



CHMS GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES from FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Featuring Guest Speaker: Kim Anderson from Spotlight

Thursday, February 18, 2021

In Attendance:

Co-Presidents - Jenny Driscoll and Michele Schubkegel

Co-Vice Presidents - Anastasia Nystedt and Becky Rush

Treasurer & Assistant-Treasurer - Jennifer Buffardi & Margie Jeffords

VP Communications - Michelle Crowe

Web Master and Remote Learning Liaison - Geegee Kan

Teacher Liaison: Lisa Albano

Principal - Levi Brown

Secretary - Courtney Stach

Welcome Everyone!

The meeting was called to order at 9am.

- I. Approval of the General Executive Board Meeting Minutes from the December 17th Meeting. Motion to Approve. Approved.
- II. PTO News and Slide Presentation
 - A. Let's take a quick look at the slides supporting the teachers and keeping morale strong during this year of transitions:)
 1. Valentine's and the Wall of Hearts; the families and staff decorated the trophy case with hearts to show love for our faculty and staff this Valentine's Day.
 2. We also had treats in the break room of little bundt cakes and coffee on Friday before Valentine's Day to celebrate our awesome CHMS faculty and staff.
 - B. "Stock the Lounge" was a complete success with the 7th grade families donating tons of healthy and sweet snacks and beverages for our amazing teachers to enjoy these next few months while teaching! The 8th grade families will be the next helpers to close out the year and Stock the Lounge for Q4:) The new Keurig machine is a hit too! Thank you PTO!

- C. The staff participated in an all staff Bingo game to lift spirits and create some fun at the school level. Levi said it was a huge success and they all had a good time with the game and gifts. Thank you PTO for the gift cards.
- D. "Paving the Way to Our Future"
1. Brick sales are going strong and Dan Lambert is just \$50 dollars shy of his annual goal for brick sales.
 2. Geegee Kan and Dan are working on a brick sale icon for our PTO website to make it easy and convenient to buy a brick. Businesses and families can buy bricks to commemorate to support CHMS and our students.
- E. Pizza Wars
1. We are hosting a Virtual "Pizza Wars" fundraiser this year with return sponsors. We are working with Guilliano's Pizza March 5 and 6, Altamira March 12-14, and Sarpino's March 21 through March 25.
 2. Students are to vote at: the PTO website and there will be an entry for raffle prizes. Please visit chmspto.org
 3. Student and Pizza Wars winners will be announced April 4, 2021.
 4. The Pizza Wars Chairs have been avidly working to get the event set up and successfully create visibility and outreach join in the fun!
- F. "Winter Blah Busters" - The PTO has created some winter blah busters for the students.
1. Student Bingo
 2. Spirit Week
 3. Trivia Scavenger Hunt - Winner will receive a trophy and it will be displayed in the front trophy case!
 4. Ideas are welcome to help kids beat the winter blahs; so send them in to: president@chmspto.org
 5. Watch the Sunday Newsletter for Details
- G. 2021-2022 PTO Board Nominations - Coming Soon!
1. Board nominations are being collected for the open positions.
 2. There are committee chair sign ups being posted for next year.
 3. Please check out the PTO Website for more information about the open board positions.
 4. Jenny Driscoll said her experience being President and a part of the CHMS PTO Board has been a gift during this crazy year of

pandemic. Please see on our PTO website the open positions!
We need you!

5. If you have interest or questions about being a board member, please reach out to us.

H. Financials - Jen Buffardi/Jenny Driscoll

1. Strategic Planning has decided to invest the balance of the monies earned from Turn About on the Encore classes.
2. We are going to purchase a wide array of learning tools and items for the teachers for the specific classes with the monies raised this Fall 2020.
3. The short term strategic planning monies will be spent on: sciences, art and digital media. The teachers have created their wish list and we are working to make it happen so these materials and equipment can be implemented and used starting April 5, 2021 and through Quarter 4.
4. Money earned: \$8,340.
5. Family and Consumer Science: \$4,373
6. Art & Digital Media: \$659
7. Applied Tech: \$1,907
8. There is a remaining \$1,402 left for Spring expenditures.
9. Items must be reviewed and approved by the BOE before being purchased. We will provide a summary to them at the Spring meeting.

III. Dr. Levi Brown's Update

1. April 5th the children resume full day school if not a remote learner.
2. Buses will be sterilized and children will be seated 1 child per seat.
3. Lunches will be 30 minutes in length and there is a set strategy and plan for daily lunch seating arrangements across 3 rooms, per grade level and designated by gold or blue category.
4. Parents can pick their children up for lunch but this could become difficult with the 30 minute turn around. However, the school is open to making this work for those who don't want to stay for lunch.
5. Quest Cafeteria options will be limited to (2) entrees to choose from at lunch.
6. Parents will select the learning model they are comfortable with for their child and stick with it for quarter 4.

