

# MINUTES

## Clayton High School PTO

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10/7/2019 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Stephanie Abbajay, Co-President

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### In Attendance

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Stephanie Abbajay, Katie Sandquist, Gina Bernstein, Gina Nakis, Celeste Gillette, Paula Sparks, Peter Sparks, Diane Willingham, Kim Whittle, Rula Winings, Alex Berger III

Dan Gutchewsky, Principal

Co-President Stephanie Abbajay opened the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

### Principal's Report

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Dan Gutchewsky reported on the following:

- Great homecoming dance and festivities - approx 600 kids attended the dance.
- First Clayton Conversations took place. It is the last Wednesday of each month - 31 min block. The kids will be in the same groups for remainder of year. Roughly 20 kids and 2 adults in each group. First meeting was just logistics and then surveyed kids about what to talk about going forward. Top 5 selections all fell into social/emotional: Anxiety/Stress, Mental wellness, Homework load, etc.
- Conferences coming up next week - 511 families already signed up.
- Hidden in Plain View - will be at Wydown this year on Tuesday of conference week.
- Fall play - Romeo and Juliet - end of October.
- CHS Robotics Chili Cook Off Night - November 1, 5:30-8 in the Commons. Anyone can attend. Adults: \$15, faculty/students: \$10, Ages 5-12: \$5, Under 5: free.
- Sunday, October 27 - 8th grade open house - 12-2pm
- State legislature changed the start date for 2019-2020 school year and classes can't start before August 24 2020 - if just push calendar back will be going until Jun 11/12. This effects semester classes. We could lengthen the day a little to take off days at the end of the year. Dan asked how important parents feel it is to have finals before winter break. People voiced that they felt like it was very important. Someone asked what other schools are doing. Many are just pushing the calendar back. The school is looking into the daily schedule and ways that they could make adjustments. Dan is talking with PRC, Principal Advisory, and a parent committee.
- Parent coffee was a couple weeks ago and it was well attended.

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## Committee Reports

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**Staff Appreciation**, presented by Gina Nakis and Rula Winings:

October 16 is the next event staff dinner for parent/teacher conferences. Chartwells is making pizzas, sign up genius has gone out for salads and fruit. About 12 of 20 spots filled so far.

**Homecoming Bonfire**, presented by Celeste Gillette:

We had lots of donations. Rain may have scared off some parents but still had really good attendance.

**Funds for Excellence:**

Thank you to everyone that has donated to FFE this year. So far we have contributed to the following groups:

- Science Olympiad supplies
- Outside classroom furniture for space in the quad
- Books for - Spanish language library, parent/teacher/student book club, English students, math department, social studies
- Vietnam Day
- Cricut machine for DECA and fashion
- Robotics
- Athletics podcast
- Band - commissioned original music and bringing Mary Badham to perform a narration
- Math software
- Screen for displaying menu at the concession stand at Stuber
- School store - partnering with clubs, classes, etc to make customized apparel. Student led.
- Students to Iowa to work the caucuses in Feb 2020.

**Parent Connections:**

- The Freshman class just had a social and will be planning a counselor event for February.
- The Juniors had a social last Thursday that was not well attended. They will have a College Counselor event on October 23 at 6pm as well as another event in the new year.
- The Seniors had a social on September 13 that was well attended. Also had a tent at homecoming. Will be planning another event for the spring.

### **Volunteers:**

We are always looking for volunteers on all committees. Please sign up through the link on the CHS PTO website or contact Katie Sandquist ([katiesandquist@gmail.com](mailto:katiesandquist@gmail.com)) or Stephanie Abbajay ([sabbajay@gmail.com](mailto:sabbajay@gmail.com)).

PTO tablecloths are available to use in the school for sports banquets and other events. Please email Katie or Stephanie to reserve them.

### **PTO Council:**

- Clayton Education Foundation event - April 24/25 - asking that other school groups don't schedule something during this time.
- Communications - please give 24 hour notice for email blasts.
- Michelle Fohey ([michellefohey@claytonschools.net](mailto:michellefohey@claytonschools.net)) is the new Chartwells contact.
- Company matching information is now on the website.

### **Speech and Debate**, presented by Celeste Gillette:

There is an event coming up November 22-23 and they need volunteers to judge. Anyone can do it. No previous experience required.

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### Treasurer Report

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Gina Bernstein presented the current PTO Budget and account balance.

- The Simmons Checking account has \$64,640.99
- We are much closer to our budgeted goal. About \$2,000 short.
- We plan to do one more push possibly in December.

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### New Business

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### **Clayton Education Foundation**, presented by Alex Berger III::

- CEF is a separate entity from school district. They focus on fundraising and giving grants to teachers. Every school/teacher is encouraged to submit a request. Last year CEF gave \$65K in grants, this year \$68K in grants.
- Going to have a more visible annual campaign.
- Special events - alumni barbeque at homecoming.
- In the spring they will have Hall of Fame Event - nominations from alumni or friends of alumni. Started including teachers a few years ago. Friday night at the auditorium at CHS. Saturday night at St Louis club will be a gala. Last year Andy Cohen hosted the event at the Ritz.
- Go to website - [claytoneducationfoundation.org](http://claytoneducationfoundation.org) to see the video about previous donations.

- They have donated to Engineering, Theater, Choir, Sewing, Robotics, Music, Visual Arts and much more.

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### Next Meeting

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11/4/2019 6:30 PM, Clayton High School Library