

**Minutes**  
**HMS PTO Meeting**  
November 12, 2021  
**9:00am** - HMS Cafeteria

- I. Call Meeting to Order
  - Welcome by President Erin Avery – 9:05 a.m.
  
- II. Approval of the Minutes: 10-8-21 Meeting
  - Motion = Mandy Vezina, Second = Ginger Neas. Passed = all approved.
  
- III. Administrator's Report – Mr. Brian Fisher (Assistant Principal)
  - Honor Roll 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
    - Principal's Honor Roll = all As and behavior of all Es and Gs (no Ss)
    - Honor Roll = all As & Bs, and mostly Es and Gs in behavior (maybe an S)
    - 577 = for both Honor Roll lists (approximately 250 Principal's Honor Roll, other 300+ on Honor Roll)
  - Overall, good 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Students are now getting back into the routine of being back in school. For some students, it has taken a while to adjust to being back in the school building everyday, after being virtual/partially virtual last year.
  - Some serious behavioral concerns this year that have been off the charts. The excuse from students often is "I thought it was funny." Need help from parents at home to address this behavior and these attitudes. At school, increasing time with counselors to address this behavior, as well as Admin continuing to be proactive.
  - Mr. Fisher making funny jokes in the halls to lighten up the mood around the building during the day
  - Thanks to the PTO for supporting our teachers and school. The positive energy is felt here at the school, and the teacher morale is increasing, which is so needed.
    - Teachers & staff really appreciate the coffee bar stocked by the PTO
  - Haunted Houston was fantastic. Thank you!
  - Band Concert – Nov. 18.
  - Need: Help with Carline to move cars down. Right now, Mr. Fisher is the only one moving carline, and student tardies have been increasing. (This is due to the rearranging of the lunch schedules, which eliminated homeroom. Thus, art/PE/etc. teachers no longer available to assist with carline.)
    - Could PTO provide volunteers? Erin and Toni are looking into what can be done to help.
  - From Ms. Davis:
    - House Council has kicked off, with approximately 18 students on the Council.
      - Some activities will be grade level, some will be for the entire House (where all grade levels together)
      - House shirts have been ordered.
      - House points: Teachers across all grade levels are being encouraged to give house point. Next Wednesday faculty meeting will review proper House Council points and House fairness with all teachers. Written rubric on how points are to be given. Ms. Squires (librarian) filters the points.
      - Planning first House reward, and bringing field trips back.

- Four teachers on House Council are currently at the Ron Clark Academy to learn more about the House system, including Mr. Barthalow
- Dress code: Flyer went out on proper dress code. Some issues with shorts too short (both boys & girls), torn pants (boys) and boxers showing (boys). When Admin has had to call parents, the response has been positive.
- Spring sports to come: Boys' soccer, Track, Swim, Golf, Baseball, maybe girls' Softball
- Tons of clubs! Check out the comprehensive clubs list.
- Winter dance: Possibly in the works, no details yet.

#### IV. President's Report - Erin Avery

- Haunted Houston
  - Huge success! Thankful to Haunted Houston leaders for working tirelessly on this. A massive undertaking to produce this event, with months of work in advance. Debbie Brown spearheaded it, and she was phenomenal! Holly Joyner made the maze and her family managed it the entire day.
    - Fire alarm at the beginning of the event, but Mr. Fisher handled it.
  - So many people came together even from outside the HMS community to make this event happen.
- Teacher Tailgate – Oct. 29th
  - Fun & successful. Some dressed up for Halloween or their favorite team.
    - Yucky weather, so couldn't grill outside. The husbands of Angie Childers and Karrie LaCroix grilled hamburgers at home and then brought them in to accommodate the event.
- Teacher treats – Coffee bar and monthly treats appreciated!
- Beautification - Remodel of teacher bathrooms look great
- Veterans Day: PTO provided gifts (\$50 Lowe's gift cards, marinade and a recipe card to use the marinade) to the school's veterans (Mr. Britt, Mr. Wexler, Mr. Hamer & Officer Burrage)
- Ms. Lang (teacher): Requested that gifts be provided for Self-Kindness Bingo (?)
- Lots of opportunities to volunteer & donate to help when you can, even though Haunted Houston is over.
  - Truly takes everyone's help and commitment to make these events and initiatives happen.
- Sweet thank you note from Mr. Barthalow read aloud