7. There were some discussions of folks quarantining post Spring Break but nothing has been decided as a mandatory task.
8. Levi is working hard with the faculty and staff to realign the schedules to bring the full body of students back into the classrooms. He is working hard with his staff to create the least disruption as possible with students and learning and their current relationships with teachers.
9. We are moving to a 1-9 period day, as we were a 1-8 period day with hybrid scheduling.
10. Gym is not going to require PE clothing change outs. Staff will work within the same general model of physical education that they have been doing for hybrid; distancing and wearing street clothes to PE.
11. The revised bell schedule will come out as soon as Levi and his team complete it.
12. Remote Learners will have Zoom sessions and the district has invested in the larger televisions and roving cameras to follow the teacher around the classroom.
13. Playing and classroom details for the band students are being worked out.
14. Passing periods will be spread out; doors will open at 8:15am and the students are still blue or gold. The lockers will remain unlocked so no extra time is spent hovering between passing periods. The 6th graders also did not receive much in training on lockers so this works out well for all.
15. There are no sports and no clubs.

GUEST SPEAKER NOTES from GENERAL MEETING 2/18/2021:

We welcome our Guest Speak Kim Anderson from Spotlight College Advising located in Hinsdale, IL.

Kim Anderson has lived in Hinsdale for many years and has two kids in college and one freshmen child at Hinsdale Central.

This discussion is to help parents with the trajectory from high school to college and prepare to help your child plan accordingly and help you plan accordingly for their college selection and experience.

Parents expect the high school to help more to guide and advocate, and there is a need for my field as many of us need more help and have additional questions on how to save for college, what colleges to shoot for and most importantly, how to guide our children into college and eventually the world!

The cost of College goes up 3% every year.

Here are the current **annual** costs of the following colleges

- 1) \$75,422 - Boston College
- 2) \$76,317 - Northwestern
- 3) \$76,883 - Notre Dame
- 4) \$32,814 - University of Illinois

Salaries haven't kept pace with the increase in cost of education.

Boston College receives 50,000 applications and only a ¼ of the applicants get into the school.

There are two times the number of applicants and many use the common application platform.

Since the early 2000's, students can apply to more than (10) colleges at one time through this unified 'common' application platform.

Students from the United States are competing for acceptance with International students. We now have 3 times the number of international applicants as universities seek out more revenue from the out of state students.

University of Illinois and University of New Jersey accept the most international students.

Colleges and universities are using increased marketing experts.

Acceptance Rates 1990

- Boston College received 11,516 applications in 1990 and 56% of kids were accepted.
- Harvard received 14,430 applications in 1990 and 15% were accepted.
- Notre Dame received 6,700 applications in 1990 and 43% were accepted.
- South Carolina received 10,400 applications in 1990 and 70% were accepted.

Acceptance Rates 2020

- Boston College received 29,400 applications in 2020 and 24% of kids were accepted.
- Harvard received 40,428 applications in 2020 and 5% were accepted.
- Notre Dame received 21,273 applications in 2020 and 19% were accepted.
- South Carolina received 59,712 applications in 2020 and 16% were accepted.

What are some of the factors driving this rise in applications?

- There are two times the amount of applicants.
- There are three times the number of international students.
- 800+ colleges accept the 'common application'.
- There have been increased marketing efforts per college or university.

Take Rankings with a Grain of Salt

Best Colleges US NEWS says:

- *Outcomes - 35%
- *Faculty Resources - 20%
- *Expert Opinion - 5%
- *Financial Resource - 10%
- *Student Excellence - 35%
- *Alumni Giving Rate -20%

Wall Street Journal Rankings - World University Rankings says:

- *Output - 40%
- *Resources - 30%
- *Engagement - 20%
- *Environment - 10%

Understanding High School Academic Factors & How to Schedule Your Day

- If you take a band course or orchestra; you will need to go to an early bird gym so you can fit in another elective during your day.
- You need a minimum of 3 years foreign language and 4 is actually preferred. You must stay with the same language and you usually have 3 years foreign language in middle school prior to entering high school.

Rigors of the Curriculum Are Measured by Colleges

- Dual Credit, Advanced Placement (AP), Honors and Regular Classes

-AP Scores of 3,4,5, can result in college credits earned and a huge savings down the road.

Grade Point Average

-Weighted GPA versus unweighted, GPA; as a parent and student, you need to know the difference.

Understanding the New D86 Science and Math Plans

-Physics, Chemistry and Biology (PCB) Sequence replaces long standing Biology, Chemistry, Physics curriculum that included Earth Science. Goal is to increase access and exposure for students.

