**March 14, 2023 PTA Meeting Minutes**

**PTA**: Virtual Meeting, via Zoom

**Date:** March 14, 2023

**Time**: 7:15pm – 8:11pm

**In Attendance**: Kristina Kunkle, Kathleen Denny, Karin Popkey, Opeyemi Awolesi, Robyn Bell Dickson, Melissa Zawadzki, Lisa Ciarapica, Megan Grosso, Susanne McCoy, Ms. Mapson, Aysha Alburaki, Melissa Green Parker, Atarud Wahidi, Jonathan Thornhill, Korin Sharp, Aysha Rahman, Jessica Hummel, Jana Cowperthwaite,

1. **Call Meeting to Order**: Kristina Kunkle Roll call, Introductions of executives, parent liaisons and administration.
2. **Review and approval of minutes from November 15**: Opeyemi Awolesi presented the minutes from the January 10, 2023 PTA meeting. Opeyemi Awolesi asked for any objections, none offered so minutes approved by a motion by and seconded by.
3. **Reports of Officers**
4. Treasurer's Report: Karin Popkey- Current account balance is $28,662.25. Total Fundraising receipts - $ 6,058.53 and Total Membership receipts $ 1,838.00, Total receipts - $ 7,896.53. Total Fundraising expenses: $2,606.08, Total Operating Expense: $1,959.80, Total Project Expenses: $4,722.82 and Total Expense: $ 9,288.70. No questions on budget.
5. Membership Report: Kathleen Denny

We currently have 195 PTA members. We added 4 new members to the PTA.

1. PTACHC Report – Melissa Zawadzki

Raise the school surcharge fee and ensure it’s actually paid.

Between now and June 2023 is the opportunity to impact the budget for the county.

Update from the River Hill Swatting incident – there would be two zoom meetings to provide guidance to other schools.

The BoE will issue a decision on the budget for the schools.

The BoE issued a new decision on school start times, but schools have a 10-minute window of tolerance to adjust the start time. BoE approved a 2 mile walk zone to High Schools.

If you have questions on the PTACH report, those can be fielded to the right persons.

Christiana Rigby

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

* Volunteers for Programs/Activities
* The January missions was successful with
* March monthly mission is the “nothing bundt cake” with a sweet treat to teachers before the spring break.
* There would be no April mission but the team would begin to plan for the Teacher Appreciation week in May. If people have ideas, they are welcome to share.
* There would also be a donut day every month for teachers.
* April 29 Spring Carnival- we need volunteers [carnival@hespta.org](mailto:carnival@hespta.org)
* Talent show – was successful with over 30 students participated
* Ledo restaurant night was successful.
* Please relink your Harris Teether VIC card. Please google Harris Teeter Education and should be able to relink quickly.

1. **New Business**

* Spring carnival poster contest coming up- participants receive tickets that can be redeemed at the carnival. It would run between April 11-20th and there would be a collection box in the hallway and coordinated by Maria Rocco.
* PTA executive positions opening up – President (Melissa Zawadski); VP Communications (), we still need a volunteer for the Secretary position. If you are interested, please signify your interest to the [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org)

**Administration Report: Ms. Ciarapica:**

* School start time – still in a holding pattern, no new information to share.
* Testing season – MAP testing just concluded in Grades 1-5 in reading and math. Information on how to access the results were sent on March 9. CoGat Testing were taken in December 2023; the 5th Graders results have been available since February 2023 and 3rd graders will be available on March 27, 2023.
* MCAP Assessment – reading and math; personal corded headphones can be brought in by students. Last year MCap assessment results will go home on Thursday March 16, 2023. Only 22% of students across the state met their Maths target, 36% in HoCo met targets for Math, 54% HES students met their target which is exactly the same from previous years. 57% students in HoCo ELA, 61% of HES students met their ELA target which is higher than the previous years. A STAR rating previous in 2018/19, HES scored 71% (4stars), 72.4% in the current year keeps HES in the 4 Star rating. One of the issues is chronic absenteeism. 84% of HES students do not experience chronic absenteeism which is lower than previous years.
* HES is gaining 2 classroom teachers in the coming year and so each grade would have 5 classrooms.
* Related Arts: 1.4 music and 1.4 arts teachers right now for the courses. Next year, it would be increased to 1.6 meaning 1 full time and 1 teacher 3x weekly.
* Half time technology and half time media increase in staffing. No increase for PE classes yet, Principal to request for additional staffing for P.E.
* A 0.9 ESOL teacher, gaining a paraeducator position is coming back.
* There are no specifics about where everyone is going.
* Talent show: Favorite part of the talent show was how packed the audience was for the talent show.
* Administration appreciates the monthly missions to support the staff.
* Amazon wishlist – Preferred activities for differentiated students such as a weighted lap pad that provides a soothing feeling for some students to help their concentration, journals, box of feathers etc. are designed for the specific needs for some students in the classroom, hallways etc.

VI. **Announcements**

* March 30th Literacy Night at 6pm – 8pm.
* April 29: Spring Carnival – 3-6pm rain or shine.
* *Teacher appreciation week in May. More information to come.*
* PTA Meetings (all at 7:15pm)
  + May 9: virtual (elections) | June 6: hybrid

VII. **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

* Fire Question: The Principal not authorized to speak about the disciplinary action about a specific student. There was no need to evacuate since the fire was immediately put out.

VIII. **Adjournment**: Kristina Kunkle moved a motion to adjourn at 8:11pm.