

# MINUTES

## Clayton High School PTO

11/4/2019 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Katie Sandquist, Co-President

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### In Attendance

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Katie Sandquist, Gina Bernstein, Susan Brown, Melissa Clark, Gina Nakis, Celeste Gillette, Paula Sparks, Peter Sparks, Diane Willingham, Nancy Donohoo, Sonny Buttar, Stefanie Litteken, Andrea Denny, Falicia Lewis, Angela Quigless

Dan Gutchewsky, Principal; T'Shon Young, Student Activities and Athletics; Carolyn Blair, College Counselor

Co-President Katie Sandquist opened the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

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### Principal's Report

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Dan Gutchewsky reported on the following:

- Boys Soccer won their first game in districts tonight. Next game will be Thursday at 6pm.
- First quarter conferences went well and set a record for most conferences held.
- Course Exams will be Dec 3, 4. Black out days will be just before finals. Teachers cannot give major exams or projects on those days to allow students to prepare for finals. There is a dedicated day for make up exams. Final exam subject days are rotated every year in a counter clockwise manner.
- AP exam registrations have been completed. This year students must sign up for spring exams in the fall. It is still possible to register but a \$40 late fee applies.
- The school calendar is still under discussion. Should have a draft for 2020-2021 by the end of this month with a vote in December. We are trying to keep finals prior to winter break. Tentatively, we are looking at a start date of Aug 24 for students, Aug 10 for fall sports and June 3 or 4 for last day of school.
- We've had two Clayton Conversations both with a focus of team building. After surveying students, 5 or 6 topics have been selected for future conversations. There will be a focus on stress as a topic and strategies to manage it.
- The Parent Speaker Series starts Tuesday with an event led by Dr Tim Bono on helping your child develop resilience in the face of adversity. CHS Auditorium 7pm.

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## Committee Reports

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### **Activities**, presented by T'Shon Young:

- The Varsity Volleyball team won 2nd place in Districts last week which was the first time in 30 years.
- The Soccer team and Cross Country team are breaking records and still competing this week. Cross Country will be going to State.
- Today is the first day of winter sports.
- November 22-23 is the Clayton Fall Classic for Speech and Debate. They need volunteers to judge. Clayton students are hosting and do not compete.
- Freshman Finals Festival is December 2.
- Winter Musical "Wizard of Oz" auditions are this week. Call backs are Wednesday.
- November 14 at 9:30am the Eastern District Court of Appeals will be conducting oral arguments here at CHS. Government classes will be attending.

### **Staff Appreciation**, presented by Gina Nakis:

Parent Teacher conferences dinner went well. Next event will be just before the winter break.

### **Parent Connections:**

The Juniors had a College Event that was well attended.

### **After Prom**, presented by Melissa Clark:

We are still hoping to use the City Museum but need to raise an additional \$4,000 to fund it. The All in Coalition is not able to give a grant. Since Prom is going to be held at Windows on Washington it would work well to have after prom at the City Museum since it is so close by. There was discussion about how to raise the money. Possibly an ask will go out with the PTO email in December.

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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 \$65,296.83.
- The paypal account has \$100.00.
- We had funds go out for Science Olympiad and Student Planners during the last month.
- We plan to do one more push possibly in December.

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## New Business

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Presented by Carolyn Blair and Sonny Buttar:

There is an opportunity to fill a need within Clayton High School to assist students who could benefit from ACT/SAT tutoring but can not financially pursue it. The tutorial classes are structured differently based on initial test scores and students can benefit significantly from attending classes with other students seeking a similar instruction level and focus. Just a one or two point increase can drastically alter the future path of a student who is struggling to meet the minimum entrance requirements as well as opening up opportunities for scholarships that otherwise might not have been awarded.

Carolyn has negotiated with an organization to teach a class of up to 15 senior students with the goal to retest in February. The total cost needed to run the class is \$2500.

The Principal's Care Fund has already contributed \$2700 for a previous tutoring needs.

There was discussion about if the PTO could contribute money but there currently is no discretionary money in the budget. If we were to propose giving money to the cause, we would need to list the proposal in the minutes and give notice of a vote at the next meeting which is not until January. Since we do not have excess funds and the vote would be too late, there was not a motion to fund the ask. The PTO will however, include this need in their email to parents asking for more donations.

Anyone interested in donating to help fund this tutorial class, please contact Carolyn Blair or send a check made out to Clayton High School PTO with the memo line specifically stating it is for the Care Fund/Test Prep Class.

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## Next Meeting

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A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gina Bernstein and seconded by Angela Quigless.

1/6/2020 6:30 PM, Clayton High School Library