

# MINUTES

## Clayton High School PTO

8/19/2019 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, Susan Brown, Melissa Clark, Stefanie Litteken, Lois Stemmler, Susan Kronemer, Diane Willingham, Sharon Deen, Stephen Blake, Julie Sandler, Allie Rossani, Robin Leonard, Alison Hoette, Rula Winings, Caroline Early, Angela Quigless, Robyn Sher, Rebecca Kujawa, Christy Breckenridge, Nancy Donohoo, Deborah LaQuinta, Catherine Martin, Stephanie Vallo, Valerie Brinkman

Dan Gutchewsky, Principal; T'Shon Young, Coordinator of Athletics and Activities

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

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### Principal's Report

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Dan Gutchewsky reported on the following:

- New Staff this year:
  - Assistant Principal - Dr. Regina Moore
  - Social Studies - Shauna Aningo
  - Social Studies - Danielle DuHadway
  - Social Studies - Amy Doyle
  - Math - Daniel Dorsey
  - Math - Michelle Kondracki
  - Vocal/Choir - Joseph Schoen
  - English - Dana Moniger
  - Science Biomed PLTW - Brad Buck
  - Counseling Admin Asst - Fay Orr
  - English/Learning Center - Claire Miller
  - English - Raychelle Martin
  - Spanish - Angie Guzman
  - Nurse - Lisa McDado
  - Technology Intern - John Nilos
  - Department Assistant - TBD
- Current Staff in New Positions:
  - Athletic Director - Steve Hutson
  - Coordinator of Athletics and Activities - T'Shon Young
  - Spanish - Micah Johnson

Counseling Admin Asst - Jill Cowin  
Instructional Coach (Secondary) - Janet Crews  
PE/Health - Buddy Sodemann  
Chinese - Patrick Mullen  
French - Christine Darling

- Enrollment this year is currently 915 which is 20 more than last year. (917 is the past record high)
- The class schedule this year has been modified to include one additional minute of passing time in-between classes for a total of 5 minutes. We have also added daily “Greyhound Time” in-between 2nd and 3rd hour. It is 20 minutes of free time to meet with teachers or attend mental wellness activities.
- At the end of September we will implement C Squared. It is a 30 minute time period on the last Wednesday of each month for Clayton conversations. It will be student led with topics selected by students. There will be two adult staff members in each discussion group. There will be a student advisory group to develop plans and the students will co-facilitate the discussions.
- Recently the state approved changes to the school calendar and how the length of the year is calculated. Two years ago, it was calculated by both days and hours. Moving forward it will be calculated by hours only. Next year the school year cannot begin more than 10 days before Labor Day. In doing so, that creates two unequal semesters and so we are looking at how to address the 21 day difference with the possibility of needing to add to the length of the school day.
- Fall sports are underway and the Football team has 45 students signed up (15 more than last year). The possible cooperative arrangement with Maplewood - Richmond Heights Football team did not get approved by MRH school board in time so will revisit the possibility next year.
- Open House is Tuesday, August 20 at 7pm. Freshman Open House is at 6pm.
- Principal Coffees will continue this year. Times and dates TBA.

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## Committee Reports

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**Activities Report**, presented by T’Shon Young:

- Picture Day is August 22 for Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors.
- Jostens will be present on August 27 to take ring orders for Juniors and Seniors. Caps and Gowns can be ordered then for seniors if they have not already done so.
- Homecoming is September 21.
- Homecoming Spirit Week is September 15-21.
- The Junior Challenge is lead by Seniors and is on September 12.

**Staff Appreciation:**

We will be serving teachers lunch from Amighetti’s on August 20.

**Homecoming Bonfire**, presented by Stefanie Litteken:

The bonfire is on Friday, September 20. There will be a parent tent and we need volunteers to work the tent and provide baked treats. This is a fun night and parents are encouraged to attend. A sign-up genius will be sent out soon.

**Parent Connections:**

- Each grade will have one social event and one event with the counselors during the year. Each grade level has \$400 in the budget for these events but will need prior approval by the PTO if any items/costs are over that amount.
- The Senior Class will have their first social event on Friday, September 13.

**Volunteers:**

- Melissa Clark has volunteered to run After Prom.
- 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)).

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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 \$47,285.84
- The Paypal account has \$9,927.22
- So far 111 parents have donated to Funds for Excellence. Last year 240 parents donated.
- There is a line item showing \$988.40 in the budget for the the Senior Class Parent Connections. It is money that they raised last year's clothing sales.
- Motion to approve the Budget was made by Angela Quigless and was seconded by Lois Stemmler.

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**New Business**

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- The Buzz Book will be online this year. Available sometime in September.
- Adzick Field is under construction. November 1 is the hopeful finish date. The former mulch pile will soon be a parking lot.
- Renovation construction at the Center of Clayton is currently affecting some sports teams. The swim team will continue swimming at Shaw Park pool as long as the weather allows. The athletic department is working with Ladue and MICDS to accommodate swimmers later in the season.
- When the Center of Clayton renovations are finished, CHS will have it's own dedicated weight lifting room.

- Donations to the PTO are 100% deductible. Please encourage Corporate Matches.

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### Next Meeting

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A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lois Stemmler and seconded by Stephanie Litteken.

9/9/2019 6:30 PM, Clayton High School Library