

HMS PTO Meeting
February 11, 2022, **9:00am**
HMS Cafeteria

- I. Call Meeting to Order - 9:08am
 - A. Welcome by Vice President Toni Nygren. Greeted GMSD Board member Angela Griffith.

- II. Administrator's Report – Mr. Fisher
 - A. Testing: This quarter - Case assessment testing coming up; Next quarter - will be focused on preparing for TN Ready testing
 - B. Boy's JV Basketball made championships
 - C. Lockers: Exploring bringing back lockers in a limited capacity, potentially after spring break. Need to ensure that locks will be available and that the installed lockers won't cause injuries to students passing in the hall.
 1. Working to reduce school supplies list for next school year, so the backpacks are lighter
 - D. Dances: Two middle school dances coming up; These will be "no pressure" dances for students to come with their HMS friends - no dates and no students from other schools
 1. Winter Wonderland (7th & 8th grade) – Sat., March 5, 7-9pm, at HMS
 - a) Tickets to be pre-sold, potentially either through PreFan or SchoolBucks
 - b) Photobooth 360 will be offered
 2. 6th Grade Dance – Sat., April 9th, likely late afternoon
 3. Past PE teacher will DJ, to ensure that the music is kept clean
 4. HMS PTO will assist with decorations and chaperones at both dances
 - E. Big Behavioral Issues Currently. Trying to bring the fun back to school, with the House System and other events, but challenging with perpetual behavioral issues. Make progress with one step forward, but then two steps back, due to constant issues.
 - F. Cell phone policy: From 8am-3pm, students' cell phones need to be turned off and stowed in backpacks. Period. If the cell phone is taken away, a parent can pick up the cell phone at the end of the school day or the next morning from the front office.
 1. All watches are to be taken off during testing (unless Admin has been notified about medical need for which the student needs the watch)
 2. Parents: Please don't text or call your student during academic hours (8am-3pm)
 - G. Restroom issues: Some bathroom break limitations during class time are now needed, due to the destruction in the bathrooms. HMS can't keep janitorial staff, as they quit due to having to deal with disgusting destruction. The students who are destroying the bathrooms are exhibiting outright disrespect for human dignity, expecting janitorial staff to clean up their foul messes.
 1. Issues occur primarily during class hours, not during transition times in the hall. Issues are primarily in 8th grade hall and in boys' bathrooms. Yesterday's issues, which caused the boys bathroom in the 8th grade hall to be closed for half the day:
 - a) Students bringing tools into the bathrooms and taking doors off stalls
 - b) Thrown food (chocolate, strawberries) smeared all over the entire bathroom

- c) Poop in the urinal
- d) Stopped up all the toilets with paper towels
- 2. Possible strategies to address these severe bathroom issues:
 - a) Parent Volunteer Committee (especially need dads): Parent bathroom monitors sit outside bathroom in shifts during the school day - have the students sign in and sign out, and parent monitor will check status of bathrooms, before student is allowed to leave
 - (1) Especially need dads and other male role models to help reinforce good behavior and respect to our male student body
 - (2) Can the PTO Board assist with creating this Parent Volunteer Committee?
 - b) Saturday School: Student perpetrators come on Saturday to improve and clean school building, to learn respect for school building. Ms. Davis has submitted this idea to the GMSD school board and is awaiting approval.
 - c) Suggestion: Mayor & Board of Aldermen come to HMS and teach boys how to be respectful men.

III. GMSD School Board Report – Angela Griffith

- A. How can the school board assist with the current behavioral issues at HMS?
 - 1. New counselor hired at HMS and is working constantly with students
 - 2. Social and emotional development of middle school students has been stunted through the pandemic, especially for the current 8th graders. It's going to take time and persistence to get these students socially and emotionally back on track.
- B. School policies & procedures need to be recomunicated and reinforced to parents, after almost two years of disruption.
 - 1. Emphasizing that the school building belongs to the students and have them take ownership and pride in the school building and surroundings
- C. Report of Basketball State Champions

IV. Approval of the Minutes: January 14, 2022 Meeting

- A. Motion – Mandy Vezina, Second – Melissa Salazar

V. Reports

- A. President's Report -- Erin Avery (Absent)
- B. Vice President's Report -- Toni Nygren
 - a. School and HMS community very appreciative of everything that the PTO is doing.
 - b. Winter Wonderland Dance (7th & 8th grades): Sat., March 5th, 7-9pm
 - i. Decorations Committee: Chair - Stephanie Edwards, Co-Chair – Juliann DeMatteo
 - ii. Will need additional help from PTO & parents (especially dads) to chaperone, help decorate, etc. Will be sending out a SignUp Genius to all parents through the weekly PTO newsletter and social media.
 - c. 6th Grade Dance Party: Sat., April 9th, late afternoon
 - d. 8th grade graduation date not set yet

