

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL PTO
Wednesday, November 1, 2023

A meeting of the PTO of Clayton High School was held as scheduled pursuant to due notice on November 1, 2023, 12:00 pm CST, at Meeting Room C of the Center of Clayton and via Zoom conference.

The following members of the Board were present at the meeting: Suzy Oge, Co-President; Jena Schaumburg, Co-President; John Holmes, Co-Treasurer; Joanna Dinsmore, Communications; Dr. Dan Gutchewsky, Principal

The following ex officio advisors and members were present: T'Shon Young, Jennifer McKeown, Jenny Abeles, Tanya Harding, Carol Kuo, Soleita Lee, Eric Nielsen, Basak Saner, Amy Wilson, Alan Wolf
Present on Zoom: Veeda Holmes (Co-Treasurer), Michelle Cissna, Laurel Harrington, Kelley Karandjeff, Erin Linnenbringer, Susan Nielsen

I. Welcome

II. Special Guest Speaker: Jennifer McKeown, CHS Wellness Coordinator

The Wellness Center is under construction and is planned to open in January. A staff group gathered to give input for the center and how to build. Wellness Youth Council established by students applying to be a part of the center and give them a voice. Both groups meet monthly; groups are up and running. Going into classrooms so students know where the center is and what it's about, to create dialogue and establish it among them. Jennifer is a CHS grad (and Wydown and Meramec), so Clayton is near and dear to her even though she's new to CHS.

The Center is planned as a system of support for all students; a drop-in space for students to come during the day and regulate and get back to class, or a place to come if in crisis to get support. There will be opportunities to for one-on-one support. There will be multiple tiers of support: First, for those experiencing stress and anxiety who need to re-regulate. Second, for those in crisis and need intensive support/additional resources. Third is support groups, and fourth is as a hub for community partners.

Questions: What is being communicated to teachers regarding how to manage students missing class time for support? Councils will help guide policies and communications out to staff and students for what its purpose is and is not. Nutritionist connection? Support for eating disorders? Yes, the wellness center can support these needs. Also will support students struggling with Clayton's high-achieving culture. A Wellness Outreach Specialist and Jen will be in the Center, but counselors will be accessible. Kelly (via Zoom) recommended the book *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic* by Jennifer Wallace.

Schools in California with wellness centers were visited. All were different, including mental wellness but more overall wellness, sexual health, STD testing, dentists, etc. A survey will be used to help identify and cater to our needs and allow it to evolve and adapt.

Current issues include lack of kindness, more bullying, a stigma around mental health. Center will help create a space to share feelings and understand each other; equip students to listen, act, and connect to support. Tenth graders are being given this instruction right now. Center will be a neutral space

III. Principal's Report: Dr. Gutchewsky

Homecoming: dance had over 600 kids in Stuber; the juniors won the Golden Greyhound in an upset. Parent-teacher conferences: 2,063 conferences were held, about 1100 online, about 900 in person. The fill rate for online conferences was 65%, in person was 82%; based on feedback there is need for both in person and virtual options. Question: Consider having Wydown and CHS in-person conferences on

different days? Yes; internal conflicts made that impossible this year, but in future these will be on separate days.

CHS is in the middle of a school improvement process involving a Cognia survey. CHS is the longest-accredited school in the Midwest via AdvancedEd, North Central third-party school accreditation; process involves multiple stages, parent surveys, student surveys, staff surveys; comparison of data points with other schools; structured observations of classrooms. Cognia's materials are nationally normed, which allows for benchmarking. Please fill out the survey. About 150 surveys have been completed. Survey closes on November 8. Cognia report will be publicly available.

Fall play, Metamorphosis, was fantastic; all shows sold out. Kudos to Kelly Weber and David Blake and all involved for their work.

IV. Activities Report: T'Shon Young

Debate teams have their fall classic in a couple weeks. Need judges on Nov. 17 and 18 to support; please reach out to debate coach.

So many fall team successes! Boys soccer will be playing for championship at 5 pm at Gay Field for boys districts. Boys swim team took second in conference and have a lot who qualified for state. Girls team won districts to state this weekend. Golf were conference champs, two qualified for state. Volleyball girls won districts, went on to sectional and won, and lost in quarterfinal. Softball ended season as champions. Tennis team are state champions. Cross-country won districts and are competing in state.

Winter sports are gearing up.

Question about updated announcements of winning games. All of the information should be on the first page of the Athletics website.

V. Treasurer's Report: John Holmes

John Holmes was introduced as new treasurer; Veeda is co-treasurer. Money minder account is now reconciled, and we are up-to-date. Annual budget is \$29,650. We have raised 8K so far, about 27% towards goal. Cash balance is \$61,680; considered reserves. Any ideas on how to close to gap to close out fundraising? Only one reminder from CHS; good to have social media, postcard as a stand-alone/separate ask; mention importance of what gifts go toward, what does impact look like, your generosity allows us to do "xyz," listing the activities each price point covers, e.g., PTO is funding robotics.

VI. Committee Reports

Staff appreciation: Holiday luncheon, 12/20. The last event was a dinner for in-person conference day: Tres Reyes provided food and helped subsidized cost; had the most positive feedback ever. Donuts on Friday for staff.

Parent Connections: Junior parents will have an informal Q/A session with counseling; part 2 is a social at Herbies, and part 3 is a virtual fundraiser for prom funds. Senior parents social at Clayton Winehouse, November 7, 6-8 pm .

Clayton Cares update to coordinate with social worker to help with specific needs.

Homecoming bonfire update: Went really well, with a lot more parents than expected.

VII. Other Business: Speaker requests are welcome.

The next PTO meeting will be held on December 6, 2023, at 12:00 pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jena Schaumburg/Joanna Dinsmore