

Clayton High School PTO

September 21, 2015

ATTENDEES

Celeste Gillette and Jamie Marvel, co-chairs; Dan Gutchewsky, Principal; James Gladstone, Student Activities Director; Fairfax Altheimer, Elizabeth Anderson, Moira Jablon Bernstein, Patty Bloom, Laurie Brown, Margy Brake, Charlie Brennan, Lori Elliott, Jean Heusel, Tracee Holmes, Jayne Howard, Stephanie Littiken, Laurel Miller, Mitzi Miller, Carolyn Morris, Parisa Seraji, Kristi Skor, Karen Sher, Sandi Straetker, Michael Stemmler, Beth Stohr, Marti Szabo, Rich Szabo, Julia Wang

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions: Celeste Gillette and Jamie Marvel

PTO Council: Celeste Gillette

- At the August PTO meeting, Celeste and Jamie explained that CHS PTO is governed by the Clayton School District PTO Council which has its own set of bylaws. They are available online. They announced that we would be voting on those bylaws at the September meeting. Celeste and Jamie do not feel there is anything controversial in the bylaws.
- Parisa Seraji made a motion that we connect ourselves with the PTO Council and adopt the council guidelines. Motion was seconded and approved.
- Volunteers in the classrooms must go through a background check through Missouri Department of Family Services. If you plan to volunteer on a regular basis in the classroom, the District must perform a background check (which requires the volunteer to fill out a simple one-page form and submit a driver's license). If you are a chaperone or volunteer on a one-time basis, a background check is not necessary.
- The PTO Council is going to hold town hall meetings with speakers. Meetings are being planned with speakers on stranger danger and online predators. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please let Celeste or Jamie know.
- The PTO council would like to develop a cohesive system for long-term capital improvement projects and create a better understanding about how projects are funded. Often, parents want to plan fundraisers for projects that are covered by district funds.

Treasurer's Report: Jayne Howard

- Jane presented the budget for approval. Highlights include:
 - Balance of PTO checking account as of 9/1/2015: \$46,847

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- Income: \$30,492 from Funds for Excellence, Dues, Staff Appreciation, After Prom
 - Expenses: \$14,000 for After Prom, Centennial Statue, Staff Appreciation and Funds For Excellence grants.
 - Upcoming expenses: \$6,600 to Clayton School District; \$2,500 to Robotics; money for poster frames
 - Budgeted 15-16 income: \$32,000.
 - Budgeted 15-16 expenses: \$38,000. We are overspending, but we have a cushion.
 - Michael Stemler made a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded and approved.

Principal's Report: Dan Gutchewsky

- The end of the quarter is approaching. Letters about conferences are going in the mail, and sign up begins Monday, September 28. Conferences will be held the same way as last year. Dinner breaks for teachers will be staggered so parents can have continuous conferences. Refreshments for parents will be available in the library. The administration will personally reach out to parents who don't come to conferences but whom teachers would like to see.
- We are looking to have a cohesive plan for grade-level events to bring continuity and camaraderie to different classes. Junior challenge is Thursday at Tower Grove Park. (Last year, Junior Challenge was cancelled due to weather.)
- Homecoming week starts October 4. A Powder Puff Football game on Sunday kicks off the week.
- The Fall play, Pride and Prejudice, begins Oct 22.
- A Calendar Committee is trying to get a district approved calendar two years in advance. Parents were sent a survey, and the committee is using feedback to make decisions.
- A Drug and Alcohol Task Force has been meeting since last spring. It was initiated by parents, and includes community resources, police, NCADA and others to make recommendation on how we can support district families.
- The Powerschools Mobile App is now working. Sports schedules are updated. Deb Dornfield will send a schedule of sporting events for the upcoming week to anyone who asks. Daily announcements are on website.

Student Activities Report: James Gladstone

- Question: Have elementary schools been asked to participate in Homecoming? A: In the past they have been asked and declined. Parents volunteered to reach out to junior greyhound sports teams and to elementary schools to invite them to the participate.
- Homecoming week is October 4-10.
 - Sunday: Powerpuff for girls and Sand Volleyball for boys

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- Pep Rally: October 9. (It's an early release day.)
 - Freshmen: Monster's Inc.
 - Sophomores: Cars
 - Juniors: Toy Story
 - Seniors: Finding Nemo
 - Theme is Pixar Perfect
 - Friday Night: Bonfire with Spirit Games at Gay Field with tent for parents
 - Saturday: HOMECOMING
 - Parade: 11 a.m.
 - Game against Parkway West: 12 p.m.
 - Dance: 8-11 p.m. (Volunteer chaperones needed)
 - CHS Classes of 46, 47, 48 and 49 are having a joint reunion
 - Because Halloween is so close to Homecoming, the Student Government is considering a different date for a dance later in the fall.
 - Students who are interested in signing up for clubs can find a list and the club sponsor online, or can ask Mr. Gladstone for help.
 - Clayton Connection and Student Government are hosting a bingo night targeting senior citizens.

Committee Reports

- Parent Connections: Jamie Marvel
 - Senior Parent Connection Event Thursday, September 24 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Susan Casteel's house. They are selling raffle tickets for seats at graduation. A larger social event will be held in December.
 - Junior Parent Connection is having a College Planning meeting and a social event in November
 - Sophomore Parent Connection is having an event at Sweetology on October 27 at 6:30.
 - Freshman Parents gathered for a coffee at White Box Eatery on the first day of school. They are setting up a tent for freshman parents to meet to watch the homecoming parade.
- Golf Tournament: Stefanie Litteken
 - Date: October 3; Location: Gateway National.
 - We are still needing golfers. A motion was made to pay for a foursome of teachers to play in the tournament. The motion was seconded and approved. Dr. Gutchewsky will open those spots to teachers who would like to play.
 - Parents can place an ad for their children in the Golf Program. Details on how to purchase an ad are on the athletic website.

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- Beautification: Michael Stemmler
We had a successful Beautification Day. 25 volunteers place fresh mulch in the quad.
 - Staff Appreciation: Kristi Skor
 - Open house was successful. We provided dinner for staff.
 - PTO is providing dinner for faculty the night of conferences in October. Last year, we brought soups, salads, chilis. A Sign-Up Genius will go out soon.

Committee Reports

- PTO Council Handbook: The CHS PTO is governed by the Clayton School District PTO Council which has its own set of bylaws. They are available online. We will be voting on those bylaws at the next meeting. Celeste and Jamie do not feel there is anything controversial in the bylaws.
- Speaker's Series: Celeste Gillette and Jamie Marvel
 - PTO would like to organize a speakers series for parents
 - Topics ideas include: organization tips, drug abuse prevention, etc.
 - Contact Celeste or Jamie if you have ideas or would like to help organize the speaker's series.
- Volunteer List: Committee chairs will receive a volunteer list of parents who expressed interest in helping with that committee. Parents can complete the volunteer interest form on the PTO webpage.
- Golf Tournament will be held October 3. It is open to anyone, and raises money for athletic teams. The committee's goal is 32 teams. PTO sponsors a team of teachers. Information about the Golf Tournament will be available online soon.
- Fall Sports Meeting is Wednesday night.

New Business

- The CHS bookstore has been revamped.. DECA is organizing the new store and students are taking on inventory and marketing. A suggestion was made that DECA sell spirit wear at the next PTO meeting.

Next PTO Meeting: October 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patty Bloom