

Minutes
HMS PTO Meeting
October 8, 2021
9:00am - HMS Cafeteria

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 - Welcome by President Erin Avery – 9:02 a.m.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: 9-10-21 Meeting
 - Motion = Mandy Vezina, Second = Nancy Vaughan. Passed = all approved.
- III. Administrator's Report - Mrs. ShaMira Davis (Principal)
 - Introduced Nurse Laura: Thank you for refrigerator and all that PTO has been doing to support the Nurse's office.
 - Clubs & club registration are underway. Lots of variety of clubs, so that every child can be connected. Most comprehensive clubs information and clubs announcements can be found on Schoology.
 - Admin wants to challenge the students to step outside of their comfort zone, try something new and meet new fellow students.
 - Lots of applications already for Student Ambassador program, sponsored by Mrs. Davis
 - Sports update
 - Girls' soccer and volleyball ended the season with sectional championships for both
 - Cross-country regional championships this coming weekend
 - Winter sports starting to get underway
 - Band concert this past week was phenomenal
 - Lots of challenges in the building the past weeks. Change of approach: Not talk about the negative, rather focus on the positive
 - Winter formal: Students have been emailing Admin that they want a dance. Admin is looking into possibilities.
 - House system fundraiser needed. Brainstorming ideas.
 - House Reveal last week was exciting
 - Admin's approach how to make House system more student-invested: House Council (3 students from each grade level, and one teacher from each grade level to guide the student Council.)
 - The House system will be led by the House Council and students will plan House events
 - Q & A with Admin:
 - Band – why is it so boy-heavy?
 - Mrs. Davis: Many girls are so invested in cheer & pom, and get pigeon-holed, that they don't have the time for other activities
 - Mr. Fisher: Scheduling can also be a challenge to fit in Band with other courses. Trying other strategies now to try to make schedules work. Costs of band can also be a hinderance to some families. More title funds now being put towards instruments
 - Some weakness towards Fine Arts selection/participation right now. Some challenges with COVID. Also, art can seem more attractive (don't have to practice and perform in front of others).
 - New school-wide grade corrections policy update. HMS is now to follow district policy (rather than each teacher setting his/her own policy). If student receives a 70 or lower on tests and quizzes, they can be given

opportunity to get up to a 70. Trying to make the playing field level for all students and change mindsets. First step towards mastery. This school-wide policy goes into effect beginning 2nd quarter.

- Final grades cut-off for 1st quarter is Oct. 22. (Report cards come out Oct. 27.)
- Challenge to find qualified long-term subs for many teachers out on long-term leave/FLMA. Admin is grading papers & tests, to help the subs keep up.
 - PTO Board Member Carie Alley doing a phenomenal job as long-term math sub
- Bus issues (late, not coming, being combined). Is the situation going to improve? Mrs. Strickland (Bus Coordinator) has contacted Durham (the bus provider) and they haven't been given a timeline on improvement to situation.
 - Major issue: continued driver shortage.
 - Shelby County Schools is using a different vendor who pays more and offers a signing bonus. This has also taken drivers away from Durham.
 - Recommendation to frustrated parents: Continue to reach out to Durham directly with concerns.

IV. President's Report - Erin Avery

- Thank yous to many:
 - Debbie Brown & Haunted Houston team
 - Reveal & Recognition. Pictures are on Facebook from House Reveal.
 - Teacher Treats. Happy for all teachers in mailbox
 - Hospitality. Grab & go snack for Parent Teacher Conference night was a hit. Teachers preferred this over a meal – more flexible.
 - Beautification: Fall displays in front of building are lovely.
 - Publicity: New social media platforms (Twitter and Instagram) are set up and running
- Welcome to GMSD Board member Angela Griffith, who is attending the meeting.
- Plug for Haunted Houston: Please volunteer if you can. Sign Up Geniuses are available on Facebook and in the newsletter.

V. Reports

- Vice President's Report – Toni Nygren
 - Haunted Houston update
 - T-shirts are a big hit.
 - Majority of event will be outside this year (except for the maze). Please promote this change of venue, to assuage hesitation with COVID.
 - Holiday Meeting/Party: What would people like to do? Prefer evening or normal monthly meeting time? Reach out to Toni with suggestions.
- Parliamentarian Report -- Mandy Vezina
 - No report
- Treasurer's Report -- Amy Shackelford
 - Review financial statements, available at the back of the room
 - Please turn in reimbursements in a timely manner and use the tax reimbursement form.
- Membership -- Hillery Efke, Christine Woods
 - 301 PTO household memberships

