

**Clayton High School  
PTO Meeting  
August 18, 2014**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Celeste Gillette and Jamie Marvel

**Present:** Vanessa Adams, Lori Anderson, Brad Bernstein, Patty Bloom (Secretary), Lory Bowman, Charlie Brennan, Laurie Brown, Christy Cavallini, Beth Deutsch, Darcy Durham, Lori Elliott, Celeste Gillette (Co President), James Gladstone (Student Activities Director), Dan Gutchewsky (Principal), Michelle Harris, Sally Harrison, Bodil Hartmann, Jean Heusel, Tracee Holmes, Jayne Howard (Treasurer), Deb Kennelly, Maya Kirkhope, Kina Melvin, Carolyn Morris, Jamie Marvel (Co President), Sylvia Massad, Gina Nakis, Carol Needham, Ruthellen Osherow, (Communications Chair), Manu Paruchuri, Lisa Potts, Michelle Rubin, Susan Ryffel, Parisa Seraji, Anne Troupis, David Waller, Liping Wei, Tammy Williams, Lori Zimmerman

**2. PTO Council By-Law Update:** Jamie Marvel

The PTO Council reviewed and amended the districts PTO bylaws under which all Clayton schools operate. Each school may create its own operating procedures so long as they adhere to the structures in the bylaws. The bylaws will be posted online soon.

One change to the bylaws requires that a quorum of four of the six executive board members at each board meeting.

**3. General Report:**

- **Open House (August 19):** Tracee Holmes and Kristie Skor

- Freshman Parent Night begins at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. Includes an overview from administrators, Q/A and panel of upperclassman.
- All School Open House begins at 7 p.m. Parents walk through their children's schedules and hear from teachers about the year ahead.
- Schedules available in the commons beginning at 6:15 p.m.
- PTO providing dinner for teachers and looking for volunteers to help set up at 6 p.m.
- PTO will have an information table in the commons to collect dues, donation forms, volunteer forms, and to distribute buzz books.
- PTO will give out plastic CHS cups filled with flavored popcorn.
- PTO chairs filmed a video that attendees will see in first hour class.

- **Homecoming Bonfire:** September 26 at 7 p.m.

- Parents are encouraged to attend the bonfire at Gay Field. Students will play spirit-week games, and parents will socialize (a bit out of the way) in the Parents' Tent. PTO is looking for donations for baked goods. More information to come in September. Contact Stephanie Brown to help ([zetcher@aol.com](mailto:zetcher@aol.com)) or Janet Hollocher ([jrhollocher@aol.com](mailto:jrhollocher@aol.com))

- **PTO Closet:** If you need items for a PTO event, please check the PTO closet before purchasing new. The closet is located between the vending machines in the cafeteria. Inside, you can find:
  - newly purchased 48-inch tablecloths, made to fit the tables in the commons (25 each of royal, orange and white). Custodians will wash the cloths and return them to the closet. Contact Jamie or Celeste for more information about how to reserve them and pick them up.
  - Disposable cups, napkins and utensils
  - Vases and bowls for centerpieces

#### 4. **Principal's Report: Dan Gutchewsky**

- **Athletics practices** began on August 4.
- **New employees:** CHS hired 10 new staff members, including James Gladstone (present), new activities director.
- **New Students:** Freshman orientation and new student orientation were successfully held on August 11.
- **Link Crew**, a new leadership group, gives upperclassman opportunities to be mentor new students. Link Crew members had 3 full days of training. They are already having a positive impact on the culture at school and have made incoming Freshman feel welcome.
- **The Power of Relationships:** Each year, CHS students are asked to write down and submit the names of adults in the building with whom they have a strong, positive relationship. The data is compiled and shared with the teachers. This helps the faculty identify kids who do not feel connected and actively reach out to them. Of 660 Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, only 17 said they did not feel connected.
- **Security:** A new welcome desk is located just inside the Globe entrance. All other doors are locked between 7:30 and 4, but can be unlocked by students with their ID cards. Swipe pads have been placed on 5 commonly used entrances. This new system helps balance the freedom of Open Campus with the need to have a secure environment.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences** will be held at the end of first quarter. This is the first time High School parents have had the opportunity to conference with teachers.
- **Homecoming Week** week is the last full week of September. Because of the schedule of home games and the desire to work around Jewish high holidays, some Homecoming Week activities will take place the week before Homecoming, and will take a break for Rosh Hashanah. Elementary schools have been invited to participate in the parade.
- **Homecoming Dance:** PTO will be in charge of concessions and the coat check, and is taking volunteers.
- **Schedule changes:** The number of students needing schedule changes was lower than usual this year.
- **Student Government Elections:** During the week of August 25, student will elect 7 Student Government representatives and 4 officers per grade.
- **Questions/Answers with Principal**

**Q:** How is the school discussing the situation in Ferguson?

**A:** The Black Student Union and Social Justice Club are joining with Straub's to raise funds for Michael Brown's family. Michael Brown's mother works at Straubs, and many of the faculty and administrators know her.

