



Clayton High School PTO

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL PTO

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 12:00 pm

This Meeting was held on Zoom and in person at the Center of Clayton, Room C.

The following board members were present in person: Co-President Joanna Dinsmore, Co-President Priya Bazzani, Treasurer Rob Bertman, Secretary Amber Kempf.

The following CHS Staff, PTO Members, and PTO Committee/Event Chairs were present:

Dan Gutchewsky – CHS Principal
T-Shon Young – Coordinator of Sports and Activities for the School District of Clayton
Bridget McAndrew – Faculty Special Projects Awards
Kami Waldman – Faculty Special Projects Awards
Ben Benfield, Director of the Clayton Board of Education
Jenny Abeles – Sophomore Parent Connections
Alli Rossini – Senior Class Parent Connections
Phil Kilbridge – Funds For Excellence
Lori Hausladen – Freshman Parent Connections
Chellie McLellan – All in Coalition
Melissa Rideout
Drew Larson
David McClendon
Jake Wigglesworth

The following members and Committee//Event Chairs were present via Zoom:

Emily Zhao – Senior Parent Connections
Michelle Cissna
Jena Schaumburg
Sharnice Frazier-Boyd
Tori Sombright
Mary Celina H.

- **Welcome and Introductions – Co-Presidents Joanna Dinsmore and Priya Bazzani**
- **President's Report – Joanna Dinsmore Priya Bazzani**
 - Junior Parent Connections has two more volunteers. Sophie Lieberman and Tammy Wagner have joined Jane Cai on this committee.

- All volunteer PTO positions have been filled. Thanks to the community for stepping up to fill the remaining positions.
 - CHS Math Teacher Allie Conley's daughter is recovering from having surgery to remove a tumor. The PTO is contributing \$250 in gift cards out of the PTO Care Fund to provide meals for the family while she recovers.
 - The CHS Globe offered the PTO the back cover of the next edition of the Globe to use in sharing the work the PTO does for the CHS Community. Thank you to Deborah Kleven for the opportunity.
 - The first Cookies in the Commons for students went so well a second one is being planned. An e-mail will be going out soon for parents to sign up to help with this event.
 - A discussion was held whether or not the PTO should provide refreshments in the CHS Library during the upcoming in person Parent Teacher Conference day on 10/15. The feedback from those present was that the refreshments would be appreciated. Information about the refreshments will be included in reminders about the upcoming in person conference day on 10/15 so parents know they are available.
- **Long-Range Facilities Planning Update – Ben Beinfeld, Director, Clayton Board of Education**
 - The Long-Range Facilities Master Plan has been in process for 18 months at this point. All the stakeholders have been narrowing down priorities and projects for the District. The three top priorities are 1) updates to the existing facilities at the elementary schools; 2) Expanding CHS with a new CTE wing that would provide more space for science labs, math programs, AMP Program Space, Robotics and other programs and curriculum; 3) updates to the Athletic Facilities, primarily Gay Field.
 - On 10/21/25 and 11/18/25 there will be Community Meetings at CHS. Everyone in Clayton is invited to attend to get updates and have questions answered.
 - The final part of the process will be for the Board to draft a Bond Issue to be voted on next April. The Bond Issue will likely not cause a tax increase to Clayton residents. There was discussion had that investing in our school district benefits property values for residents in addition to continuing to provide the same high quality education Clayton is known for.
 - There has not been any community pushback about possibly moving the Gay Field Athletics facilities to Shaw Park. While Gay field does have a lot of needs, it is still possible that the field may just be updated and not moved to Shaw Park. There was discussion that after the recent tornado, storm shelters were on the list of upgrades that are a priority.
 - An online survey is available to the community to comment on their thoughts about the upgrades being considered by the Board of Education. It was noted that the online survey indicated that there would be a small tax increase on property owners. Director Beinfeld did not feel that would likely happen, unless it was decided to move Gay Field to Shaw Park. Director Beinfeld asked all community members to take the survey and share their thoughts about what was being proposed.
 - Due to the passage of Prop E, the Clayton School District is in a good financial position to proceed with the facilities updates that are ultimately decided on if the Bond Issue passes.

