* Outdoor cushions and seating being used and successful.
* Outdoor movie was cancelled due to weather and has been rescheduled to Spring 2022.
* Restaurant night at Ledo’s was very successful.
* Art Display case is close to being finalized.

V. **New Business**

* **Guest Speaker: Vicky Cutroneo, Board Of Education Cluster:**
* Staff turnover – fewer teachers county wide; the Board is working to hire and retain. The reason for the staff turnover is the lack of support staff like monitors, para educators etc.
* Vaccines – With the vaccines now available, the hope is that Elementary school kids who are vaccinated may no longer require quarantine and will only need to monitor for symptoms, just like vaccinated teachers. The health department is being careful about vaccinating at school to avoid double dosing of the covid vaccine for kids who may have already received it. Parents are encouraged to vaccinate their kids.
* Vaccine tracking – Right now, the state health department tracks who has been vaccinated, just like other vaccines. There is nothing more for parents to do or provide uploads for the vaccines.
* Bus drivers & pays – HoCO is very competitive with other counties. The reason for the sick-out on Monday November 8, 2021 was connected with the pay and increased duties including double routes and working with unvaccinated kids. Bus drivers are not employees of the county and the county cannot determine or control the pay. Bus drivers no longer receive benefits as they were taken away a couple of years. There are discussions about restoring benefits and the county is working hard to resolve with the Contractors including considering large contractors with increased capacity in addition to the small business contractors, so we do not experience another sick-out. The county paid 70% of the salaries during the pandemic to ensure some retention and the county values the important services of the bus drivers.
* ESO Funds – The ESO funds were spent on the Filtration units.
* Intervention services for special education kids – This is important to the BoE and is being reviewed. Special education often requires meetings and documentation before the services can be provided but it is in the works.
* Adjusted School Schedule – The third Wednesday in a month starting in December 2021 will be half-days. This is a pandemic response just for this school year to provide teachers with additional time to plan lessons without affecting teaching time, reduce the burnout on staff and potentially reduce the staff turnover. There might be concerns about reduced time for learning but it’s important to listen to the concerns of the teachers, acknowledge the stress and preserve the profession.
* Capacity – There will be no redistricting until the new elementary schools have been built. Hammond does not have the capacity for portables or the core facilities to support additional students.
* **Administration Report: Ms. Ciarapica**
* End of the Quarter celebration – Oct 29, 2021. It was great to see kids having fun and high level of interaction among kids.
* Report Cards will be accessible to families by 5pm on November 10, 2021.
* Parent Conferences sign-up will be available as well and parents are encouraged to sign up and attend.
* Music Concert – First in-person event will happen on Nov 18th 202. Attendance will be staggered, first the Orchestra band, then the Chorus will happen next.
* Sick-out Buses November 8, 2021- HES was very fortunate to be minimally impacted by two buses in the morning.
* Staff shortages – the school has not lost positions but has lost the person (a teacher currently on maternity leave has decided not to return). There is no candidate to interview or hire for that position, so the students will be sprinkled into other 4 classes. Affected parents have been called and they were receptive and understanding of the challenges and the plan.
* 12 staff are currently out and Mrs. Mapson has orchestrated a system to ensure coverage. HES Staff have been very helpful in rising up to the challenge despite the shortages and stress within the school.
* HES is a community and there has been no concern about uncivil verbal and written communication. Mrs. Ciarapica encouraged families to keep communicating with the teachers and the school in a civil manner.
* **School Directory**: can be accessed through Canvas, the PTA will no longer provide the directory.
* **Teacher Conference Dinner**: The PTA will provide dinner to Teachers during the virtual Teacher conference week by providing vouchers to Kloby’s.
* **Update on Events:**
  + Planning to move ahead with the Spring Carnival for May 7, 2022
  + Due to the logistics of Covid restrictions and lack of volunteers, we will be postponing the Talent Show, Family Fit Night, and Multicultural Night this year.
  + However, we will redirect those funds toward bolstering each grade’s in-house field trip budget, which will allow for additional engaging curriculum extension activities. With these events being held during school hours, they will provide more accessible opportunities for our students.
  + Square One Art Fundraiser- we are still doing that this year but will be happening early spring, date will be coordinated with the arts teacher.

VI. Announcements

* Upcoming Events
  + 11/17: Restaurant Night at Chipotle-Maple Lawn, 4-8pm
* Dates of PTA Meetings
  + 1/11: PTA Meeting, 7pm (Zoom)
  + 3/8: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
  + 5/10: PTA Meeting: Elections, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
  + 6/7: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)

VII. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Adjournment: Kristina Kunkle