

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL PTO

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

A meeting of the PTO of Clayton High School was held as scheduled pursuant to due notice on May 1, 2024, 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; Joanna Dinsmore, Communications; Robin Leonard, Secretary, Dr. Dan Gutchewsky, Principal.

The following ex officio advisors and members were present: T'Shon Young, Jane Cai, Bridget McAndrew, Susan Yang, Emily Whitney, Jenny Ables.

Present on Zoom: Laura Pierson, Amy Wilson, Michelle Cissna, Susan, Pamela Lyss-Lerman, 2 unnamed

I. Welcome & Introductions

Jena Schaumburg opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the school year.

II. Presidents' Report

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Jenny Ables motioned/Bridget McAndrew seconded.

Tonight is the PTO Parent Connections Happy Hour from 5p – 7p at the Clayton Winehouse. All parents are invited. Please join us if you are interested and available.

The next meeting of the Parent Teacher Book Club will now be held on Wednesday, May 7th at 6:30pm at Suzy's house. The book up for discussion is *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie. If you are interested in attending, email Suzy for her address.

The PTO slate of officers for the 2024-25 school year was presented and approved. We still have an opening for the Communications Director. Since Joanna has done this for the past few years, she will be a great resource for anyone interested in getting involved with PTO. Please reach out to Joanna if you are interested in learning more.

Robin gave an update on Parent Connections. On the Happy Hour, we have had about 40 parents sign up to attend. It is an inexpensive event so we hopeful this provides parents with an opportunity to meet new people as the school year is winding down.

On Parent Connections for next year, Robin plans to meet with all the Parent Connections volunteers at the beginning of the school to talk about the new components of the role as well as schedule all 1st Semester activities.

III. Treasurer's report: John Holmes was unable to attend the meeting, so Jena presented the current treasure's report on his behalf. There are still a few outstanding items to resolve on the 2024-25 budget so it will be presented for approval at the first meeting in August.

There are two changes we are looking to make for the next calendar year. The first is we plan to add the PTO forms to PowerSchool forms section to encourage parents to complete with other annual forms. We also plan to stress percentage of families participating rather than a suggested dollar amount. If anyone has questions on the budget, please see John.

IV. Principal's Report: Dr. Gutchewsky with T'Shon Young

Dr. Gutchewsky shared we continue to in an extremely busy time of the year with less than a month left in the school year.

The testing we had last month for the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior classes taking the SAT suite of tests, the PSAT9, PSAT10 and the SAT went well. This is the first year that the SAT tests have been administered electronically. One of the advantages to this is that the test is now adaptive to the student which makes the testing time shorter. An adaptive test changes the questions on the test based on the ability of the student. For example, if a student answers questions correctly, they will continue to get harder and harder questions as the test goes on. This allows for shorter testing and less test fatigue.

The Junior-Senior prom was a great success with close to 350 tickets sold. A couple of days before the deadline to purchase tickets, only 80 tickets were sold so there was a last-minute rush of purchases. Typically, we have about 325 tickets sold so we are pleased with the higher participation rate. And Dr. Gutchewsky is happy to report there were no disciplinary events at prom this year.

Prom was the same night as the Clayton Foundation's Gala and the induction of new members of the CHS Hall of Fame. Dr. Gutchewsky spent the evening between the two events, so it was a grand night all around.

We are in the process of finishing up the last of state testing this week. And AP exams start next week.

On May 17th, we will be holding our traditional Senior Sendoff. More details will be coming soon but the activities include kickball tournament, a senior video, cap & gown pickup and the Senior parade. Graduation is May 23rd at the Chavez Center. This is always a fun time as we celebrate our outgoing students.

We wrap up the year with finals on May 28 – 30. It has been a successful year by all measures.

Q: National Honor Society: It changed this year. Can you tell us what changes?

We inducted 99 kids into National Honor Society last month as we revamped the timeline of the program. Historically, NHS has been awarded during a student's Senior year however this timing did not allow students to include in college applications. So, the decision was made to invite students to apply to NHS at the end of their sophomore year. Each NHS class will have about 30 students.

Details on the requirements for CHS are that a student have above a 3.6 GPA to receive an invitation to apply. A student will need to complete required 10 hours per semester volunteer hours as well as will be

evaluated on character and leadership by the faculty. Once accepted in NHS, students will continue their volunteerism through a peer tutoring program.

Q. Dress code at awards ceremony. It was suggested by several parents to consider a dress code suggestion/requirement at the annual awards ceremony. At this year's ceremony, there were several students in extremely casual clothing. Dr. Gutchewsky said they would take this under advisement for next year.

Q. What is the date of Homecoming for this fall? There are lots of challenges in finding a good date for homecoming due to religious holidays, national testing days, Labor Day as well as coordinating with Brentwood School District since we have a joint football team. There are very few options when setting the date.

Q: There is a need for CHS to communicate language needs (in terms of language classes needed for college applications) to 2nd language (ESL) speakers earlier, like freshman year

Q: Re. NHS application: Is there enough communication to students/parents? parents got one email; students' notice was during school day (could communicate that to parents). Need to balance independence/self-autonomy of students vs. the need for important info/repercussions if they're missed. Flag for parent connections.

Q: Request for important dates in each month to be flagged/distributed to parents in August. Student planner online lists all important dates; it's posted in August. Those dates could be pulled out; is currently available. Jenny will compile list of dates.

Q: Seal of biliteracy: talk to department chair retesting timing issues. The testing is optional. Students can take more than one test (more than one language). This is a newer program in state of MO. Originally CHS offered the tests only in languages we teach, but now we certify 6+ other languages.

Suggestion: a list of upcoming opt-ins for students (e.g., NHS, seal of biliteracy) would be helpful for parents.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Leonard, Secretary