-Physics in the Universe - is an optional offering in 2020. There is no book or packet; it's all in One Note. Earth Science is infused within the curriculum.

-D86 New Math Sequence Proposed for Fall of 2022 - (Current 7th Graders)

*Provides Greater Equity Across the District

*Current Middle School Students that are accelerated will maintain acceleration and integrate based on the attached chart. (See Link Below).

-FAQ for New Integrated Pathway- Dr. Chris Covino, Assistant Superintendent of Academics. <https://bit.ly/3iFp8Jn>

When Looking at Colleges; families and students are working to find the right:

-Academic Fit

-Financial Fit

-Social Fit

Application Components Include:

-Grades and Rigor

-Letters of Recommendation

-Standardized Test Scores

-Demonstrated Interest

-Extracurricular Activities

-Interviews

-Essays

-Standout Factors

Create a Strong & Authentic Resume

-Activities and Involvement

**Sports, clubs, music, student government, service

-School & Community Impact

**Colleges want students who have made a lasting impression

-Stand Out Factor

**Take initiative, start a HS club, design a website or app, start a non-profit

-Get a Job or Start Your Own Business

**Some of your best life lessons come from working

Understanding School Selectivity

-Less Selective Schools - Accept 75%+ of Applicants

**Illinois State, Michigan State, Loras, AZ State, Kansas, University of Iowa (non-nursing), Columbia College, U of AZ

Selective Schools

-50%-75% Acceptance Rate

**Miami of Ohio, Illinois Wesleyan, St. Louis University, Marquette, DePaul, DePauw, Bradley, U of Alabama

Highly Selective Schools

-25%-50% Acceptance Rate

**University of Illinois, Villanova, Boston College, Macalester College, University of Wisconsin (OOS), Indiana/Kelley Business School, Purdue/Engineering, and Computer Science

Most Selective Schools

<25% Accepted

**Northwestern, Middlebury, Duke, University of Chicago, Ivy League, Vanderbilt, WashU, University of Michigan (OOS), Stanford

Application Strategies

-Rolling Decision

-Early Action

-Early Decision I & II

-Restricted Early Action

-Regular Decision

The Notre Dame Funnel - Class of 2024

- 21,273 total applicants
- Number of Academically Qualified Applicants
- 15,952
- Accepted Applicants = 4,055 (19%)

- Enrolled Students = 2,203 students

Notre Dame Acceptance Stats

- 15% of the applicants accepted are from the Midwest.
- 375 - (17%) are First Generation Low Socioeconomic Status
- 462 - (21%) are Legacy.
- 165 - (8%) are athletic recruits.

Merit Based Aid/Scholarships

- Miami of Ohio - 33 ACT + 3.5 GPA = \$80K for 4 years and 30 ACT + 3.5 GPA = \$56,000 for 4 years
- Alabama - 30 ACT + 3.5 GPA = \$72,000 for 4 years and 29 ACT + 3.5 GPA = \$48,000 for 4 years
- Hope College - 26 ACT + 3.6 GPA = \$44,000 and 24 ACT + 3.4 GPA = \$40,000 for 4 years

A one-point difference on ACT scores could result in thousands of dollars in tuition savings for families.

Understanding Timelines and Best Practices

- Planning Begins in 8th Grade - High School Class Selection in January of that 8th year sets the tone for your high school curriculum and pathway.
- Assess social, academic, and financial fit. Get involved. Begin research.
- Don't fixate on one school; keep your interests open for admission and the money it requires to go to college.

Demonstrate Interest in the School of Your Choice

- Show the schools you care about them; visit campus, check out their websites and social media.
- Build key relationships with counselors, teachers, admissions reps and professors.

Requirements and Deadlines

- Course Selection. Junior year is the last year for recorded college transcripts for college admittance.
- Deadlines are not negotiable. Understand cut offs for significant merit scholarships are often earlier than the standard application deadlines. This can mean tens of thousands of dollars.

- Public High School Students are now required to Complete and Waive FAFSA as Grad Requirement

About Spotlight College Advising and Kim Anderson

-We offer personalized college counseling. We offer a personalized and transformative consulting experience. We pride ourselves on building relationships with the families we serve.

-We offer top notch, proven curriculum planning to maximize your child's opportunities for success, before, during and after college.

-We have experienced professionals on our team to serve you. Spotlight's counseling team has over 65 years combined college counseling experience. They have toured over 300 schools and will help your child find the right school and right fit.

-We have a Commitment to Excellence & Integrity
Whether your child aspires to attend a Top 20 college, a state school, or a local community college. Spotlight is committed to helping your child excel every step of the way.

For More Information:

CONTACT

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We wish you the best of luck on your college planning journey!