

## CHMS PTO General Meeting Minutes May 8, 2019

Meeting was called to order.

### Presidents' Report (Lisa Romberger & Theresa Gannon)

- The April 10<sup>th</sup> PTO General Meeting minutes were approved.
- Theresa attended the April Presidents Meeting and shared several items.
  - The new D181 board has been seated. Bill Merchantz is the new board president. Sinead Duffy is the PTO liaison.
  - Currently, different elementary schools have various STEAM programs, mostly taking place in a STEAM lab. Over the next three years, the STEAM curriculum will become entwined within the curriculum as opposed to just a pull out program in a STEAM lab. More information on this 3-year rollout can be found on BoardDocs.
  - D181 has received a grant from the Casten Foundation, which allows the district to partner with the LEAP program. Some of our staff (including Dr. Robinson, Dr. Garcia, Dr. Brown, Ms. Knicker, and an HMS teacher) will visit their South African schools this summer and learn about their programs for social awareness and relationship skills. The South African teachers will then come to our community this next fall for 2-4 weeks and stay with Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale families. They will be learning things from our teachers about our curriculum. Levi will also want them to come into our LA and SS classrooms and share their culture with our students. D86 has a LEAP club and D181 will use their program as a model for our own.
  - D181 has prioritized some SELAS goals. These SELAS goals will be incorporated within the curriculum. The district has also asked the PTOs to think about our SELAS goals when we bring speakers and programs into the school.
  - The Angst documentary will be reshown at HMS on 5/14. Angst is appropriate for those 10 years of age and older.
  - The high school is also focusing on anxiety this month, with Dr. Patrick McGrath coming to present to parents on 5/14 from 7:00-8:30pm.
  - Next year's Rotary Run (on 10/6/19) will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Rotary supports many d181 and d86 initiatives, including LEAP, luncheons honoring students, and scholarships. Typically there are 600 participants. Next year they have a goal of 1000 participants. They will continue to have the Mascot Race (with the Mr. K trophy for the middle schools).
- Update on Turnabout Spending
  - The high top tables and chairs for the two seventh and eighth grade classrooms have been ordered and will be delivered on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - The staff lounge on the first floor will be completed on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Both styles of the rocker chairs have been delivered and will be in the classrooms soon.
  - The ball chairs have been ordered and are due to be delivered soon.
  - Levi is still finalizing which bike racks will work best for CHMS and will order these soon.
  - The CHMS Eagles Wings magnet is done and has arrived at the school. The Clarendon Hills police officers are going to put them on their cars and the magnets will be available for CHMS families to purchase (with proceeds going to the Angel Fund).
- 2019-2020 PTO Exec Board was unanimously voted in
  - Co-Presidents: Kathie Cihlar & Jill Conley
  - Co-Vice Presidents: Jenny Driscoll & Michelle Schubkegel
  - Treasurer: Stephanie Stern
  - Assistant Treasurer: Jennifer Buffardi

- VP Communications: Jennifer Coffey
- Secretary: Courtney Stach

### Dr. Brown's Report

- Dr. Brown thanked the parents for what we did for the staff appreciation week. The teachers appreciated our efforts.
- The DC trip was successful. Levi has held debriefs with the staff who went on the trip. Next year all forms (except the nurse form) will be sent out and completed digitally. A parent shared that she was surprised that there was not any communication from the school when the planes landed nor were there any little updates given periodically while in DC. Levi was appreciative of the feedback. He stated that the bus chaperones encouraged the kids to call home and send pictures home but he would look into ways to loop in parents while the kids are in DC.
- Another parent shared that several parents felt frustration with the Skyward registration process. The whole process was not well explained nor very intuitive. The district forgot a form and it was hard to find the page to add fees for items like graduation robes and yearbooks. Levi said that the school will follow up with families who have not ordered yearbooks or robes. He will also share this feedback with the district staff who are in charge of the registration forms. He will suggest to them to have actual parents test the registration process and provide feedback prior to the registration going live next year.
- The MAP test is done and results will be going home next Friday, May 17.
- Graduation is coming up.
- Stuff the Squad was successful yesterday (May 7<sup>th</sup>).
- The eighth grade students heard from a speaker about addiction. The speaker was a former HMS and Hinsdale Central student and he had a brother who died from a heroin overdose. His brother originally ingested a friend's prescription drug and got hooked. The speaker spoke of the progression of drug use and talked about vaping. He was real (not super polished), which made him powerful/impactful. Levi would like to bring him back in future years.
- There are new criteria for placement in classes from fifth grade to sixth grade. The process is similar to past years but the scores have been adjusted (Department of Learning recommended the changes and the board approved).
- The movement between LA to ELA and SS to ACE in middle school is also new, approved in early April at a D181 board meeting (see board docs for more information). The movement is based on many factors: MAP scores from winter/spring, rating component from student's team of teachers, scores on district assessments throughout the year, and a common writing assessment. This process is the same at HMS and CHMS. Parents will be notified on 5/21 via Skyward if their child has qualified to move from one level to the other. (Math has its own criteria, which involves a bridge program).

