Clayton High School

PTO Meeting

January 12, 2015

Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Brad Bernstein, Moira Jablon Bernstein, Maitrayee Bhattacharyya, DeAnn Bingaman, Patty Bloom (Secretary), Charles Brennen, Laurie Brown, Susan Casteel, Christy Cavalini, Lori Elliott, Jane Fredrich, Celeste Gillette (Chair), James Gladstone (Student Activities Director), Dan Gutchewsky (Principal), Jean Heusel, Tracee Holmes, Jane Howard (Treasurer), Jamie Marvel (Chair), Sylvia Massad, Carolyn Morris, Gina Nakis, Patty Paster, Susan Ryffel, Erin Schuver, Kristie Skor, Ann Troupis, David Waller, Arailo Wu, Quarmin Zheny

**Budget Report: Jayne Howard**

Total 14/15 income to date is $30,346.

* It is less than 13/14 because we suggested less this year for each Staff Appreciation ($25 TY vs $50 LY), Funds for Excellence ($75 TY vs $100 LY); and Dues ($25 TY vs $35 LY)

- Budgeted expenses are $37,100. To date, we have spent $29,288:

* $14,000 CHS grants
* $5,000 Centennial Elizabeth Statue (old business)
* $3, 385 Staff Appreciation events
* $1,925 Student planners
* $742 Open House
* $624 on Buzz Books
* $588 net Parent Connections
* $500 Golf Tournament
* $250 PTO Council dues

- There is a box of extra buzz books in the office.

**Principal’s Report: Dan Gutchewsky**

* Personnel Announcements: Marriages: Darby Hogan and Doug Verby; New babies: Chris Livingston’s wife and Katelyn Long ; New hire: Gene Gladstone, football coach.
* Upcoming performing arts:

o *Into the Woods* starts Thursday, January 22.

o CHS has 23 all-state musicians playing at the All State Conference. This is unprecedented. The CHS orchestra has been invited to perform at the all-state conference in Tan-Tara.

o Auditions for the student run musical are the last week of January. The students are presenting *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

* Counselors are beginning to meet with students about registration for next year.
* The district is moving to Zero-based budgeting process. We will start our budget by considering our needs and building up instead of seeing how much money we have and deciding how to spend it.
* NCA Accreditation: CHS will have its Advanced Education Accreditation visit February 10th and 11th. The accreditation cycle is 5 years. A visiting team will come from around the state and will make recommendations and commendations.
* Parent teacher conferences will be the week of March 9th.
* Holiday Luncheon: Thanks to all who organized and participated in this event. We were excited to welcome back retirees, and everyone enjoyed the lunch.
* Funds for Excellence Requests:

o AP US course Princeton Review books.

o New software for forensics science class.

o Journalism editorial leadership group attendance at a workshop and a set of “Leaders Eat Last” books for the editorial staff.

o Posters of students to decorate hallways.

o White boards

o Poem books for English classes

o Robotics FIRST competition entrance fees & Building b\fees

o Renovation of Library Lab B to include a chalk wall, white board wall, and furniture conducive to group work.

**Student Activities Report: James Gladstone**

* Performing arts
  + The musical begins Wednesday, January 21 with a matinee for the 8th graders from Wydown.
  + Wednesday, January 14, is the kickoff meeting for Junior parents and students with the college counselors.
  + Thursday, January 15 is an Arts and Athletics Fair from 6-7. At 7 p.m. ,incoming 9th graders will begin curriculum night
  + STUGO is having a blood drive at the Jan 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at The Center of Clayton
  + Trivia Night: Jan 30. This is a Junior class project to raise money for prom. Sign up on activities webpage.
  + Peppers Dance: Date change to Saturday, February 28th.
  + Senior Sendoff: Date change to Friday May 22.

**Committee Reports**

* **Freshman Fiesta: DeAnn Bingaman**

125 freshmen attended to learn what to expect during finals. PTO provided snacks for the students (taco soup, chips, salsa and desserts) following breakout sessions. We budgeted to spend $250. We made all the soup and spent only $107.

* **Holiday Luncheon: Kristie Skor and Tracee Holmes**

About 150 faculty and staff (current and retired) attended. Maggiano’s catered. Thanks to the volunteers who set-up, served, cleaned and baked. We donated the leftovers to Café Hope. Next up for the Teacher appreciation: March Conferences. If you are able to help, let Kristie and Tracee know.

* **Senior Parent Connection: Patty Paster**

100 people attended the event at Clayton on the Park December 12th which raised $500 through the sale of seats at graduation

* **FFE: Susan Ryffel**

Tax letters have been emailed. If anyone is interested chairing Funds for Excellence next year, let Susan know. (Her sons are graduating.)

* **Jr. Parent Connection: Susan Casteel**

The Jr class is responsible for this trivia night on January 30 at 7 p.m. in the commons. People bring food for their tables. The committee is offering baked goods: fill a tray for $15. People should bring cash to spend on baked goods, auction items and mulligans.

**Update on Water Bottle Retro-fit: Jamie Marvel**

a new ice and water dispenser were installed in the cafeteria before winter break. Now, Ice and water is available to students between classes and after school, and to people who rent the school for events. The PTO is working with the Green Club to retrofit four hallway water fountains with water-bottle dispensers. We also plan to address the fountains at Stuber.

**New business and announcements**

* The Junior class is taking practice ACT this Wednesday. PTO will give each student a cookie that says “You’re a smart cookie” as they exit the exam.
* We are looking for baked goods for spring teacher conference
* Committee chairs should think about their replacements if you do not plan to serve again next year.
* If you chaired an event, please complete a summary evaluation form.
* The next principal’s coffee is February 9th the library, lab B
* Jamie and Celeste are looking for speaker ideas or book discussions for parents. Please contact them if you have a suggestion.
* Concern was raised about the quality of student driving around the school in the morning. Dan said they can make a PSA with the kids.
* Miora Bernstein asked if the school could promote voting before elections in April. Dr. Gutchewsky will look into getting someone certified to register students who have recently turned 18.
* Freshman Parent Connection is in charge of chaperones for the Peppers Dance.
* Lori Elliott: We are meeting to begin planning the after-prom party which takes place at 11 p.m. after the dance.