

Clayton High School PTO

January 11, 2016

ATTENDEES

Celeste Gillette and Jamie Marvel, co-chairs; Dan Gutchewsky, Principal; James Gladstone, Student Activities Director; Sarah Bernard, Moira Jablon Bernstein, Patty Bloom, Paula Brandenburg, Charlie Brennan, Jenaro Centeno, Maripat Gatter, Jayne Howard, Stephanie Littiken, Carolyn Morris, Gina Nakis, Lily Raymond, Bethany Sleckman, Sandi Straetker, Beth Stohr, Rich Szabo, Tammy Williams

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions: Celeste Gillette and Jamie Marvel

Funds for Excellence: Jamie Marvel

- The PTO has approved requests to provide funding to the following projects:
 - Books about WWI and WWII for History Department: approved 242.27
 - Chairs for Innovation Lab: approved \$2,000
 - Swivel mount camera for video recording: approved \$650
 - AP European History book for students: \$842.42
 - Funds to print posters from Biomedical Innovations Class: \$200
 - Purchase of contemporary books for American Literature Classes: \$1,284
 - Traveling exhibits for the CHS idea lab
- PTO will accept requests for “Funds for Excellence” grants requests until the \$14,000 available for allocation this year has been spent. Teachers fill out a form to request funds. Second Round of requests include:
 - Materials for Robotics
 - Pedometers for PE

Treasurer's Report: Jayne Howard

- Jane presented the budget for approval. Highlights include:
 - 5-16 deposits to date: \$29,149
 - 15-16 expenses to date: 22,661
 - PTO owes district \$7,000 for robotics and photo frames.

Principal's Report: Dan Gutchewsky

- Second semester has started smoothly.
- January activities and events included:
 - 10th grade practice ACT
 - 8th grade curriculum night
 - Main Stage Musical: Cabaret
 - Parent Workshop on FAFSA
 - Band performance at prestigious state competition in Tan
- Upcoming events include:
 - World languages and Cultures Day: February 5th
 - Mental Health event: March 8 @ 7 p.m. "The Walking Man" to reduce the stigma about bipolar disorder and other mental health issues. CHS Juniors and Seniors will view
- Dr. Gutchewsky shared that his father was diagnosed with cancer and has begun hospice care. PTO members shared their thoughts and well wishes.

Student Activities Report: James Gladstone

- The Speech and Debate Tournament was very successful.
- The Freshman Finals Festival in December attracted 130 freshmen. Stacy Marion and Michelle Mills organized the event.
- STUGO Blood Drive is January 30. Donors can sign up online.
- STUGO Trivia Night on January 30. Funds raised will reduce the costs of prom and afterprom.
- Peppers Prom (girls ask guys) is scheduled for February 20..

- Arts Fair (for students of Special School District) will take place in May. CHS students volunteer to help students or to lead workshops.
- Beautification Day will take place in May. Volunteers spend a Saturday on campus projects. Students earn service hours for their participation.

Committee Reports

- **Staff Appreciation:** PTO provided teachers a Holiday Lunch in December. Current and retired teachers enjoyed the food and company. Up next: cookies and milk for professional development day. Thanks to everyone who donates cookies and meals.
- **Senior Parent Connection:** Senior grade Parent Connection organized a fire pit and hot chocolate event in December.
- **Sophomore Parent Connection:** Next Sophomore event will take place in March. A meeting will take place January 26 with counselors about the college process.
- **Junior Parent Connection:** The Junior parents are helping with trivia night and working on a social event. Juniors had an event with college counselors in October.

New Business

- **Speakers Series:**
- **School Care Fund:** CHS is starting a fund to provide for urgent needs (such as eyeglasses) that students have. The funds will be dispersed by the administration.
- **Diversity Awareness:** Reena Hajat Carroll, MSW, will speak about implicit bias. "Everyone who has a brain has bias"
- **Tablecloths Available:** PTO has tablecloths that can be used for any school event. (20 Blue, 20 Orange and 20 White). Event chairs are encouraged to use those and reduce the amount of disposable plastic cloths. Coolers are also available, and can be found (and returned clean!) to the PTO closet.
- **In-House Printing:** The CHS print shop at school is less expensive than Kinkos and other printers. Event chairs are encouraged to use it.
- **Prom:** The After Prom Committee is looking for volunteers to help with planning and chaperoning. Prom will be held at the Randall Gallery. After Prom is at the Moolah.

- Counseling Staff will speak in March for the PTO Speaker Series- Topic is Building Resiliency in our Students during High School and Beyond. .
- Graduation is Friday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

Next PTO Meeting: Monday, February 1 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted by Patty Bloom