#### V. Reports

- Vice President's Report – Toni Nygren
  - December meeting/holiday party: Thurs., Dec. 2, in the evening at Grove Park clubhouse. More details to come. (This is in place of the regularly scheduled PTO meeting on 12/10.)
  - Accolades again for Haunted Houston
    - Thanks to Julianne DeMatteo (new to the area) who volunteered at the school all week and on Saturday for the event.
    - Volunteer opportunities like this offer those new to the area an opportunity to get involved and know others.
  - So appreciative of the HMS administration and all the love for our students
- Parliamentarian Report -- Mandy Vezina

- Grateful for HMS Administration and all they are doing.
- Treasurer's Report -- Amy Shackelford
  - Please turn in reimbursements in a timely manner and use the tax reimbursement form.
  - Reach out to Amy directly with any questions
- Secretary's Report
  - Send any requests for thank you notes or sympathy cards to Sarah, and she'll take care of it.
- Membership -- Hillery Efke, Christine Woods
  - 305 PTO household memberships, 37 faculty memberships
  - \$4,575 donations earned
- Ways and Means -- Leanne Howell, Katie Crews
  - Two Spirit nights scheduled
    - Dec. 2 & 3, 4-6pm – Kendra Scott (20% will go back to PTO)
      - Both online and in the store
    - Mojo Nutrition Spirit Day – To be held Fri., Nov. 19
- Reveal and Recognition -- Elizabeth Gates, Angie Shipman
  - Next week – Induction ceremonies: Beta Club on Tuesday and Junior National Honor Society on Thursday. Waters & cookies will be provided. Juliann DeMatteo and Hillery Efke graciously offered to volunteer at these events.
- Haunted Houston -- Debbie Brown, Holly Joyner, Melanie Gattas, Denise Stumph
  - Haunted House was on Sat., Oct. 23, 12-4pm
  - Raised over \$22,000. (Best year ever was in 2019, and only \$500 more earned.)
  - Erin read report from Debbie Brown with many thanks (see report at the end of the minutes).
  - Post-event meeting last week, that was very successful.
    - Two major takeaways for improvement: 1) Start planning even earlier; 2) Not enough volunteers and some volunteers who signed up did not show.
- Health and Safety -- Nancy Vaughan
  - Nurse Laura lets Nancy know when anything is needed and she brings it
- TLC Cakes -- Ginger Neas
  - Up & running! Cake certificates are \$22. Once printed they will be placed in teacher mailboxes or handed out.
  - Sign up Genius for parents to volunteer to sponsor a cake. This is on the PTO website, social media and will be in the newsletter.
- Teacher Treats -- Chrissy Tashie, Melissa Salazar
  - Keeping Coffee Bar in teacher lounges stocked regularly, as it is well-used by teachers. Sign Up Genius for coffee, etc. worked great, and all supplies were fulfilled by HMS parents. Melissa & Chrissy come up to school once per week to restock. Admin – please let them know if more supplies are needed and they will send out another Sign Up Genius.
  - 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
  - November Teacher Treat: Sandwiches & chips in the teacher lounges

- Teacher Favorite Lists have been created! Those are posted on Facebook, website and on the website. Melissa has received positive feedback from parents, thanking her for compiling this list.
- Clubs and Sports -- Wendy Percoski
  - Report from Mr. Fisher:
    - Admin has been at the games, encouraging student participation in the crowds.
    - Discounted tickets to games are sold at lunch to encourage student participation (\$3 versus, \$5 at the door)
    - New gym under construction will be phenomenal with lots of space and flexibility
- Hospitality -- Karrie LaCroix, Angie Childers
  - Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> lunch – Tailgate: Burger bar, drink, chips, dessert
    - Perfect to have this lunch right after Haunted Houston, in order to use up the leftovers. The rest of the supplies for the lunch were donations.
  - December – Holiday lunch with a gift card drawing. Date?
  - Joy Williams – Sponsoring a coffee bar for teachers on Wednesday, 11/16
    - Text Mr. Fisher to confirm time and place to set up
- Beautification -- Janna Hacker, Stephanie Edwards
  - No report.
- Contests -- Karen Ivey
  - Upcoming contest through MLGW. In past, not many submittals. Thus, HMS students could have a chance to win.
  - Fine Arts Spotlight: This month will be Mr. Kang from Orchestra.
- Honor Roll -- Carie Alley, Michelle Midha
  - See Mr. Fisher's report. Students on the Honor Roll received Skittles or Starburst with the certificate.
- Webmaster -- Amy Cook
  - No report
- Publicity -- Suzanne Ray
  - No report
- Newsletter -- Nabiha Huda
  - Have all newsletter information to Nabiha by Tuesday, in order to be included in the Thursday newsletter
  - Recommendation: Add information about parents volunteering with car line in the Newsletter. Erin & Toni are brainstorming on how to address this.

