

HHES PTO General Body Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Meeting begins: 7:03

- I. Welcome – Nicole Roberts, President

- II. Approval of March Membership Meeting Minutes – Nicole Bartels, Secretary
 - a. Reminder that minutes can be found on the www.heatherhillspto.org website.
 - b. approved unanimously

(7:06)

- III. Fundraising-- Nicole Roberts
 - a. Mid-Atlantic Fundraising-- posted in chat on how to register for the fundraiser; purchases can be made now until 4/30; something for everyone; shipping is free and comes quickly; digital graphic to share with friends and family on the web was also in the chat (and on heatherhillspto.org); already raised over \$1700, goal is to raise \$6,000, so let's get after it. If you have any questions, check out the heatherhillspto.org, email myheatherhillspto@gmail.com
 - b. Scholastic Book Fair (virtual) May 12-25-- fast approaching, chaired by Becky Yoblin again (Thank you, Becky!); be prepared for some online advertising (Becky)
 - c. Dine-Outs-- Chaired by PTO new parent volunteer (as of today) to have one more event this school year; likely the first week in June and again at two locations in District 1 & 5.

- IV. Spirit Wear – Nicole Roberts
 - a. Spearheaded by Gladys Erives (who was unable to present tonight). Hope to have up and running by next week (waiting to finalize design approval by Ms. Manuel). There will be a new stream-lined spirit wear logo and you will be able to order a number of different products (t-shirts, masks, long sleeve, hoodie, sweatpants, etc) directly from the vendor and a portion of the proceeds will go to the PTO. Be on the look-out for information soon.

7:11

- V. PTO Committees

- a. Class Liaisons/Kudos Committee – Hassana Blackwell, VP Membership-- seeking nominations from teachers for 3rd quarter-- citizenship, academic, growth, etc and also to have recognition of teachers to include in a newsletter/flyer from the PTO (responses due back by Monday) and then share with the school community by the end of April.
 - i. Class Liaisons are still waiting some responses from parents on contact survey (only 31 responses); but shared by Ms. Manuel today and hoping to continue to get some more. So far the response rate by grade: 5th- 7; 4th-9; 3rd-16; 2nd-- already had their listing up, but got an additional 3. Trying to get at least one activity planned.
 - ii. Hassana as class liaison for 4th grade--working on a vendor to public the 4th grade class poetry project. If anyone has any contact or suggestions, please reach out. We may try to sponsor it on behalf of the PTO.
 - iii. Responses from Teachers' Contact/Feedback Survey-- virtual learning is going well, for MOST students and that students are “upping their digital citizenship” to learn and master new platforms and grow; teachers mentioned they liked Wednesday ticket, Renzuli. Concerned about transition back to hybrid (but seems like there has been more or less smooth sailing). Teachers ask that parents check SchoolMax regularly and follow-up with teachers if missing in the grade book but “turned in” on Google Classroom (especially if turned in late); Some teachers suggested that the PTO sponsor a school-wide virtual event for the students. Also teachers encouraged parents to help students stay engaged and if possible to keep the video on.

(7:20)

- b. Teacher Appreciation – Latreava Whitted, Board Member
 - i. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-7
 - 1. Committee met again today and all ideas were approved by the board and Ms. Manuel.
 - 2. Celebrate the teachers with something extra special this year, but somewhat limited in what we can do.
 - a. Breakfast table with pastries/coffee every day
 - b. Stock teachers lounge with snacks and drinks
 - i. Sign-up Genius for donations
 - ii. Also sign-up genius for volunteers to help staff and stock

- c. Teacher SHOUT-OUTS in the morning announcements to get-to-know a teacher and acknowledge them for their efforts
 - d. HHES Face Masks (if funds allow)
 - e. Yard Signs of Gratitude
 - f. Working on a “Guide to Giving” for parents-- getting feedback from teachers about their “favorites” to share with parents if anyone wants to give on their own-- hoping to share through principals’ post ASAP.
 - g. 35 total staff and teachers
- c. 5th Grade Promotion/Celebration – Nicole Bartels, Secretary (Karen P.)

(7:28)

- i. Memory Book or Slide Show (Ms. Bartley is starting the iMovie); but we can’t reach out to all 5th grade parents-- still trying to network and find ideas to get more parents involved
 - 1. Maybe get kids to ask other kids to send pictures to Ms. Bartley
 - 2. Have Ms. Bartley mention it to classes or have her create an “assignment” in Classroom to get more participation
 - 3. Put something in principals post
- ii. 5th grade t-shirts:
 - 1. Ideas: Names of the back of the t-shirt for 5th graders-- or design 5th grade specific t-shirt
 - 2. HHES specific 5th grade t-shirt (class of ‘21 or 2021)
 - 3. Maybe reach out to Ms. Johnson (Art) for 5th grade design idea
- iii. Stepping-up ceremony? In person or not? Still waiting to hear finalized word from Ms. Manuel.
- iv. Swag bag? Class picture?

Karen P.-- Q: Was there a recent email or announcement about another Beautification Day with Mr. Johnson?-- for students/families and maybe for high school students for volunteer hours

A: Latreava--It’s an option for hybrid learners for them to participate in while they are at school.

(7:45)

Future Meeting Schedule and Next Year Board--

- We WILL be having a final meeting in June when we will be electing officers for next year's board. SO see this as a solicitation for ANYONE who might be interested to join the board to join! IF you have any questions about the level of commitment and what is required. We will likely have AT LEAST 3 OPEN positions (Secretary- Nicole B; Treasurer-Yolanda and Member-at-Large- Latreava), so we encourage anyone who might be interested to reach out to current office holders.

Latreava-- Just to clarify-- technically ALL current board members are up for re-election if they choose, otherwise, there are OPEN positions, so you can challenge an incumbent if you'd really like their position. Bring your friends and join the board TOGETHER!

(7:48) Karen-- THANKS to the board for all they have done this year.

(7:49)

Thoughts/Feedback on hybrid so far?

Nicole R.-- generally has had positive feedback from her daughter, a 3rd grader, and she noted it was "FUN"!

Becky-- It's basically Zoom, but in the classroom; no real teacher interaction in their classroom; can't even raise their hand (somewhat disappointed)

- Needs for recess materials?
- Nicole R mentioned that the PTO is still waiting for word from Ms. Manuel because things can't be SHARED and the school hasn't put out any requests.

Becky wanted to offer some ideas--

- Hot potato with a ball that you kick
- Chalk for each individual student (it's cheap)

Latreava-- son was bummed about no balls at recess, but otherwise he seems to be pretty happy

Nicole R.-- Three kids total in her daughter's class and it seems like her daughter is appreciative to be there and people are following the rules on masks, distancing, etc; school seemed to be well-prepared and organized on that front.

Hassana-- 4th grade classes-- combined so students have to wear headphones (they keep for themselves); eating lunch in the cafeteria -- 3 students/table; bus is empty some buses on some days have literally a SINGLE students

Tomorrow is take your child to work day

Waiting to hear the follow-up from Manuel on the Girl Scout Project

Adjourn 7:58