



Clayton High School PTO

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL PTO

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

A meeting of the PTO of Clayton High School was held as scheduled pursuant to due notice on September 6, 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; Joanna Dinsmore, Communications; Dr. Dan Gutchewsky, Principal

The following ex officio advisors and members were present: T'Shon Young, Jenny Abeles, Liz Chung, Kimberly Gaddy, Stephanie Gross, Tanya Hayden, Layne Helmering, John Holmes, Carol Kuo, Tara Lloyd, Sheryl Lyss, Bridget McAndrew, Laura Pierson, Basak Saner, Amy Wilson, Heather Wohl, Alan Wolf, Kris Yoon, Kim Yurkovich

Present on Zoom: Maggie Hanson, Jen Schafer, Grace Lee, Brandy Lippert, Emily Kirk, Xiuli Zhang, Pam Washington, Lisa Holwitt, Tahnee Jackson

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Principal's Report: Dr. Gutchewsky

- Sports started August 7, including Clayton's first co-op program, the Brentwood/Clayton football team. Several new teachers this year, but fewer than usual.
- Open House: good turnout, positive feedback. In future, possibly move freshman parent night to a separate night before school starts to enable an earlier start and end time for Open House. Staff appreciation food, Dewey's pizza, etc. was appreciated.
- New Wellness Center in the building; hope to be fully open by January. A clearinghouse to connect students to social workers/support groups; a place for students to take a break, learn strategies to self-regulate, get the resources they need. Will incorporate some organized programming, parent outreach.
- Upcoming events: Parent-teacher conferences week of October 16: combo of virtual and in person; Wednesday, 10/18, in-person day. Junior PSAT October 18: online, for all juniors. 10/18 off-campus sophomore challenge.

Q&A with Dr. Gutchewsky

- From Suzy Ogé- Please explain the new class schedule process improvement that you will implement this year to ensure that schedule corrections happen before school starts. Some schedule issues were reported this year, particularly among juniors. Typically, although students select classes in January, final schedules aren't available until the week before school starts, in part due to CHS's many single-course offerings making scheduling challenging. Next year we will change the process: students will select classes in January; then the master schedule will be created instead of waiting until counselors have met with all students. Counselors will meet with each student to discuss their actual schedules in April and May to resolve any conflicts and



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ideally finalize schedules before summer break. Only new students and minor tweaks would need to be processed over the summer

III. Activities Report: T'Shon Young

- Homecoming: week-long event, week of October 8, led by Student Council, class officers, T'shon. Many activities; Friday night (no school) bonfire/activities on Gay field; Saturday 10/14 morning parade, afternoon football game, and evening dance at school.
- A student activities brochure will be available with club information/dates/times/sponsor.
- The athletic fields and Stuber Gym have two new digital scoreboards that can flash announcements, play hype videos, etc. CHS has a great facility!

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A new treasurer will be appointed soon. The PTO bank account needs to be updated to two current officers. The new 23-24 budget was voted on and approved at the May 2023 PTO meeting.

V. Committee Reports

- Amy Wilson (with Emily Whitney): staff appreciation chair: Supplied food for teachers for the Open House (Dewey's pizza, salad, cookies, etc.); they will supply donuts for teachers this Friday.
- Clayton Connections: Stephanie Gross: A Clayton sophomore parent connections event is planned for Oct. 24 (new date). Fall events for freshman, junior, and senior parents are being planned.. The budget for each grade has been increased to \$650 for the year for two events(last year, the bulk was spent on the fall social event). The spring event includes both a grade relevant topic and speaker as well as a social aspect. Reminder that PTO money cannot be used to purchase alcohol; don't publish photos showing alcohol.
- PTO will sponsor a Homecoming Bonfire hospitality tent again this year. All parents are welcome, and the parent area is far from the student activities. Jenny Abeles is leading the committee and 2 additional parents volunteered.
- New international families liaison this year, Basak Saner.
- Funds for Excellence chair Bridget McAndrew: simplified process so there's just one donation option this year, plus the option to fund Clayton Cares.

VI. Other Business

- A PTO parent survey will go out soon, with a raffle for a small reward for respondents.
- Question from a parent concerned about bullying and if it could be included in the survey: what percentage of students have experienced it, and what can we do? Perhaps invite wellness coordinator to address this via speakers; the school will be able to source more info on this via other avenues. Dr. Gutchewsky responded that two other surveys are planned to go out directly from the school related to social emotional learning, etc. and would be more appropriate for the topic.
- Question to Dr. Gutchewsky about the fights that took place in the building. Dr. Gutchewsky replied that there are a handful each year, and while earlier than typical, not yet numbering higher than the norm. Social media generates more attention to the incidents.



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- Question to Dr. Gutchewsky from a parent with concern expressed about drug use in bathrooms. Dr. Gutchewsky replied that staff monitor bathrooms periodically during passing periods. The parent asked what to coach her student to do in this recurring situation. One parent suggested perhaps the All In Clayton Coalition can address the issue.
- Food & Essential Drive, hosted by PTO Council, to be held during parent-teacher conferences (week of October 16) when parents come in to the schools.

The next PTO meeting will be held on October 4, 2023, at 12:00 pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Dinsmore, for Robin Leonard, PTO Secretary