

## HMS PTO Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2020

9:30 am

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Attendees

Hillery Efke	Debbie Brown
Erin Avery	Tanuja Coletta
Joy Williams	Nabiha Huda
Kathryn Hickey	Leanne Howell
Amy Cook	Liz Sigman
Laurie Argo	Robyn Rudisill
Colleen Stewart	Michelle Mldha
Mary Beth Turner	Angie Shipman
Marianne Farabee	Michael Ruiz
Alison Fondaw	Christie Crowe
Janna Hacker	Holly Joyner
Beth Miller	

### Call To Order

9:48 am by Colleen Stewart, President (late call to order due to computer issues)

### Administrator's Report - Michael Ruiz

- Mr. Ruiz working from home right now because he was considered a close contact
- Ms. Dias couldn't be on the call because she was in a principal's meeting
- Homecoming week is week of 12/7; will send out form to teachers to nominate students for homecoming court
- Homecoming game is Monday, 12/14 against Collierville
- Winter case tests are coming up the week of 12/7; Mr. Fisher is the testing coordinator and will be sending more information out
- Admin is preparing for second semester, both in person and virtual as they just received the numbers from families' choices; their goal is to keep schedules the same
- There are currently 40 virtual students who want to come back in person, and 20 in person students who want to go all virtual
- The 4 day schedule is going well for 7th and 8th graders; students usually miss a class 1 time a week, but they are able to stream live into their classrooms from the learning labs
- Monitors are keeping students on track in the learning labs
- Thanked everyone for helping raise funds, teacher treats, etc.
- Kathryn asked if we have received the most recent Case testing results, and Mr. Ruiz replied that Mr. Fisher will be sending those out

- Erin asked about attendance for homecoming game, and Mr. Ruiz replied they will be considering that and assured that parents of players will get tickets to the games
- Amy asked about Covid notifications -- would someone have to be out 10 days if tested positive and how close does someone have to be to be considered a close contact (asked in regards to the notifications stating there have been adults at school who tested positive and concern over close contact with teachers who test positive). Mr. Ruiz replied that according to the CDC, close contact is considered to be within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes, so students in the building are really not ever that close
- Amy asked about teachers who are positive but have been teaching in their classrooms all day and the kids are going in and out of that classroom, what are the guidelines/science behind that? Mr. Ruiz replied that their HR department does contact tracing whenever someone tests positive.
- Colleen asked this same question to Mr. Manuel in a meeting, and Mr. Manuel's response was that they are in interviews everyday and are very thorough in their process of determining close contact; guidelines are changing all the time; they stay on the phone with the health department and other mayors, etc. all day to make sure they are following all of the most current protocols. Mr. Manuel stressed that transmissions are not occurring at school.
- Mr. Ruiz stated that kids are not getting Covid at school; it is happening outside of school.
- Colleen asked how the teacher cart is going. Mr. Ruiz said he has done the cart two times now and has enough for at least one more time; teachers love it and get excited about it.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Marianne Farabee Motioned to Approve

Alison Fondaw Seconded

Colleen -- Minutes approved as written

### **Guest Speaker -- Joy Williams, GMC PTO Council President**

- GMC PTO Council is the council/PTO for the district
- They do not do fundraising; each school gives them a Member Fee
- Each school PTO pitches in for STAR awards
- They directly work with the School Board and the District Office (take treats, etc)
- They offer Lunch and Learn networking for membership of different PTO's, but they are having to forgo this event this year due to Covid
- Joy will put together a directory packet that she will email out to all the presidents
- STAR Awards -- In the spring we will recognize these recipients, Colleen Stewart, Kristie Getman, Mr. Murray; they will be honored at school board meeting
- The GMC PTO Council sponsors the Essay and Art contests; the essay contest has launched and has a \$100 cash prize; all information is on the website
- The GMC PTO has been a great way to meet people for Joy; makes it easy to move on from school to school and to be involved but less time commitment.

### **Newsletter -- Joy Williams**

- Newsletter going well
- Asked if she needs to do a Thanksgiving newsletter
- Yes, do Happy Thanksgiving from the PTO and include link for the All In This Together T-Shirt because deadline for orders coming up quickly
- Please do T-Shirts in big, bold letters reminding people to order since deadline is day after Thanksgiving

### **Treasurer's Report -- Colleen Stewart**

- Colleen reported for Kirsten and said that there have been some issues with PayPal this week and will update report with payments from TLC Cakes and t-shirts soon.

### **President's Report -- Colleen Stewart**

- Colleen began by thanking all of the committees for their hard work
- Said she attended a president's meeting with all the presidents in the district
- Our district is still leading the state in graduation rate
- Safety is the top priority for the district right now
- No cases transmitted within the schools
- The district had to poll the parents so early regarding their choices for next year (virtual or in person) for next semester because it takes 4 weeks to build schedules
- District now has a staffed help center for technology and can be found on the District website
- District is now able to make decisions based on what's happening at our schools and not what the health department says
- Let's Talk app -- please use this for questions; located on the district page (our district has a code)
- District has acquired the park behind HHS that will become the softball fields
- Expansion of HMS -- plans were sent out; city wants to focus on soccer fields; final approval not made yet; the proposed gym will hold the entire student body; will include 3 new STEM classrooms and 2 new Art classrooms; cost of expansion is upwards of \$12 million. It is not the mayor making the decision; it is the aldermen making the decisions.
- Hillery asked when aldermen would be discussing the expansion again? Colleen replied no but to keep watching for it.
- Colleen said the city is still paying for the Riverdale expansion so they cannot jump right on the HMS expansion; the city was originally willing to pay half but not anymore
- Hillery suggested that it would be good to educate people on where to send letters regarding the expansion because the aldermen definitely need to hear from parents who are directly affected by the expansion.
- The proposed plans include a secure entrance which is necessary for the school
- Hillery suggested that our letters be our own but contain some of the same bullet points
- Hillery said that it is not appropriate for the PTO to support a particular candidate BUT it is appropriate for us to send individual letters
- Kathryn suggested we educate PTO membership with data points and numbers to include in their letters

- HMS is not actually at capacity, not overcrowded
- Amy Cook asked what happened to the raise in taxes that was supposed to support the expansion? Colleen said no one knows what came of this and will try to find out and report back.
- Colleen said we can actually have PTO meetings at school, but we will continue to do Zoom because no room at the school to have meetings in; guidelines are changing all the time.

#### **Vice President's Report -- Kathryn Hickey**

- Our next meeting is typically our holiday party, but since we will still be having the meeting via Zoom instead of in person, we will have door prizes for people who dressed festively
- She reached out to school counselors about a family/student in need that we can love on via donations from the PTO; will finalize the collection around 12/11

#### **Recognition -- Angie Shipman**

- Erin Avery reported because Angie had to leave the Zoom call early
- Recognition took 48 bundles to Ms. Dias (24 on Monday and 24 on Tuesday)
- Ms. Dias recognized NJHS and Beta kids at lunch on those days and said it went great

#### **Ways and Means -- Mary Beth Turner**

- Marco's Spirit Night was a huge success and the manager told Beth Miller that HMS tripled every other school!!
- Received a check from Marco's for \$370.82
- Will have another Spirit night at Wimpy's on 11/18 (Wednesday) and info will go out via social media, newsletter, etc. It will be from 4-9pm and will receive 20% of sales if HMS is mentioned when ordering.
- Beth is reaching out to Tacos for Life for December Spirit Night

#### **Parliamentarian -- Hillery Efke**

- Please start thinking about STAR award nominees

#### **Haunted Houston / T-Shirts -- Kathryn Hickey**

- Received \$1500 in sponsorships -- Guess Builders, Lauren Gilchrest, Laura Clark, Chick Fil A Germantown, etc.
- Please buy your t-shirts
- Received a lot of really great art in the t-shirt design contest
- Michelle Midha stated that they have sold 81 shirts so far (53 long sleeve which we make more money on); please share and buy your shirts
- Margo Boler is working with the t-shirt vendor; shirts will be delivered on Friday afternoon 12/11 via a drive by pick up

#### **TLC Cakes -- Debbie Brown**

- All cakes have been signed up for

- This is the fastest the cakes have ever been fulfilled/signed up for
- Will be delivering the cakes the week before Thanksgiving
- Nothing Bundt Cakes is customizing certificates

#### **Publicity -- Tanuja Coletta**

- Huge thank you to Colleen for social media communications; she is very grateful for her help

#### **Health and Safety -- Colleen Stewart**

- Colleen reporting for Holly
- Holly checked with Nurse Laura and bought a few more supplies but is asking if anyone sees any Lysol wipes and Clorox spray to PLEASE buy them and donate because hard to find
- Checked on feminine product status but do we want to continue supplying feminine products when students are sticking them all over the walls? Yes and make a sign stating not to do this?

#### **Membership -- Leanne Howell**

- Membership consists of 298 household families and 29 faculty
- Will continue to accept anyone who wants to join but won't promote anymore
- Masks / lanyards delivery will be completed this weekend
- Membership has reached 100%

#### **Clubs and Sports -- Wendy Percoski**

- No Report

#### **Hospitality -- Colleen Stewart**

- Colleen reporting and said that there will be a luncheon for teachers next Thursday of Grab and Go sandwiches from Jason's Deli
- Jason's Deli has an amazing deal of \$5 per sandwich box with just a \$5 delivery fee
- They will do drawings for gift cards during each lunch to Target, Starbucks, CFA)

#### **Beautification -- Janna Hacker**

- The pots outside the front door have been decorated and will have new ones outside for the holidays

#### **Contests -- Marianne Farabee**

- Diversity essay contest is going on now online and she has contacted all publicity about getting the word out

#### **Honor Roll -- Robyn Rudisill and Laurie Argo**

- Thanks Chick Fil A who donated 300 gift cards totaling over \$1000; because of this donation they allowed CFA Germantown to be presenting sponsors on the t-shirts
- Actually needed 380 gift cards and CFA ended up giving 80 more gift cards

- Gift cards were passed out this week
- Betsy Spurlock handled all gift cards to all the teachers since Robyn and Laurie couldn't be at school
- Did not use any budget!
- Laura added that CFA has of stopped giving out free things to organizations but they did for us
- Colleen said she received an email from parent asking about using CFA since there are vegetarians at the school as well as students who can't eat it due to cultural or religious reasons; Colleen said she replied that CFA donated and it is hard to find businesses to donate during these tough times
- Robyn suggested we encourage these parents to join the PTO and be on the Honor Roll committee
- Robyn said we will have ice cream the next Honor Roll recognition which we may just buy

**Webmaster -- Amy Cook**

- No Report

**Old Business -- NONE**

**New Business -- NONE**

**Adjourn 11:01 am by Colleen Stewart**