

MINUTES

Clayton High School PTO

9/14/2020 6:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by Stephanie Abbajay, Co-President*

In Attendance

Stephanie Abbajay, Valerie Brinkman, Dan Gutchewsky, Jeff O, Katie Sandquist, Casye Butler, Gary Pierson, TShon Young, Paula Sparks, Harry Blase, Gina Nakis, Kasandra Hodge, Alan Wolf, Robin Leonard, Jessica Niehaus, Beth Deutsch, Gina Bernstein, Alan Wolf, Mike Sansky, Adrienne Outlaw Piston, Sheila Stewart, Celeste Gillette, Audrey Aranha, Nancy Clare Morgan, Kristin Fauss, Andrew Nadin, Ronne Turner, Aaron Fausz, Stephanie Gross, Wendy Li, Maria Kremsreiter, Kim Hurst, Jonathan Sheehan, Kimberly Whittle, Noelle Collins, Amy Wilson, Sadie Wohl, Richard Kest, Miranda Jones, Eunyoe Ro, Laurel Harrington, Silvia Mutis, Nicole Whitesell, Sabrina Silvers, Jonathan Sheehan, Julia Williams, Juanita Wilson

Welcome – Stephanie Abbajay and Casye Butler

Welcome to the first meeting of the year!

Old Business

Approval of [2020-2021 Officers & Chairs](#)

No questions

Gina Nakis - motion to approve

Casye Butler -- second

Motion passes

Approval of [2020-2021 Budget](#)

Questions:

Did everything we didn't spend last year roll over to this year - Gina Nakis

Yes, money rolled over, but items are funded at same levels as last year – Stephanie Abbajay

Gina Bernstein - motion to approve

Mike Sansky - second

Motion passes

Treasurer Report by Gina Bernstein

Current balance - \$47,438.47

Paypal Balance - \$930.10

Owe high school for planners - \$1748.25

1 donation - \$150 funds for excellence

Questions:

Is that the amount we normally have in the account? - Alan Wolf

Yes. We typically hold a little more than one year's budget in the account. -- Stephanie

Mike Sansky - motion to approve

Gina Nakis - second
Motion passes

News, updates, fundraising – Stephanie Abbajay

Fundraising by Stephanie Abbajay

We need \$31,500 to meet commitments; we have \$47,438.47 in the bank, so we can easily meet this year's budget commitments, but we always want to be good stewards and raise money for the following year, so we will start our fundraising efforts this fall with a general solicitation for funds. Even if we do not end up fully funding all the line items we must fundraise to meet the obligations we've approved.

Raise a minimum of \$16,000; ideally raise \$30,000

Alan Wolf asked how the PTO raises money. Stephanie Abbajay responded: We send a mailing.

Individual clubs and group hold their own fundraisers and fundraising activities, but the PTO solicits donations the old fashioned way, by simply asking.

Alan Wolf offered to co-chair the fundraising committee.

Gina Bernstein asked Dan Gtchewsky about Funds for Excellence Grants. Stephanie and Dan responded:

- We will move forward as in a normal year
- Dan will call for proposals from teachers
- Meet with co-presidents to prioritize and disburse funds

Principal's Report – Dan Gutchewsky

- Right now all student learning looks the same
- Block schedule allows students to attend 4 classes per day.
 - Reduces passing period to allow for social distancing
 - Eliminate the full virtual day in a non-five-day week to allow for even A/B days
- Want in-person learning by the end of first quarter.
- Working to put procedures in place for in-person learning.
- Hybrid model - half the students there per day.
- Freshmen class is the biggest in Clayton history - 255
- Sophomores: 212
- Juniors: 222
- Seniors: 241
- Record number registered at the high school; total enrollment: 930
- Sports teams have started practicing
 - Following St. Louis County guidelines
 - Categorized in 3 categories
 - Low, moderate, high frequency of contact
 - Football is only high category
 - Different levels of participation
 - Exploring condensed spring season with fall sports
- Missouri nominee for National Blue Ribbon School
- Virtual open house
 - 5-7 minute per teacher per course
 - Will be posted for a length of time for viewing
 - Posted one week from today

- Parent/Teacher conferences
 - Probably virtual/Zoom
- Approval of Universal Grading Scale
 - “Grading for Equity” used as a guide
 - The floor of the grading scale is 50%
 - Designed to reflect students’ actual abilities
- Extra-curricular
 - Meeting tomorrow to figure out auditions
 - Converting the fall play to an outside experience with lots of disciplines
 - More information coming soon
- Looking at using outdoor space as classrooms, depends on the class
- In-Person Schedule
 - Similar to virtual
 - Monday - virtual for all courses/check-in
 - A/B days with ½ kids the rest of the week, 90-minute block schedule
- Return to Hybrid - won’t be able to use the Commons
 - Students will eat lunch in the classrooms
 - Free/Reduced lunch will continue
 - Ordering system for lunch - hot or cold
- Freshman Orientation
 - Bring freshman in small groups (10) for in person orientation
 - Last a week
 - Upper classmen will help
- New families will be invited to Clayton High School will be invited to an in-person orientation
- Resource Officer that was charged - the district did an investigation with CPD and found he had no access to the kids

Activities Report – T’Shon Young

- The Breakfast Club - Club for Freshmen on Thursday morning
 - Student led
 - Discuss topics, submit questions
- Virtual Club Fair last Thursday for freshmen and new students to learn about clubs
- Homecoming was scheduled for October 3rd
 - Working with student council
 - Putting something together for homecoming week

Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next meeting is Monday, Oct. 5 at 6 pm. Will try for in-person, stay tuned!

Written and submitted by Valerie Brinkman, CHS PTO Secretary