**Q:** How many Normandy students attend CHS this year?

**A:** Nine. We had 12 last year. One did not continue. Two graduated. The others have continued. No new students were accepted because grades 9-12 are full. Currently, there are 878 students at CHS.

**Q:** Will there be a PowderPuff football game this year.

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** How many students attend various dances?

**A:** 700 attend Homecoming (70-80 percent participation rate);  
400 attended Prom (only Juniors and Seniors can attend.)

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Jayne Howard

The following is an accounting of PTO finances. These funds have been collected from 162 families:

- \$9,750 for Funds for Excellence
- \$4,200 PTO Dues
- \$3,150 for Staff Appreciation
- \$2,100 for the After-Prom Celebration

6. **PTO Communications:** Ruthellen Osherow

The new CHS debuted last winter, and it includes a PTO page. If you have anything to post, please email it to Ruthellen: [ruthelleno@gmail.com](mailto:ruthelleno@gmail.com).

7. **Committee Reports**

● **After- Prom Celebration (Recap):** Lori Elliott

Prom (and the After-Prom Celebration) were held on April 25. The PTO sponsored event took place at Moolah Theatre from 11 p.m. – 2 a.m. and included bowling, karaoke, casino games, a photo booth, movies and raffle prizes (including TVs, ipads, Cardinal's tickets, etc..) The event is paid for by a portion of the prom ticket and by extra funds raised by volunteer. Lori Elliott and Lisa Avery chaired the event, which involved dozens of volunteers and chaperones. 230 kids attended (of the 330 who bought prom tickets). The 2015 After-Prom Celebration will be chaired by Lori Elliott and Jane Frederich. Prom will be at Randall Gallery this year, and After-Prom will likely be at Moolah Theatre again. If you would like to help, let them know.

● **Graduation Picnic:** Susan Casteel  
No Report

- **Buzz Books:** Sally Harrison  
Buzz Books are hot off the press. Missy McCormick, a volunteer parent, helped the communication department import data from Power Schools, which simplified the process. Buzz Books can be picked up at Open House in the Commons.
- **Staff Appreciation:** Tracee Holmes and Kristie Skor
  - Committee coordinates 6 or 7 events during the year.
  - **Boxed Dinner at Open House:** Committee is providing 87 boxed dinners from Strattons for faculty and staff before Open House.
  - **Dinner during parent teacher conferences:** Chairs will be reaching out to parents for help. Look for information the website. Happy about large number of people interested in volunteering. Many parents have expressed interest in helping with this committee, and chairs are thankful. All are welcome to be involved.

## 8. New Business

- **Golf Tournament:** Lori Elliott and Sally Harrison
  - Date: October 11 at Gateway National Golf Course
  - Continental Breakfast at 7 a.m.; Shotgun start at 8 a.m.
  - \$500 for a team of 4; \$125 for individual player. Fee includes breakfast, golf and lunch.
  - Sponsorships are available: (Tribute ad for \$50; Hole Sponsor for \$150; 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Sponsor for \$300; Corporate Sponsor for \$1,000)
  - Money supports athletic teams (to offset the 43 percent decrease in athletic budgets) and scholarships for student athletes.
  - At the next PTO meeting, we will discuss sponsorship of the event.
  - Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Sally Harrison.

## 9. Announcements

- **YES (Youth Employment Services)** operates out of CHS and will publicize job opportunities for teenagers. If you know anyone who needs temporary or part time employment from a HS students, please contact Kathy Lochhead Poor [klochhead@aol.com](mailto:klochhead@aol.com) or Manu Paruchuri at [manu\\_paruchuri@yahoo.com](mailto:manu_paruchuri@yahoo.com)
- **Email blast:** If you need to send an email to every family in a grade (for example, about Parent Connections), you can do so using an email blast. All announcements must be reviewed by Clayton Schools Communications Department. Questions on how to use email blast can be directed to Jamie Marvel [jpmarvel@hotmail.com](mailto:jpmarvel@hotmail.com).

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Patty Bloom, PTO secretary