



Clayton High School PTO

October 4th Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions—Suzy Ogé and Jena Schaumburg 12pm meeting called to order in Meeting Room C of the Clayton Center. Introductions around the room.

Attendees- Basak Saner, Tanya Harding, Bridget McAndrew, Deana Simonowitz, Kimberly Gaddy, Heather. Wohl, David McClenin, Carol Griffin, Amy Wilson, Dan Gutchewsky T'Shon Young, Stephanie Gross, Nikkiasu, Tahnee Jackson Whitlock, Jennifer Williamson, Pamela Lyss-Lerman, John Holmes, Joanna Dinsmore.

- **Approve Minutes from Sept PTO meeting**

- Clarification minutes are available online and meetings will not be recorded on zoom for privacy and to encourage open and honest discussions.

- **Principal Update Dr. Gutchewsky**

- Detailed Panorama and another survey administered to all students. Successful network stress test with the survey and PSAT registration.
- Upcoming PSAT testing for 11th grade students on Oct. 18th, along with Sophomore challenge.
- Update on homecoming and related activities.
- Reminder and further explanation of Parent Teacher Conferences.

- **Activities Update T'shon Young**

- Detailed the full list of Spirit week events and Homecoming weekend events and ticket sales process, including guests from other schools. If your student plans to bring an external guest, start the process early. Details available on the CHS PTO homepage.

- **Introduction of Treasurer and Budget Update**

- John and Veeda Holmes will be sharing the Treasurer duties. Veeda is the new librarian at Glendridge. John will be attending the monthly PTO meetings and will be added asap to the signature card on the bank account at Simmons bank, along with Co-President Suzy Ogé. The signature card on the account is long outdated and will be updated. A handover meeting from Gina Bernstein to John Holmes will be scheduled asap. Moneyminder training planned.
- Funds for Excellence Fundraising - currently have raised over \$6,400.

- **Committee Chair Updates**

- Parent Connections- dates have been rescheduled
- Homecoming Parent Hospitality Tent- all parents welcome to observe the Friday night festivities from the PTO Parents Tent at the Bonfire. Thanks to Jenny Abeles for organizing and coordinating the volunteer efforts.
- Staff Appreciation-Amy Wilson updated the Open House meal was a big success and the Parent Teacher Conference meal will be provided at a generous discount by Casa de Tres Reyes, owned by a Clayton District family.

- **PTO Survey**

- If you haven't had a chance to [complete our brief survey](#) about CHS PTO, please do so for a chance to win one of two great prizes: (1) two tickets to the CHS Homecoming football game plus a free reserved VIP parking spot and (2) a Kaldi's gift certificate. (Please note responders will need to share their email address on the survey in order to be entered; all responses will be kept confidential, and only a general overview of the results will be publicly shared)
- Survey overview: over 50 respondents. As expected, everyone had heard of the CHS PTO. Most had participated in some form; 55% had donated to the PTO; 50% had attended a monthly meeting. 34% had attended a grade level social event; only 22% a grade level presentation (the spring informational events). However, the highest percent in question #3 (would you be interested in participating in any of the following, 50%, responded that they'd like additional enrichment programs, like guest speakers. Another 44% were interested in more social events, whether happy hours, book clubs, walking groups, etc. A significant 27% responded "none of the above". Next was the rank from 1 to 5 the importance of the following. The lowest numbers were for "organize enrichment activities for students." Work with school admin to represent the voice of the parents got the highest number of "5" responses, followed by collect donations for Clayton Cares. FFE and staff appreciation also received high scores. On the open-ended question of what the PTO can do to increase value: there were a lot of "you're doing great as you are" -- great to hear! Some feel overscheduled and don't want to add on more things but others would like to see more options for parent involvement, plus the pretty constant dilemma of the best time to hold monthly meetings for max attendance.

- **Food and Essentials Drive**

- Oct. 16-19th during parent teacher conference week. Please send with your student or bring in essential food and personal hygiene items to restock our social worker's pantry at the high school.

- **Other Business**

- Guest Speaker requests- Superintendent Nisha Patel and new Wellness Coordinator, Jennifer McKeown were both proposed. Dr. Gutchewsky confirmed Jennifer McKeown would be the Special Guest for Nov. 1st meeting.
- Follow-up on Open Issues
- Questions & any other business
- Meeting adjourned 12:55pm