



## CHS PTO Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2013

CHS Library

6:30 to 7:30 PM

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Twenty six people in attendance: Keke Walker, Maripat Gatter, Dan Gutchewsky, Bethany Sleckman, Susan Buse, Lori Zimmerman, Lisa Mack, Susan Casteel, Susan Ryffel, Sylvia Massad, Lisa Potts, Mike Noelke, Maitrayee Bhattacharyya, Sally Harrison, Cindy Mense, Karen Sher, Lori Elliott, Sonia Beard, Celeste Gillette, Jan Goodman, Sue Hodapp, Karen Stem, Francis Pires, Lory Bowman, Sandi Straetker and Ruthellen Osherow,

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Bethany Sleckman reviewed the proposed budget for 2013-2014. Contributions are up across the board, a result of the summer mailing. She noted specifically funds for Staff Appreciation and Funds for Excellence (FFE). Dr. Gutchewsky stated that FFE dollars are distributed through an application and approval process. A report of allocations for the prior year will be made available to the PTO. Bethany will be providing a list of FFE donors to Susan Ryffel for thank you letters. A motion to approve the budget was made and passed.

### 3. Principal's Report

Dr. Gutchewsky highlighted the recent Principal's Newsletter, especially staff summer activities and the technology upgrade issue that affected scheduling. Freshman Student Orientation was well attended (95-96% turnout), and numbers are up this year with 10 new transfer students and 50 new students from families moving into the district. This year's staff theme is, appropriately, Grit. The staff is working to develop persistence and perseverance in the high school students. He

especially recommended a Ted Talk (Angela Duckworth) and a staff read (*How Children Succeed* by Paul Tough). Dan reviewed upcoming changes to security and visitor procedures. The Globe entrance will be the only open entrance during the school day. It will be staffed by a security officer; students will have swipe cards to access other doors. The changes will include dedicated visitor parking on the circle, and will be in place by the end of first quarter. He plans to continue quarterly Principal Coffees. Homecoming is planned for September 28th, and the week prior, and the next Beautification Day is Saturday, October 5th. Open House is on Thursday, August 29th, and will start at 7:00 sharp. Dan concluded by mentioning that the results of a recent communications survey and in, and will be shared and discussed.

#### 4. Open House

Maitrayee reported that she and Evelyn Rice-Peebles have talked. A notice will be coming out requesting volunteers and cookies. She has reached out to several new families as part of her responsibility for this event. She mentioned, on a separate topic, that the PTO should consider a plaque to commemorate Susan Pang's work on school beautification.

#### 5. Staff Appreciation

Sue Hodapp and Karen Stem reported that they have no set plans yet, but that they will be ready for Open House, and are getting help and feedback from the former committee chairs. Sandy Strecker mentioned that Stratton's provides great box dinners and might be a good option for the staff Open House meal.

#### 6. Homecoming Bonfire

Nothing to report.

#### 7. Parent Connections

The PTO is providing \$300 per grade level to run two or more events during the school year. Susan Casteel reported that the sophomore class is planning a fall evening events. Anne Troupis will coordinate all

dates.

#### 8. Beard Family Statue Restoration

Sue Hodapp provided a history of the PTO's involvement and support of CHS's Centennial year celebration. Efforts included significant fundraising, relocating the Globe, designing and building a brick plaza around the Globe, and many other beautification efforts for the high school. The Centennial committee, formed in 2008, recommends that remaining funds (\$10,000 remain out of \$188,000 raised) be used to undertake the replication of the Elizabeth statue, donated by the Beard family in memory of Phyllis Beard. The statue fell into disrepair, as it had never been intended for outdoor use. The total cost of the replica is \$28,000. This effort has been discussed for years, and with money from the school board (\$6,000 from soda commissions) and a donation from the Beard family (\$12,000), the replication can be completed. The PTO moved that they approve the funds requested, and that a plaque be added to the statute noting the generosity of the PTO. The motion was approved.

#### 9. Golf Tournament (2"d Annual)

Lori Elliott reviewed plans for the upcoming golf tournament to benefit Clayton sports programs. Nearly 90% of Clayton students participate in sports during their high school years, and this event is a great way to augment team budgets. She asked the PTO to approve \$300 for a PTO ad to appear in the program. The request was approved. She and Sue Hodapp also provided forms for additional ads. The tournament will be held on September 7th, at Gateway in Illinois.

#### 10. Adjournment

Keke thanked everyone for coming, and asked that everyone involved in a committee please fill out forms about their job and give them to her for the PTO website. The goal is to maintain a central site of knowledge about PTO duties from year to year. The next meeting is September 9th, at 6:30 in the CHS Library.

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