- Please reach out to him or any BOE member with questions. You can reach Director Beinfeld at: benjaminbeinfeld@claytonschools.net
- **Treasurer's Report – Rob Bertman**
 - The CHS PTO is doing well financially and on budget as of this month.
 - Almost \$20,000 has been donated to Funds for Excellence to support the PTO. Thanks to the community for the donations and additional thanks to Phil Kilbridge and Laura Deutsch for their work which has placed us in a good position to complete our fundraising for this school year before the end of 2025.
- **Administrative Reports – Principal Dr. Gutchewsky; Coordinator of Athletics and Activities T'Shon Young**
 - **Principal Dr. Gutchewsky**
 - First quarter is coming to an end.
 - Homecoming went very well.
 - The Fox News Pep Zone went fantastic. Thanks to T'Shon Young's hard work almost 300 kids showed up at 5:45 am for the taping. Fox said it was the Best Pep Zone they ever had in the early morning and they want to come back next year.
 - Dr. Gutchewsky was considering phasing out The Principal Coffee after declining attendance in the past few years. However, the last one had so many in attendance it had to move into the CHS Orchestra Room so that there was enough space for everyone that attended. Lots of Freshmen parents were there. There will be an additional parent coffee added in November and details will be announced soon.
 - The students continue to do well with the ban on electronic devices during school hours.
 - Counsellor Jacelyn Cole's baby came early, but Mom and baby are well. A prior Clayton counsellor has come out of retirement to help out while Jacelyn is on maternity leave.
 - Parent Teacher conferences are next week. Wednesday 10/15 is in person. All other conferences are virtual and will be held via Zoom.
 - Dr. Gutchewsky shared information about Clayton High Schools Title 1 School designation. Further information about this can be found in the Clayton 101 Handbook. The link to Clayton 101 is here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D7PP9LYn5ZSzhON6wEgF_s2h8zC1Vtm9jFxBwSBnZ30/edit?tab=t.0
 - A question came up about recent changes to the CHS lunch service. Dr. Gutchewsky shared that the high school has a new Director of Food Service this year. The new director has been receptive to feedback from students. Any past delays with kids getting lunch due to long lines should be ironed out soon.

- On April 15, 2025, Juniors will take the SAT, Freshmen will take the PSAT 9, Sophomores will take the PSAT 10, and Seniors will do their Senior Day of Service.
 - The National Merit PSAT will be given on October 22.
- **T-Shon Young – Coordinator of Sports and Activities for the School District of Clayton**
 - Although Homecoming was early this year and during a short school week, the students did a great job pulling it together. The Homecoming Parade continues to grow and went well. The Golden Greyhound Competition, bonfire and Homecoming Dance were also a success. There were no incidents. Approximately 600 kids came to the dance.
 - The Sophomore Challenge will be happening soon. Sophomores will be led by Senior Ambassadors through a series of fun team building exercises. This is a great leadership opportunity for Seniors. Details about this event will be sent out to the students soon.
 - Athletics post season is upon us. CHS is hosting the volleyball district championships. Our team has a good chance of winning it all this year.
 - All the parent volunteers that helped with the Homecoming Dance are very appreciated.
- **Committee Chair Reports**
 - **Staff Appreciation – Emily Whitney and Amy Wilson**
 - A meal from Tres Reyes will be provided to the teachers for in person conference day on 10/15.
 - **CHS PTO Book Club – Cara Downs**
 - The next Book Club is 11/12. The book is *Stone Yard Devotional* by Charlotte Wood and will be hosted by CHS English Teacher Ben Murphy. 1/22/26 and 4/14/26 will be the next Book Club dates.
 - It was discussed and decided that the PTO should request that folks RSVP to the Book Club, just to get an idea of the number of folks that will be attending. It was also shared that e-mail reminders from the PTO the day before the book club events would be helpful to parents.
 - **Parent Connections**
 - **Junior Class Parent Connections - Jane Cai, Sophie Lieberman, and Tammy Wagner**
 - The Junior Parent Connections event will be at C.J. Muggs 11/13/25 at 6 pm.
 - **Sophomore Class Parent Connections – Jenny Abeles and Stephanie Konradi**
 - The Sophomore Parent Connections event was at C.J. Muggs. 24 parents came and had a good time. There was lots of food left over and Jenny

Abeles will share information about food ordering with the other Parent Connections Committees.

- **Freshman Parent Connections, Lori Haslauden, Jackie Stavro, and Michele Henke**
 - The Freshman Parent Connections Event will be held at Flight Club in Clayton on November 3rd. Details will be coming soon via e-mail.
- **Senior Parent Connections, Allie Rossini, Julie Sandler, and Emily Zhou**
 - The Senior Parent Connections event was also held at C.J. Muggs on October 6. It was a great event and 35 people attended. Nice weather.
 - Graduation planning for Senior Events will be happening soon and details will be shared via e-mail.
- **Faculty/Staff Special Projects Awards – Bridget McAndrew, and Kami Waldman**
 - Last year the Committee provided a grant for the 24-25 School Year to pay for all Seniors to receive a copy of the Senior Issue of the Globe. Deborah Kleven sent a thank you note to the PTO for this grant which was shared at the meeting.
 - Applications for Faculty/Staff Special Projects Awards are still being accepted until November 1, 2025.
- **Funds for Excellence – Laura Deutsch and Phil Kilbridge**
 - Fundraising is going well, and the PTO is well ahead of where they were with fundraising last year. The committee is now focusing on a campaign to increase the total number of donations from PTO members. Thanks to everyone who has already donated.
- **Upcoming Events/Other Business**
 - The PTO meeting minutes are now going to be approved by board and up within a week of the meeting to streamline the process. A discussion was had as to whether the meeting minutes had to be approved at each meeting as well. The Board will check with the District PTO about that. If there are any questions or concerns about meeting minutes when they are posted, folks can reach out to Secretary Amber Kempf at: amberlkempf@outlook.com.
 - It was clarified that all school sports and clubs are welcome to have a float/presence in the Homecoming Parade. It is up to those running the club or sports team to create something and sign up to participate.

Next Meeting will be held Wednesday, 11/12/25 at 12 pm in Center of Clayton, Room C

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Kempf, Secretary