#### V. Old Business

- None

#### VI. New Business

- None

#### VII. Adjournment – 10:12 a.m.

#### Important Dates

- November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break
- December 2, evening: HMS PTO Meeting/Holiday Party at Grove Park Clubhouse (This is in place of the regularly scheduled PTO meeting on December 10.)

- Birthdays
  - Nov. 3 – Erin Avery
  - Nov. 15 – Mandy Vezina
  - Nov. 30 – Debbie Brown

Attendance:

Administration:

Assistant Principal Sara Strickland

Assistant Principal Brian Fisher

Board Members:

Erin Avery

Katie Crews

Hillery Efke

Elizabeth Gates

Sarah Goralewski

Nabiha Huda

Leanne Howell

Karen Ivey

Michelle Midha

Ginger Neas

Toni Nygren

Melissa Salazar

Angie Shipman

Mandy Vezina

Parents:

Juliann DiMatteo

Kathryn Hickey

ADDENDUM:  
HAUNTED HOUSTON REPORT

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Debbie Brown <[debbielbrown1@gmail.com](mailto:debbielbrown1@gmail.com)>

**To:** Erin Avery <[erineavery@yahoo.com](mailto:erineavery@yahoo.com)>; Toni Nygren <[toninygren@hotmail.com](mailto:toninygren@hotmail.com)>; Holly Joyner <[hollyjoy82@gmail.com](mailto:hollyjoy82@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021, 08:09:12 AM CST

**Subject:** Haunted Houston update

Haunted Houston was a huge success, I could not be more pleased! We raised over \$22,000!!!!

We came into 2021 with no clear expectations of how successful HH would ultimately be after Covid and not having the event in 2020. So many students and parents had never experienced it our current administration had never attended. This gave us a great opportunity to take some chances and make a few changes that reinvented Haunted Houston. We have a lot of positive feedback regarding the one day event as well as hours we chose. It allowed us more flexibility with setting up the maze on Friday as well as the outdoor portion on Saturday morning.

We could not have been this successful without an amazing team of volunteers and a few special individuals who stepped in the week of to take on some big jobs. Please bear with me while I name just a few!!

Thank you first to all of our sponsors who so generously gave in support of our students, faculty and GMSD. Without you we would not have been so successful.

A big big thank you to Holly Joyner, my co-chair and partner in crime...without you we would not have come close to the amount we made for Haunted Houston! The maze is THE main attraction and you and your family could not have done a better job!

Thank you to the administration who gave us so much grace, answered so many emails and let us run with all of our ideas! You were all present the day of the event, this means so much to us and we appreciate your support.

I have to give a huge thank you to Mr. Rossell, he is simply amazing, an asset to our school. He was always available anytime I had a question or need.

Thank you to Erin, Toni and their families for the long hours they spent during Haunted Houston, blowing up 800 balloons, running errands, picking up grills, you did it all!

Amy Shackelford, thank you for keeping all the money organized and all your help in the weeks leading up to HH and the day of!

To Melanie Gattas for coordinating the volunteers and at times, the lack of volunteers. You did an awesome job at managing and directing, thank you so much!

Thank you to Nabiha for her amazing creativity and exclusive HH newsletter!!

To Suzanne Ray and Kristen Albaugh for publicizing HH and all my many requests for social media!

To Michelle Midha and Leanne Howell for walking me through the toolkit.

Thank you to Hillery Efke who answered all my many questions about the lunchtime games and the day of games, talked through scenarios with me and took over printing of the presale tickets. Thank you friend!!

Karrie LaCroix.....you are an angel and my savior. You jumped right in and took over the concessions for me right when I needed it. I cannot thank you enough!!

A few special thank you's to a dear friend and two new friends, all of whom I hope to see sitting here with us next year. These individuals have no seat on the PTO but their involvement was crucial to our success!

Larissa Anderson, who headed up the games, did a phenomenal job, always with a smile! She was also responsible for conjuring up almost all of the donations for the auction! Thank you friend, you are amazing!

Julieann DeMatteo helped with lunchtime games, selling tshirts in carline and after signing up for first shift in the concessions it turned into an all day shift and clean up crew!

Tiffany Smith jumped on board to head up the auction, there's no way I could've done it, you were incredible!

There are many more people I would love to thank but am out of time!

We had a meeting last week about HH, what worked and what we need to improve on. I will let Erin speak to that if she would like, but I will say we have some new ideas for next year that may make it the best year yet!!

Thank you!!