

**Clayton High School  
PTO Meeting  
September 8, 2014**

**Present:** Dena Bashiti (CHS school nurse); Maitrayee Bhattacharyya, Patty Bloom (Secretary); Stephanie Brown; Dan Gutchewsky (Principal); Celeste Gillette (President); James Gladstone (Student Activities); Sally Harrison; Janet Hollocher; Tracee Holmes, Jayne Howard (Treasurer); Moira Jablon-Bernstein; Jamie Marvel (President); Ruthellen Osherow (Communications Chair); Manu Paruchuri; Kristie Skor; Tammy Williams

**Guests:** Green Club Presidents Hadley Alter and Bry Rechan, and Green Club Sponsor Mr. Peck.

**Open House: Jamie Marvel**

1. Feedback about Open House has been very positive. The souvenir cups were well received.
2. As a reminder, PTO has orange, blue and white tablecloths (20 of each) made to fit the tables in the commons. If you need to cover a bigger table, you can put 2 together. The tablecloths are in the PTO closet. Call Jamie or Celeste for the combination. Dr. Gutchewsky will let parents involved with athletic banquets know.

**PTO Council Update: Celeste Gillette**

The PTO Council consists of representatives of each Clayton School PTO. It meets periodically. The following is information from a recent meeting:

1. The Council asks PTO volunteers to refrain from using clip art from the internet unless it is royalty free. The district has spent much time fending off a formal complaint. James Gladstone suggested that Creative Commons is a good source for free artwork.
2. District has a new logo and tagline, and each school has a new logo. New letterhead is being printed with new logos. The logos will be trademarked. Athletics will still use the C with the Greyhound.
3. Shawn Daughterty offered to come share information about how staff are hired. Please let Celeste or Jamie know if you would like her to come to a future meeting. None of the PTO members present expressed a need for such a presentation.
4. Clayton Schools have the ability to conduct online auctions.
5. At the next meeting, Council will be discussing funds for excellence and the best practices for their use.
6. Starting October 1, all volunteers working with students in the district will need background checks. This does not apply to dance chaperones.

### **Treasurer's Report: Jane Howard**

1. PTO has \$41,700 in the bank.
2. So far during this school year, \$27,760 has been deposited.
3. Outstanding debts total \$9,000. PTO owes \$4,900 to Clayton School District which includes \$1,900 for planners; \$1,000 for buzz books and 1,000 for staff appreciation and open house.
4. Funds for Excellence raised \$14,200. (This is down \$3,900 from the end of year last year. PTO made a second appeal last Nov to bring in more dollars. We will do the same this year.)
5. \$6,400 collected in dues. (This is down \$3,200 from last year.)
6. \$4,700 collected for staff appreciation. (This is down \$2,250, though we asked for less this year.)
7. \$2,450 collected for After-Prom. (Last year, funds for after prom were solicited closer to the time of Prom. That request raised \$1,850.)
8. Money has been collected from 260 families.

### **Principal's Report: Dan Gutchewsky**

1. Dr. Gutchewsky reiterated that he had received great feedback about open house.
2. CHS students and faculty are settling into a routine and all is going well.
3. September 19 is first early release day. For 400 kids who participate in sports, there is a two-hour break between the end of the day and the start of sports practices start. The Center will be open and study areas will be available. It will be a learning experience for the staff.
4. Homecoming week begins with the Powder Puff game and Sand Volleyball Tournament in September 21. Spirit days are Monday and Tuesday. (These were moved up in the week because Rosh Hashanah falls mid-week. There will be no homecoming activities Wednesday night or Thursday. With only 4 home games this year, two if them the first week of school and one on Yom Kippur, this was the only possible week for homecoming.)
5. The mayor of clayton and the Clayton City Council will be in the HC Parade this year. They will be riding a fire truck.
6. October 15 and 16 are the first parent-teacher conferences at CHS. Families can sign up online for 10 minutes blocks with teachers. Parents can self select times manually, or the computer will generate a conference schedule. Those without internet access at home can call the school for help creating a conference schedule.
7. Anytime heat index is above 105, MSHSAA regulations prohibit teams from practicing outside. The school has had to move some start times and cancel some games.

### **Student Activities Report: James Gladstone**

1. September 9, there will be a "Clubs fair" during lunch. 15 clubs will be represented.
2. CHS is engaging in a social media initiative. The school has a twitter account for students to raise awareness about spirit events and other opportunities for involvement. The Twitter handle is: @chsgreyhounds.
3. The school has created a Chaperones Guide for parent chaperones at school dances.

4. The schedule of school activities is listed in the activities section of the CHS website.
5. The Homecoming Theme is: "I'm from the Lou and I'm Proud," celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of St. Louis. Each class was given an area of town and a restaurant or food unique to St. Louis.
6. Beautification Day is October 5
7. The Junior Challenge (team building for Juniors) is October 9

#### Committee Reports and Updates

##### **Bonfire:** Stephanie Brown

- Friday, September 26.
- Games begin at 7 p.m. Team competitions include sack races, water balloon toss, wheelbarrow races, etc.).
- At 8 p.m., there will be a procession to the bonfire.
- Parent tent will have desserts and non-alcoholic drinks for the parents. All parents are encouraged to attend (despite what their children say.)
- Dan will send an parent e-blast and phone call to encourage more parents to go.

##### **Golf Tournament:** Sally Harrison

- The CHS golf tournament is scheduled for October 11.
- The golf tournament raises money for CHS sports teams. More than 80 percent of CHS students participate in at least one sport.
- PTO has been asked to sponsor the event. Last year, PTO sponsored a hole for \$300. A motion was made to raise the sponsorship amount to \$500. This would sponsor a team of 4 faculty members. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### New Business:

**Grade Level Treats:** Each year, PTO provides a treat or program for each grade. They sponsor the Freshman Orientation and Finals Fiesta, and some graduation events for Seniors. A recommendation was made to provide a snack or cute gift to Sophomores and Juniors when they come to take the PSAT or ACT. The school is administering the ACT to all juniors on April 28. PTO will consider using these dates as an opportunity to do something special for Sophomores and Juniors.

**The Drama Guild and the Robotics Teams** are having a chili cook off and cabaret on November 2.

**Green Club Proposal for Water and Ice Dispenser:** CHS school nurse Dina Bashiti and chairs of the Green Club presented their request for funds to cover 1/3 of the cost of an ice machine and water dispenser for the commons. The following information was presented:

- **40 percent of visits to the school nurse result from dehydration**
- Putting a water/ice machine in the commons would make it easier for people to have a full water bottle during the day and for sports practices after school. The machine can produce 700 pounds of ice, enough for 3 lunch periods and after-school athletics.

- The cost of the equipment would be between \$5,500 and \$7,000. The Green Club will sell CHS drink tumblers to raise money for the project. They also asked that the PTO contribute 1/3 and that the Clayton School Board agree to allocate 1/3 of the cost.
- A question was asked about whether it would be a better investment to install water dispensers in the place of all drinking fountains. The committee will look into that price, but believes it will be cost prohibitive.
- The Green Club seeks to encourage people to drink from reusable water tumblers instead of disposable bottles. The sale of the tumblers will help fulfill their mission. They also will donate extra dollars to water.org which provides clean water to areas of Africa.
- The PTO expressed an interest in helping the Green Club with their project.

· Adjournment: 7:45