**June 20, 2023 Emergency PTA Meeting Minutes**

**PTA**: Virtual Meeting, via Zoom

**Date:** June 20, 2023

**Time**: 7:15pm –8.14 pm

**In Attendance**: Kristina Kunkle, Sean Larsen, Emily Griffin, Opeyemi Awolesi, Melissa Zawadzki, Jolene Mosley and 30 others on zoom.

I. **Call to order (Kristina Kunkle)** – All the board members present introduced themselves and we established quorum with over 28 participants on the call.

II. **Presentation of Position Statement (Melissa Zawadzki)** - Melissa presented a single position statement which states that the HES PTA opposes the combination routing of the Elementary and Middle Schools. There was a question about providing an alternative to Transportation for HES to start at the earliest in the window and HMS starting at the latest in the window while maintaining Tier 2 status for both schools. Jolene Mosley, a member of the Board of Ed commented about the importance of maintaining the number of hours required for ES and MS and advised on the proposed suggestion. There were suggestions to make the position statement much more strongly worded by adding adjectives such as “vehemently” or “strongly opposes” to the position statement. Melissa advised it’s preferable to remain as neutral as possible in position statements. The need for a stronger adjective was considered for a vote. There was also a question about the intended outcome of the position statement. Melissa responded that this position statement voted by the PTA gives her the authority to speak and advocate on behalf of the 200+ families at HES. The position statement also creates a record that the PTA did everything in their power including issuing a position statement to prevent the combination routing for HES kids, which could become useful if there is an accident or incident.

III. **Vote on Position Statement –** Sean Larsen moved the motion to adopt the position statement and Emily seconded the motion. The majority of yes approved the adoption of a position statement to the Board of Ed. There was an additional vote to add the adjective “strongly” opposes to the position statement. Rebecca Garcia moved the motion to amend and Megan Grosso seconded the motion. The majority of yes approved the amended position statement. Jolene Mosley informed the meeting that the BOE has heard from the Hammond community those for and against the combination routing at HES with reasons ranging from siblings riding the same bus, older siblings getting their younger siblings to where they need to be before or after school, inadequate supervision on the bus etc.

Jolene shared that BOE has plans for HES kids to access the bathroom while waiting for HMS to close and will be supervised. She also stated that the BOE’s goal was to reduce the number of stops to bus siblings and neighbors together instead of multiple stops across different neighborhoods and that the goal was not to merge HES and HMS kids but to efficiently transport kids to school.

Jolene further shared that the SMILE team is a team from Central Office led by Dr. Dennis. They maintain resources and support issues happening at the school including assisting with the car loop for the first few days of resumption. Jolene also promised that she would ask some of the questions raised during this emergency meeting at the BOE meeting on 22 June 2023 to ensure there is a public discussion. Jolene shared her contact information [Jolene\_mosley@hcpss.org](mailto:Jolene_mosley@hcpss.org) and 443-430-5385 for families who have additional questions or concerns that they’d like to raise to the BOE through Jolene.

There was an additional vote to send the draft letter by Melissa to the BOE as is and the vote passed by a majority vote.

IV. Adjourn Meeting- Kristina adjourned the meeting at 8.14pm.