**September 13, 2022 PTA Meeting Minutes**

**PTA**: Hammond Elementary School PTA, General PTA Business Hybrid Meeting, via Zoom and HES Media Center

**Date:** September 13, 2022

**Time**: 7:15pm – 8:35pm

**In Attendance**: Kristina Kunkle, Kathleen Denny, Sean Larsen, Jennie Claiborne, Megan Grosso, Aubrey Simon, Karin Popkey, Opeyemi Awolesi, Jessica Hummel, Amanda Stafford,

Gbenga and Hilda Lasisi, Neelam Shah, Susanne McCoy, Julia Tansmore, Thelma Aryeetey

Kestra Jack, Matt Watkins, Sarah Weber and 16 others in-person.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**: Kristina Kunkle Roll call, Introductions of executives, parent liaisons and administration.
2. **Review and approval of minutes from June 7**: Opeyemi Awolesi presented the minutes from the June 7, 2022 PTA meeting. Opeyemi Awolesi asked for any objections, none offered so minutes approved by a motion by Kathleen Denny and approved by Linfeng Chen.
3. **Reports of Officers**
4. Treasurer's Report: Karin Popkey- $2,000 Summer budget. Current account balance is $28,570.35. We have some expenses from spirit wear. No questions on budget.
5. Membership Report: Kathleen Denny

We currently have 153 PTA members. We have 27 Faculty and staff membership; encouraging faculty to join the PTA for full reimbursement.

1. Communications Report: Sean Larsen: Rolled out a new website which is a bit clearer than before. If people have questions or comments to let us know.
2. PTACHC Report – Jennie Claiborne: Melissa is presenting the PTACHC report PTACHC is the organization of PTA’s under Howard County and is a place where the PTA’s can communicate with the Superintendent. The August meeting was Sup report; he reported HCPSS had only 66 vacancies and is number 1 or number 2 in the state and its something to be proud of considering the vacancy challenges across the state. Starting salary in HCPSS is under $57,000 and statewide, the starting salary will be increased to $60,000. In order to compete with other counties, HCPSS will have to increase its starting salary for teachers. This year would be the year of ‘normalcy’ and he’s determined to keep schools open, no matter what this year. Covid mitigation strategies implemented is increased air circulation, outdoor seatings, individual masking is encouraged. Talked about enrollment, as of the beginning of September, enrollment was up than in the previous years. Free meals, approx. 23% of student population qualifies for free meals and is concerned that people may have barriers from filling up the paperwork for FARMS now that free meals has been cancelled by the FG. He encouraged families to apply for FARMS. Demonstrated regression of academic progress by students due to covid and virtual learning. HCPSS is increasing reading screenings to get a snapshot of student’s reading levels in order to provide support to those students. HCPSS is the fastest growing school district in the State. Redistricting public hearing dates Sept 7, Sept 8, Capital Budget hearing Sept 22. A PTA President suggested that PTA’s pool resources in the county to increase negotiating power with vendors who provide similar services across the county. The idea was well received and its still in the early stage. A survey is going out to get data on the activities across the PTA. Two PTACHC positions are still open, anyone interested may reach out.
3. **Old or Ongoing Business – Kristina Kunkle (President)**

* Playdates-were successful.
* Welcome back breakfast for staff was successful and appreciated.
* Rita’s at open house was popular and successful.
* Sprit wear sales – online store still open until September 16, 2022.
* Restaurant night at Chipotle on September 7, 2022 – raised $200, thanks to the families that supported the PTA.

