



CHS PTO Meeting Minutes 9/9/13

Welcome & Minutes Approval: Attendance (25): Keke Walker, Maripat Gatter, Bethany Sleckman, Karen Stern, Lori Zimmerman, Dan Gutchewsky, Anne Troupis, Mike Nelke, Patty Paster (pattyp@accessus.net), Ruthellen Osherow, Michael Stemmler, Sandi Straetker, Kristie Skor, Frances Pires, Stephanie Brown, Celeste Gillette, Sylvia Massad, Kim Kirn, Susan Ryffel, Kimberly Armstead (KJJSrmstead@hotmail.com), Althea Respess (4Respess@att.net), Brenda Bax (bbax8027@gmail.com), Tracee Holmes, Sue Hodapp, Lisa Potts. Minutes were approved, with all in favor.

Budget Report: B. Sleckman reviewed that income was very positive to date. Expenses have been coming in lower than the past. There was discussion about efficiencies on buzz book production, and that there were still 4 boxes in reserve to hand out the rest of the year. There was a reminder that the reimbursement form for expenses is on line along with the tax-exempt form.

Principal's Report: Dr. Gutchewsky commented about outstanding opening of school. Big thanks for making dinner a big success. Feedback about box dinners from Stratton's was fantastic – a do again. Thanks to anyone helping with the golf tournament. (Hudson, Suchre and Lunning saved Dan's score ☺.) Should clear between \$25-\$30,000. Fall sports in full swing. A lot of upcoming events. Homecoming with decorations, parade, dance, bonfire. Will have no homework weekend. One additional comment was that given it is the first dance of the year – 600 to 700 kids are expected to attend. With 700 attending out of 850 students enrolled, will be busy. Remind folks to talk to kids about drinking and making good decisions. If your kids are getting dressed at another house, it is proactive to call and make sure a parent will be there. The school does not like to suspend kids but will. And now, some college applications ask for that info. PTO member commented to Dr. G that it would be helpful for a short reminder to be placed in key places bringing attention to the consequences. Fall play will be Laramie Project, rehearsals are in full swing.

District items: As we move forward, the district is looking at calendar. Feedback was that the families want to start later, end earlier and have 2 week winter break (smile!). There are some proposals floating around and discussions about fewer but longer days. Community will be asked for input. As it stands we have the greatest number of days with the shortest minutes of contact per day. Looking at trying to end before Memorial Day. Also in connection with that, the communications survey is looking at conferences. Just under 200 parents responded. Over 80% requested conferences at the high school level. Will be exploring this further.

Dr. G shared “How Children Succeed,” a good read about the theme of grit and “sticktoitiveness.” Faculty is doing a book study on it. One comment was about if parents in community would be interested in joining them in the study. A question was raised on if the PTO would want to support the reading of this. M Gatter reinforced that it is evidence based – and it will help with children even as they are older. PTO would send an email out to parents to inquire about interest . A question was raised about if it was recommended by family center. A comment was made about bringing the author in.

Open House: Big success!!! Great work PTO!!! Office staff was a big help! Students were a big help. Escrips signup was far beyond expectation. Cookie leftovers were only 8 (☺)!

Staff Appreciation: Went well – Stratton’s was fantastic!!

Homecoming Bonfire: Will be sending out a flyer for parents to bring cookies/etc. The event is for families and parents only – kids can come in after the event is over. PTO closet has enough supplies. Should have enough volunteers – except for donating baked goods. Want to make sure that the flyer is clear that donation of baked goods is for the bonfire.

Homecoming Dance: The comment was made that coat check made need some adjustment. Someone last year did not get tailored coat back. They kids came all at once and left all at once. So this year we will put in place a “line” system starting at 7:30. There was a reco that there be two shifts spanning 7:30 to 11:00. There was discussion about who is in charge of chaperones. Senior parents – Homecoming; Junior parents – Peppers; Sophomore parents – Halloween. Hours of the Homecoming dance are 8-11. Doors open at 7:30. Doors close at 8:30.

Homecoming Parade: 11am on Saturday. Each class has a float. Teams have an opportunity. Mayor will have a float.

Beautification Day: October 5 – 9 to 12. Same day as centennial celebration. Meet in the Commons at 9 and have some bagels and go from there. There will be a notice sent out for volunteers and that these hours count for NHS.

Volunteer Lists: L Zimmerman shared how she can direct volunteers from the web site to those committees who need it. Please reach out to her with volunteer needs. Kudos to Ruthellen for great changes to the web site!

Parent Connections: We have reps for each grade. There are three events each year: fall, winter and then parent reps coordinate chaperones for dances. There was a discussion that there is a toolkit out on the website where you can send an email blast. It is super easy. One caution – be sure to denote that it is from the PTO organization and not your personal email.

Golf Tourney: Expecting this year will be \$25-\$30,000. L Elliott worked very hard on the program! 90% of the kids in the school do participate in the program. If you paid for an ad you will get a receipt and copy

New Family Reception: We have 50 new families this year, including transfer kids. There was a suggestion that we identify a new family mentors. The new family reception will be on October 3 in the CHS library at 7pm. Dan will send a direct letter to the new families. The PTO will request that families come, meet, and be available.

Other Notes:

Date of Halloween dance Friday November 1.

M Nelke suggest that parents follow twitter handle @chsgreyhounds for activities.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.