### Treasurer Report

- The 2019/2020 Proposed PTO Budget was handed out at the April 10<sup>th</sup> general PTO meeting and put on the PTO website for more than the 21 required days prior to the vote. The PTO members unanimously voted to approve the 2019/2020 PTO Budget.
- Most of the 2018/2019 PTO revenue has been collected. Only the Brick Sales and the Spirit Wear sales will collect more money. In addition, the Eagle Café line item will be reduced because we have an upcoming lunch and we collect the money at the beginning of the year.
- We estimate \$48,910 of remaining expenses which includes \$25,085 for the approved strategic planning items.
- Julie shared that the cash balance on 4/30/2019 is \$136,609. After deducting the remaining FY 19 expenses, we estimate cash at 6/30/19 to be \$86,818. This includes a \$35,000 savings reserve, \$49,114 in PTO Registration Fees (for the 2019/20 budget), \$3,831 for our Angel Fund and \$(1,127) of unrestricted cash.

## Fundraising & Activities

- Staff Appreciation May 6-10 – events include breakfast, sundae bar, taco truck and mini massages
- Annual Brick Sale through May 13
- Last Eagle Café Spirit Lunch on May 17
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade video (USB) is now on sale through May 21. The cost is \$20. See the weekly PTO newsletter for the link to place your order.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Great America trip on June 6.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade sundae bar on June 6 during lunch period.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation June 7 at 5:30pm at Hinsdale Central (no school for 8<sup>th</sup> graders that day).
- Last day of school on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:25am (early dismissal for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who will have Step Up Day and yearbook signing on that day).

## Endless Appreciation

- Marie Strimaitis and Ashley Rasmussen (MRC Director) for coordinating our Summer Reading Program and Book Fair. The books have been ordered and arrived. They will be distributed to the various schools starting the week of 5/13.
- Laura Morris and Marcie Purcell for planning and executing a great Staff Appreciation Week.
- Lauren Walsh for putting together seven amazing Spirit Lunches throughout the school year.
- Julie Boruff for partnering with teachers and preparing grade level supply kits, coordination of PTO registration, and also for organizing the year end Brick Sale.
- Jenny Moore (teacher liaison) for facilitating the relationship between the teachers and PTO.
- PTO committee chairs and parent volunteers for the endless hours spent helping make CHMS a great place for our kids.
- Levi Brown, Erick Jones and the front office staff (Adrienne Renwick, Diane Torti, Mary Marsillo) for working to create an environment where our kids can grow and develop.
- Outgoing Exec Board for their hard work, dedication and countless hours given to CHMS PTO for the 2018/19 school year (Theresa Gannon, Lisa Romberger, Julie Boruff, Melissa Burke and Bridget O'Meara).

## **Speaker: Officer Jeff Bean – Social Media Apps 101**

Officer Jeff Bean from Safe Schools 4 All, spoke at our May General PTO Meeting and discussed Social Media 101, What Parents Need to Know.

According to the Pews Research Center in 2018, kids' (ages 13-17) online activity was:

- 95% have smartphones
- 85% use YouTube
- 72% use Instagram
- 69% use SnapChat(\*Today, SnapChat is the most popular app for teens. It offers a direct messaging feature and is now replacing texting among teens.
- 51% use Facebook
- 45% claim to be online "constantly"

Safety Tips – Avoiding Online Predators:

- Communicate with your children and monitor
- Have them use privacy settings
- Deactivate features (such as chat and audio) on gaming systems
- Remind children to not change apps or go to DM (direct message) if stranger asks
- Limit personal info kids give out

Helpful Tips:

- Is your child ready for social media?
- Research the apps, use privacy settings, KNOW THEIR PASSWORDS
- Set the rules and ENFORCE them
- Monitor online activity regularly
- Trust your child until they give you a reason not to
- Talk with your kids, ask questions
- Be their parent, not their friend

Officer Bean strongly recommends that parents monitor their child's technology use. If your child has a cell phone and/or social media, parents should also be checking them regularly.

He also recommended [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org) for information and tips regarding how to monitor and manage your child's technology use. See the "Parents Need to Know" tab for detailed information regarding: cell phones, screen time, social media, privacy and online safety, apps and video games, parental controls, etc.

**For additional information please contact**

**Jeff Bean – President/Founder**

**SafeSchools4All**

**[www.safeschools4all.com](http://www.safeschools4all.com)**

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