- e. Erin will attend the Presidential PTO Meeting on March 25th with Angela Griffiths and Jason Manuel and report back to the PTO
- C. Parliamentarian Report -- Mandy Vezina
- a. Mandy will send Google Form to all current HMS PTO Board members to express their intent to continue with their current position. Please respond to this.
 - b. Nominations Committee (3 HMS PTO Board members and 2 at large members): PTO Board members: Holly Joyner, Angie Shipman, Nabiha Huda; At Large members: Kathryn Hickey & Kelly Day
 - i. They will pick a committee chair amongst themselves
 - ii. Motion to approve Nomination Committee as presented: Motion - Juliann DeMatteo, Second - Ginger Naes
- 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 (No report.)
- F. Membership -- Hillery Efke, Christine Woods (No report.)
- G. Ways and Means -- Leanne Howell, Katie Crews
- a. Recent Spirit Night on Feb., 7 at Tzaziki's was a success. Earned \$270.
 - b. Upcoming Spirit Night: Tues., Mar. 1 – Mellow Mushroom, 15% of all proceeds 4pm-close will go to HMS.
- H. Reveal & Recognition -- Elizabeth Gates, Angie Shipman (No report.)
- I. Haunted Houston -- Debbie Brown, Holly Joyner, Melanie Gattas, Denise Stumph (No report.)
- J. Health and Safety -- Nancy Vaughan (No report.)
- K. TLC Cakes -- Ginger Neas
- a. This week teachers will receive their certificates. The purchase of a majority of certificates was covered by volunteers and the rest made up by Ginger and Amy.
- L. Teacher Treats -- Chrissy Tashie, Melissa Salazar
- a. Coffee bar in teacher lounges continues. Added microwave popcorn to the teacher lounge. Teachers love both! In the morning, the teachers stand in line to get coffee and socialize with other teachers that they might not normally see.
 - b. Every three weeks, bring the teacher cart around the school with cold beverages, cookies, etc.
 - c. For Valentine's Day, they will be putting out candies & treats in teacher lounges

- d. Toni – Both Chrissy & Melissa have stepped outside the box and really revamped Teacher Treats, responding to the teachers' needs

M. Clubs and Sports -- Wendy Percoski (No report.)

N. Hospitality -- Karrie LaCroix, Angie Childers

- a. Feb. 23 – Heavy Snack Bar for teachers during conferences
 - i. Schoolwide SignUp Genius will be sent out through the newsletter and on social media to gather supplies
- b. HMS Teacher Appreciation Week (Date?): Breakfast and Micco's Snow Cone Truck will be offered
- c. End of Year Appreciation for Teachers: Food Trucks at back of school for teachers. (Will this be sponsored/funded by the PTO?)
- d. In the past, the Hospitality Committee has offered 4 meals. This year, they have already done 4, and more are planned, as so many supplies are donated through SignUp Genius. Really stretches the budget.

O. Beautification -- Janna Hacker, Stephanie Edwards (No report.)

P. Contests -- Karen Ivey

- a. This month's Fine Arts Spotlight will be Ms. Rutherford (Digital Art)

Q. Honor Roll -- Carie Alley, Michelle Midha (No report.)

R. Webmaster -- Amy Cook (No report.)

S. Publicity -- Suzanne Ray (No report.)

T. Newsletter -- Nabiha Huda

- a. Please submit all items by Tuesday for the Thursday newsletter.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

- A. Mandy Vezina: Today sandwich tray from Jason's Deli being delivered for Admin and janitorial staff. If you'd like to contribute, please send Mandy money through Venmo.

VII. Adjournment – 10:25 a.m.

Important Dates

- February 8-24: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Monday, February 21: No School (President's Day)
- Saturday, March 5, 7-9pm: Winter Wonderland Dance (7th & 8th)
- Friday, March 11: HMS PTO Meeting – **9:00am** (and last day of third quarter)
- Monday, March 14 – Friday, March 18: No School (Spring Break)
- Saturday, April 9, late afternoon: 6th grade dance
- Birthdays
 - February 4: Melanie Gattas, Michelle Midha, Christine Woods
 - February 23: Melissa Salazar

Attendance

Administration:

Brian Fisher

PTO Members:

Debbie Brown

Amy Cook

Sarah Goralewski

Leanne Howell

Nabiha Huda

Karen Ivey

Holly Joyner

Ginger Neas

Toni Nygren

Melissa Salazar

Amy Shackelford

Angie Shipman

Chrissy Tashie

Mandy Vezina

Parents:

Juliann DeMatteo

Angela Griffith (GMSD Board Member)

Kathryn Hickey