V. **New Business**

* + Teacher appreciation Chair- Welcome back breakfast for staff done, will be providing a meal for conferences. Monthly missions will provide appreciate teachers .
    - October– “Treat, no trick trolley” will be given to teachers to take snacks and drinks.
    - November- “Any way you slice it, we appreciate you mini-pies” for the teachers. Will be asking for donations on amazon or sign-up geniuses. Need volunteers and committee members.
  + Need new volunteers:
  + October 4 – Restaurant night at Chick-fil-A
  + Oct 28, 2022- Movie night; movie will start at 7pm, we need people to rsvp due to limitations on license etc. Movie is free, we just need a headcount. We need 4 volunteers to help people check in. Please contact Kristina if interested in volunteering.
  + January 25th 2023, talent show – we need volunteers to make it happen.
  + Spring carnival – April 29, 2023. Melissa did a great work last year, we need more volunteers to make it successful this year. Members are encouraged to check the PTA calendar on the website. Members are also encouraged to subscribe to PTA emails.
  + New idea of parent volunteers during recess to do activities with kids- need ideas volunteers and volunteers to make it happen.
  + Square One Art fundraiser is coming back this year, orders have to be made before thanksgiving for the art works to be back in time for the holidays in December.
  + 2022-23 Budget- Budget of Exp $44600, Receipts $17,485. We have a deficit because we have a lot of reserves and will be doing less fundraising. Budget is into 3 large categories- Operating Expense- $4430; Educational and budget expenses includes Teacher’s reimbursement, emergency and classroom- Staff appreciation - $4500, Student Support – (Fall fun run, author visits etc.) - $9,000; Educational Grants $7500, FY2023 School Projects - $6000, Miscellaneous ongoing projects - $1850. Fundraising- Spring Carnival, Square One, Winter fun night – $10,575; we hope to get Donations from sponsors like Amazon, Harris teether etc - $3450, Membership dues - $3000.
  + Linfeng Chen moves to approve budget, Kathleen seconds. Voice vote passed and approved the 2022-23 budget.

**Administration Report: Ms. Ciarapica:**

* 18 families in person, 13 families on zoom- excited with the turnout for the PTA meeting.
* Excellent back to school night.
* Enrollment is up this year, 647 students at HES and is the largest in a while. New families from the Wellington Farm; 86% have completed the family file. 63 total vacancies – 21 classroom, 21 special ed and 21 are org vacancies. Started with the fullest staff in a decade, one teacher vacancy in 4th grade, interviewing.
* Tiger tale – coming out on Thursday. Working on learning behaviors, communication through the Thursday folders.
* Dismissal starts at 3:27pm instead of 3:22pm since buses arrive later and helps increase instructional time.
* Salad bar is back at the cafeteria.
* Chromebooks are not 1:1 this year- HCPSS is lobbying to offer snow days as virtual learning instead of no school. This will probably be asynchronous instructions since Chromebook are not 1:1 this will help the school not to make up lost snow days.
* Virtual parent teacher conferences will be available this year since it was appreciated by families.

VI. **Announcements**

* Oct 4 – Restaurant night
* Oct 28 – Movie night
* April 29 – Spring Carnival
* Next PTA meeting - Nov 15. Will also be hybrid.

VII. **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

* Do we have a target membership number? -Not at this time.
* What kind of projects is the PTA prohibited from funding? - Capital projects.
* Interest in donating snacks to grades with lunch late in the day? - That is a question for teachers to determine snacking. If funding is needed, the PTA might be interested in funding. 2 grades have a built-in snack time – K and 5th grade. Other grades have not requested for this. School needs parent’s permission before providing snacks to students.
* Any end of the year funding in the budget – This is included in the Student Support budget item.
* Question about retirement fund- $200 provided to teachers retiring to support them.
* Enrollment by grade numbers- The following grades K, 1, 2, 4 have 5 classrooms, while 3rd and 5th have 4 classrooms.
* Assessments- Informal and formal assessments. Being a Reader will begin in the next couple of weeks, assessments will be done with individuals and in groups of students to identify levels and supports needed.
* Volunteer opportunities – the PTA website has information about volunteering and also the Facebook pages for each grade also has those opportunities.

VIII. **Adjournment**: Kristina Kunkle moved a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm.