

HMS PTO Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2022, 9:00am

HMS Cafeteria

- I. Call Meeting to Order – 9:03 am
 - A. Welcome by President Erin Avery

- II. Administrator's Report
 - A. Ms. Davis:
 1. House System. Today is House Friday. House system is up and running!
 2. 1st House Reward Day – Mon., 1/10/22
 - a) Took Lippizzan House (all 6th-8th grade students) to the movies to see "Sing 2." All teachers and field trip bus drivers viewed movie. Each student received popcorn & drink.
 - (1) At school pep rallies all morning, with Cheer & Homecoming court. Positive way to start quarter.
 3. Basketball season underway.
 4. Scheduling for next school year is underway
 - a) Focus: Grow Fine Arts programs in the next year. Take away "easy" options, and add exploratory options on a quarter basis to give students a random sampling of many different subjects and areas.
 - (1) 6th grade should be the time to try a variety of options and expose students to lots of opportunities. Want to shift towards this approach next year. Later in 7th or 8th grade, students can choose to specialize in a specific Fine Arts area.
 - (2) Standardized test scores are good, but let's add more variety in our students' curriculum.
 - (3) Rather than looking just to other Shelby County Schools for curriculum benchmarks, we are turning to Brentwood, Franklin, Knox County for ideas how to expand middle school course offerings
 5. Lunch: Continue to keep split lunch schedule and expand to all grade levels. The cafeteria is not as crowded and it provides students the opportunity to interact more.
 6. Dances?
 - a) No update from district, but likely no dances in the near future with COVID cases so high
 7. Building addition update
 - a) Construction moving along, steel beams going up next week
 - b) The following will be located in the new addition: STEM, 3 art rooms, new gym, main office
 8. Main office concern
 - a) Current building entrance is exposed and there is not enough security in place for visitors arriving at the school. HMS is the only remaining GMSD school that does not have a vestibule to "buzz in" visitors, before they enter the main school building. Former HMS front office employee quit due to security incident and not feeling safe in the building.

- b) New procedure for students being checked out early: Visitor is questioned outside first (do not enter building), and student is called to the office. After student in the office, then visitor is allowed in.
- c) New main office in building addition will have a secure vestibule
- 9. Three new 7th teachers this semester
 - a) Kenzie Snells (replacing McKinney), comes from White Station Middle School (Memphis) – science
 - b) Brooke Terry (replacing Winters), previous experience teaching overseas – science
 - c) Candace James, previous experience in both elementary and middle school – math
- 10. HMS is now fully staffed! (However, many teachers out with health issues and substitute teachers are hard to find.)
- 11. 6th Grade Preview Step Up Night. Rising 5th graders will come visit before they “step up” into middle school.
- 12. Lockers. GMSD district policy to remove lockers in all high school and middle school buildings. There will no longer be lockers.
 - a) Reason?: Hallways narrow, limited 5 mins. transition times between classes and injuries to students from opening lockers
- 13. Digital transition: Now realizing that completely digital is not the best transition for our middle school students. Trying to incorporate back some of the traditional methods of paper, pencils and books.

B. Mr. Fisher

- 1. Germantown Education Foundation (GEF) GMSD Stampede Race – End of April 2022
 - a) Mr. Fisher & Mr. Wexler are the HMS organizer representatives
 - b) Two events – 5K and 1 mile fun run along Wolf River Blvd
 - c) Want to grow HMS participation of this event through the PTO communication channels
 - (1) Only 63 HMS students signed up last year, but our school is reaping the benefits of the elementary schools’ participation in this event. What can we do to encourage HMS student participation? Extra incentives?
 - d) This is a big money maker for our school
 - e) First time this year, HMS maximized grant opportunities from GEF
 - (1) Example: Sensory boxes with fidget items installed in each classroom for students to use to help ease their anxiety
 - f) Example of how funds could be used: For new score board in new gym addition (like that at Arlington Middle School), which can have advertisements from local businesses (who can in turn support our schools)
- 2. Overall, concerning student behavior has improved and discipline is down
 - a) This semester thus far, many less incidents than at the beginning of the school year. It appears that students are understanding and respecting rules and boundaries more.
 - b) When issues arise, Admin taking care of issues on the front end by talking with students
- 3. 2nd quarter Honor Roll – Each student on the Honor Roll will receive a Donut Hutt gift certificate

- III. Approval of the Minutes: December 2, 2021 Meeting
 - A. Motion: Juliann De Mateo. Second: Karen Ivey

- IV. Reports

- A. President's Report -- Erin Avery
 - a. Angela Griffith (GMSD School Board Member and HMS parent) has been elected to be GMSD School Board Chair
 - b. Nominations Committee for HMS PTO positions for next school year will be formed soon. Please give thought to your current position and if you want to continue to serve.
 - c. Angie Shipman's father passed away. Please sign card and keep her in your thoughts & prayers.

- B. Vice President's Report -- Toni Nygren
 - a. No report.

- C. Parliamentarian Report -- Mandy Vezina
 - a. PTO Star Award Nominations (April 21, 2022 is the ceremony). Toni made festive balloon arrangements – thank you! Mandy read the criteria for the award. HMS PTO Executive Board made the following nominations:
 - i. Debbie Brown (Haunted Houston went above & beyond)
 - ii. Stephanie Edwards (Beautification – Revamped teacher restrooms & planter in the front of the school, which is changed monthly, is a highlight)
 - iii. Erin Avery (President – Rose to the challenge of building relationships with a new HMS administration and dealt with the challenges COVID presented this school year)
 - iv. Ms. ShaMira Davis (Principal – Celebrates every child)

- D. Treasurer's Report -- Amy Shackelford
 - a. Budget & bank statement has been distributed. Look at your committee budgets and let her know if there's anything unusual.
 - b. Turn in receipts for reimbursement in a timely manner.
 - c. Sales tax cannot be reimbursed. Please ask Amy for a tax exempt form. Also, PTO has credit cards for specific stores with tax exempt status.

- E. Secretary's Report – Sarah Goralewski
 - a. No report

- F. Membership -- Hillery Efke, Christine Woods
 - a. No report

- G. Ways and Means -- Leanne Howell, Katie Crews
 - a. Past Spirit Nights
 - i. MoJo's - earned \$125
 - ii. Kendra Scott - earned \$317
 - 1. Offered to host another night. Is the PTO interested? Maybe May for Mother's Day/End of School Year?
 - b. Upcoming Spirit Night

- i. Tzazikis – 2/8 (link will go live on 1/24 and close on 2/7 – preorder required)
- H. Reveal & Recognition -- Elizabeth Gates, Angie Shipman
 - a. No report
- I. Haunted Houston -- Debbie Brown, Holly Joyner, Melanie Gattas, Denise Stumph
 - a. No report
- J. Health and Safety -- Nancy Vaughan
 - a. No report
- K. TLC Cakes -- Ginger Neas
 - a. No report
- L. Teacher Treats -- Chrissy Tashie, Melissa Salazar
 - a. Coffee bars still well-stocked. Teachers appreciate the coffee supply more than other forms of treats (eg, quotes, bars, etc.)
 - i. Melissa & Chrissy at the school weekly to refill
 - b. This Friday Teacher Treat Cart with happies & treats will circulate.
- M. Clubs and Sports -- Wendy Percoski
 - a. PTO Board Discussion
 - i. Girls Softball Tryouts: Feb. 5
 - ii. Swim: Info available on PTO newsletter
 - iii. Track will begin after Spring Break: Contact Kathryn Hickey if students are interested in winter running. Informally, they meet twice per week now to run together.
 - iv. Past challenge with sports teams: Had to be “in the know” in order to know about sports teams. Information about tryouts, etc. not readily available to everyone, which is not inclusive or offering opportunities to all interested
 - v. Action task: Reach out to different sports contacts to have updated info.
- N. Hospitality -- Karrie LaCroix, Angie Childers
 - a. Taco Bar lunch in December was a success
 - i. Gift card draw - almost all teachers received a \$5, \$10 or \$15 gift card
 - b. Planned for winter: Breakfast
 - c. Sign Up Genius donations from parents have been a success and help the budget go much farther for these events
- O. Beautification -- Janna Hacker, Stephanie Edwards
 - a. Balloon arch provided for Homecoming
 - b. Last teacher restroom will be revamped
- P. Contests -- Karen Ivey
 - a. GMC Writing/Art Contest – My Happy Place. Due Tues., 1/18. Only 1 HMS student contribution thus far. Please encourage HMS students to submit.

b. Monthly Arts Spotlight: Mr. Nesvick (Band)

Q. Honor Roll -- Carie Alley, Michelle Midha

a. 2nd quarter Honor Roll – Donut Hutt gift certificate for each student.

i. ½ of cost donated by Donut Hutt

R. Webmaster -- Amy Cook

a. No report

S. Publicity -- Suzanne Ray

a. No report

T. Newsletter -- Nabiha Huda

a. No report

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

VII. Adjournment – 10:06am

Important Dates

- Monday, January 17: No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- February 8-24: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Friday, February 11: HMS PTO Meeting – **9:00am**
- Monday, February 21: No School (President's Day)
- Birthdays
 - Jan. 1 – Elizabeth Gates
 - Jan. 29 – Karrie LaCroix & Suzanne Ray

Attendance

Administration:

ShaMira Davis

Brian Fisher

PTO Members:

Erin Avery

Debbie Brown

Angie Childers

Stephanie Edwards

Hillery Efkeman

Sarah Goralewski

Leanne Howell

Nabiha Huda

Karen Ivey

Melissa Salazar

Michelle Midha

Nancy Vaughan

Mandy Vezina

Christine Woods

Parents:

Juliann DeMatteo

Kathryn Hickey

David Leon

Hayley White