- Going to lay low on pushing new memberships during Haunted Houston time, but will have another push in November
 - Recommendation to all Board members looking for extra help in their area: Refer to volunteer opportunities selected on membership directory.
- Ways and Means -- Leanne Howell, Katie Crews
 - Spirit nights will start in November (in order to give more focus to Haunted Houston in October)
- Reveal and Recognition -- Elizabeth Gates, Angie Shipman
 - House Reveal for 6th graders and all new 7th and 8th graders was on Fri., Oct. 1st. Recap:
 - Ms. Bell & Ms. Szabo assisted and were very enthusiastic.
 - Individual names announced and students loved it. Teachers very energetic and creative in announcing student names.
 - Mempops for each kid. Ran out of time for games.
- Haunted Houston -- Debbie Brown, Holly Joyner, Melanie Gattas, Denise Stumph
 - Haunted House: Sat., Oct. 23, 12-pm
 - Week before the event: Lunch room games
 - Thank you to those who have signed up to volunteer. Couldn't do it without your support.
 - Decorating of building completed in 3 hrs last Saturday (Oct. 2).
 - Emailed flyer to all PTO presidents in GMSD to be distributed at each school in students' weekly folders
 - Please come help to set up on morning of event, even if the Sign Up Genius is full. Especially could use adult helpers. More helping hands, the better.
 - Scare stations: Currently have 6 stations, but need at least 8. Trying to get each house to sponsor a station, which would then be 10 stations (most ever). Maze with scare stations biggest money maker, so please help us make them
 - Donation drive went amazing, but still need some auction items.
 - Silent auction: Each PTO member will be receiving an email from Auctria via Membership Toolkit. (Open for 10 days before Haunted Houston and close on day of Haunted Houston.)
- Health and Safety -- Nancy Vaughan
 - No report.
- TLC Cakes -- Ginger Neas
 - In process of getting list from Admin of all teachers & staff that want cakes. Aim: for teachers to receive certificate for cake between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Teacher Treats -- Chrissy Tashie, Melissa Salazar
 - Keeping Coffee Bar in teacher lounges stocked regularly, as it is well-used by teachers. Sign Up Genius worked great, and all supplies were fulfilled by HMS parents. Melissa & Chrissy come up to school once per week to restock.
 - Teacher treat cart is brought around by Asst. Principal Strickland every other Friday.
 - Melissa & Chrissy bring cold drinks to school to stock the cart on the day of
 - October Teacher Treat: Gum & notes in mailboxes ("Thanks for going the extra mile.")
 - Brainstorming Teacher Treat for November.

- Teacher Favorite Lists. Can we create these and put these on the website? Melissa has reached out to Principal Davis about this and will create a Google Form to send to each teacher to fill out, once approved by Admin.
- Clubs and Sports -- Wendy Percoski
 - No report.
 - Most comprehensive information about clubs and sports is on the Schoology feed. Some info also included in Mrs. Davis's newsletter.
- Hospitality -- Karrie LaCroix, Angie Childers
 - Oct. 29th lunch – Tailgate Idea: Burger bar, drink, chips, dessert
- Beautification -- Janna Hacker, Stephanie Edwards
 - Working on plans & supplies to upgrade remaining teachers' bathroom. The remodeled bathroom in the 200 hallway continues to be a hit.
 - Pots in front of school replanted for fall. They look amazing!
- Contests -- Karen Ivey
 - Attended GMC Lunch & Learn with all contest chairs from other schools. Fine Arts theme for this school year's contest: My Happy Place
- Honor Roll -- Carie Alley, Michelle Midha
 - Assessing options with possible increased group of Honor Roll recipients.
 - Possible idea: Full-sized candy bar for each Honor Roll recipient?
- Webmaster -- Amy Cook
 - No report
- Publicity -- Suzanne Ray
 - Facebook updates:
 - Lots more posts on Facebook.
 - Boost-It posts on Facebook for others to have inexpensive ads
 - Suggestion: Set up Facebook Events to promote Haunted Houston
 - Newly launched Twitter and Instagram for PTO.
- Newsletter -- Nabiha Huda
 - All items for newsletter need to be submitted to Nabiha by Tuesday, in order to be in the Thursday newsletter.

V. Old Business

- Germantown Municipal Council (GMC) PTO Lunch & Learn on Thurs., September 30, 10:30am
 - Wonderful. GMSD school board was there.

VI. New Business

- GMSD School Board Member Angela Griffith in attendance: Thank you for all that you're doing for the school this year, including revamping Haunted Houston. You have risen to the challenge
 - GMSD Board focuses: Universal grade policy, new student board member, declining Fine Arts participation and scheduling challenges
 - From President Erin Avery to Ms. Griffith: Thank you for coming!

VII. Adjournment – 10:10 a.m.

Important Dates

- October 11-15: Fall Break
- Saturday, October 23: Haunted Houston
- Tuesday, October 26: Picture Day

- Tuesday, November 2: No School (Professional Development Day)
- Friday, November 12: PTO Board Meeting at **9:00 am** in HMS Cafeteria
- November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break
- Birthdays
 - October 2 - Carie Alley
 - October 24 - Nancy Vaughan

Attendance:

Administration:

Principal ShaMira Davis

Assistant Principal Sara Strickland

Assistant Principal Brian Fisher

Board Members:

Erin Avery

Angie Childers

Amy Cook

Katie Crews

Stephanie Edwards

Hillery Efke

Sarah Goralewski

Leanne Howell

Karen Ivey

Holly Joyner

Karrie LaCroix

Ginger Neas

Toni Nygren

Suzanne Ray

Amy Shackelford

Angie Shipman

Chrissy Tashie

Nancy Vaughan

Mandy Vezina

Parents:

Angela Griffith

Kathryn Hickey