

HHES PTO General Body Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

7:03-- Asked members to “sign-in” by writing their first and last name in the chat.

- I. Welcome – Nicole Roberts, President (7:04 pm, begin recording)
 - a. Next meeting reminder: March 17
 - b. Tonight’s meeting we will be looking at the budget; yes a bit later in the year than normal, mostly because of the unprecedented nature of the year.

- II. Approval of Minutes – Nicole Bartels, Secretary
 - a. 7:05 pm Minutes approved by Zoom reaction vote

- III. 2020-2021 Budget – Yolanda Peele, Treasurer (7:06 pm) Shared screen for budget proposal. Line-by-line, with new lines highlighted. Generally many things have been zeroed out because of virtual learning.

- IV. (7:15 pm)Membership Update – Hassana Blackwell, Vice President, Membership
 - i. Membership Numbers 43 memberships last meeting (November); at 45 members today
 1. Hassana thanked all volunteers and efforts of those who have started on some of the committees.
 - ii. PTO Committees –
 1. Fundraising-- December-- both District 5 & District 1-- generated some good funds; Looking to get another one this spring for both districts, but still welcome any suggestions from the community.
 2. Kudos--New this year-- trying to create a connection between students, staff, and teachers to celebrate the “good things” in our HHES community. Almost like an “electronic bulletin board.” 6-7 volunteers that are already working on Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. Also part of the committee are Class Liaisons to work with teacher pairs in each grade to help facilitate some communication between parents and teachers. Liaisons are meant to be a point of contact and someone to help facilitate communication and connection between students, parents and the teacher. Hoping to be able

to get more feedback from teachers for Kudos for students for this upcoming Kudos announcements (stay tuned).

3. Activities: Parent-2-Parent: Held one this fall and will also be likely to hold one in the future again.
4. 5th Grade Celebration Committee-- Karen Piskurich is the chair and the group has started to meet and get some ideas going.
 - a. Update from Karen (7:23pm)-- created a list of activities that we could possibly do for the end of the year to celebrate the kids-- some depend on COVID restrictions, of course. Looking to get a list of 5th grade parents to get feedback and inform them of some of our ideas. Really hoping to get a chance to put SOMETHING together to celebrate the kids.

(7:26 pm) Reminders from Nicole R-- PTO does not have access to parent address lists; but certainly encourage people to reach out to anyone who might be interested. PTO cannot sanction or sponsor anything that isn't in line with the school or PGCPs (but of course parents are able to do something outside on their own, it's up to the parents' discretion, but don't need to report or include the PTO on those plans).

(7:28 pm) Update from 2nd grade Class Liaisons (Shantelle & Candace Dent)-- sent email to teachers and reached out to parents for contact information. Sent a survey to get feedback from parents and teachers. Found that many parents are looking to see more activities for students to do things together. They sponsored a Roblox party with 28 kids on Zoom. Curious about what is allowed with school rules, but looking to put some more activities in the future-- Virtual Paint Night. 1-2 activities a month. GroupMe chat generated from parent's cell phone contact.

(7:34 pm)-- Karen-- How best to get in contact with parents? Shantelle-- reach out to teachers to send a link to a Google form for interested parents to fill-out. Also, from first PTO Meet & Greet they shared cell numbers and created a GroupMe, which they added to from the Google Form data.

(7:36 pm)-- Hassana--Activities have to be set up outside of regular school hours (and not during lunch or Wednesday schedule). Nicole R-- reiterated that being virtual there is no way for parent volunteers to help during school hours; so ensure that any activities that are planned, need to be outside of school hours. Nicole R. also recommended some other "free" activities (things like Kahoot), but if anyone wants to use the PTO

sponsored Zoom account, it can also be set-up to give you access and schedule it ahead of time.

(7:39 pm)-- Ms. Johnson (Art Teacher)-- Speaking of a need for socialization, Wednesday Tickets-- every other week with specialists and encourages more students to participate (numbers have been a little low). Activities usually include virtual field trips, or something that gets them moving and connecting. Look for it in the "Specialist Google Classroom" or on Ms. Bartley's Classroom.

(7:40)-- Nicole R-- agreed on the Wednesday Ticket activities and recommended parents having their kids take advantage of them.

Ms. Johnson-- Is there a way to help spread the word?

Nicole R-- If at all possible to have the specialists send an email to the PARENTS to remind them about the Wednesday Ticket; also maybe have classroom teachers remind students when it's a Wednesday ticket day in morning announcements.

Ms. Johnson-- Is there a liaison from the specialists?

Nicole R-- NO-- and we are gonna fix it. So if there are any volunteers we'd love to have someone step up.

Ms. Johnson-- We can certainly use a liaison to help spread word from specialists teachers and also to have kudos from specialists.

(7:46 pm)- Megan-- Wondering more about what else class liaisons are doing. Has found that it's been pretty basic and hasn't had an overwhelming amount of connection to teachers or parents.

(7:47 pm)-- Nicole R-- certainly can reach out to the teacher to see if they can send it out to parents to connect the liaisons and parents together (to not put pressure on the teachers for one more thing for them to do).

(7:48 pm)-- Hassana-- It's a mixed bag on contact and activities for all parent liaisons, but we thank all parents or their continued efforts and especially for those that were able to get feedback from teachers re: Kudos.

(7:49 pm)-- Chantelle-- Follow-up on Kudos-- what exactly are you looking for us to get from parents? How often do we need to have it from teachers?

(7:50 pm)-- Hassana-- Goal is to do it once a month. We did have some submitted for January, but it's incomplete, so we haven't sent it out yet. Categories are broad-- really give the teacher discretion as to what they want to recognize in the student and why. Also, teachers/staff can certainly look to share anything special that they are doing in the community or in their professional capacity.

(7:52 pm)-- Chantelle-- Can we have dates/deadlines in order to get info from teachers?

Ms. Johnson-- Shared what Yorktown does (Distance Learning Rockstars)-- Goes out in their monthly school newsletter. Acknowledges a student in each grade/class with a little blurb from the teacher about why they want to recognize the student.

(7:53 pm)-- Nicole R-- Some additional points before we adjourn

- Free Meal Distribution-- still available for everyone and helpful-- distribution sites 10:00 am-1:00 pm (HHES is one of the distribution sites)
- New spiritwear-- hoping to do it soon and do it online ordering and delivering (stay tuned)-- There is also the potential to do a design contest for spirit wear.
- NO UNIFORMS this year if we go back in person in any way. This may give us a bit more latitude on the spiritwear design possibilities.
- Trying to put our thinking caps on for another spring fundraising event. IF you have any ideas, please let us know.
- Virtual Book Fair (Spring)-- We will be doing another virtual book fair.
- If there is anyone else that want to join in on any committees, please let us know.

(7:59 pm)-- Becky Yoblin-- Do scheduled events need to be virtual only, even if we go back to some in-person learning?

Nicole R-- Best to work on & plan virtual only, because even if we go back hybrid, the likelihood of us having the option to bring them together might be very limited.

(8:01 pm)-- Becky Yoblin-- Is there a way to know who the Class Liaisons are so we can reach out to them and maybe work in some ideas and thoughts. Liaisons can contact the PTO to let them know if they can list their email/contact information on the website

or on the FB group page. We will share that information with the PTO membership ASAP.

Adjourn (8:02 pm)