

Huntington School Parent-Teacher Organization

Meeting Summary

February 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting held on Zoom

Attendees

Board members: Jennifer Schultz, Vice President; Ramie Miller, Treasurer; Meghan Vitale, Secretary

Administrators: Alison Dupree, Principal; Leanna Kirch, Vice Principal

Office of Family Engagement: Holly Keating

Others: 3 parents, 1 community member

I. Welcome

Jen welcomed everyone and introduced the Board members. Ms. Dupree introduced herself. Holly Keating introduced Fayrouz Jackson, a 6th grade parent, as Huntington's new Superintendent Parent Council (SPC) representative.

II. Approval of previous minutes

January 2022 minutes were available on the PTO website. Ms. Dupree motioned to approved. No objections. Minutes approved.

III. Board member reports

Ramie reviewed the January financial report. Current total balance as of 1/31/22 was \$26,149.45. NJHS had income from popcorn sales and SU parking fundraiser. A payment for popcorn supplies is pending. Admin account had a deposit from BJK Photo orders (\$24.75). Pending check on the Athletics account. Also purchased music stands from the Band account for students. We were expecting payment from coffee sale in mid-January, but we haven't received it yet. (Update: coffee fundraiser check from Cracked Bean was received on February 11, for \$114.)

Meghan talked about the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser logistics. Orders are due March 1. We had some back and forth with our rep about online orders; there is no "general" link for online orders, families must set up an account to do online sales. Expect delivery to school week of March 28. Holly has had some families ask about due dates, and she has let families know they are due March 1.

IV. Old business

There was no old (tabled) business.

V. New business

There was no new business.

VI. Discussion

There was a discussion about activities for teacher appreciation week. The Board wants to make sure to coordinate activities with the admin team and others so we're not all trying to do something on the same day and we're not competing for donations. Jimmy Doyle (parent) said that the members of Forward Point church would like to organize an activity again this year. They are thinking about a food truck for lunch. In past years, they have collected donations from their members, and then purchased donuts, coffee, and/or lunches (businesses have usually given a discount). Meghan talked about past PTO activities. Many years ago, PTO held a luncheon at the end of the year. In 2019, we collected donations from families to "fill the break room" with snacks and drinks for teachers; PTO supplemented with purchases as well. We had planned to do that again in 2020, but then school closed. In the past we have received donations from Wegmans and Dunkin Donuts. We had applied for a donation from Brueggers in 2020, but it looks like they discontinued their online donation program. Ms. Kirch indicated that the admin team had purchased a sheet cake for staff in past years. Everyone agreed to think about what they might want to do this year, and we'll revisit this discussion at the March meeting.

There was also a discussion about plans for end of year activities, especially for the 8th graders that will be moving up. Ms. Dupree recently spoke with the guidance counselor about 8th grade. The teachers are in favor of something relatively small for the 8th grade, maybe a breakfast at Henninger. Not sure what other classes will do. PTO is willing to help with any activities. In past years we always assisted with the semi-formal dances. This year's 8th graders have never been able to attend a semi-formal, and parents have not been able to attend any milestone events for the graduating 8th graders, such as honors ceremonies, that would have been held in past years. Ms. Kirch noted that the cafeteria at Huntington gets very crowded, so they are looking for other options, possibly something outside (but depends on the cost of a tent and AV equipment). Pushing something closer to June would make it more likely that weather would cooperate. They are also considering Henninger auditorium as a venue. Meghan noted that Henninger would be more comfortable for parents as well, rather than sitting at cafeteria tables for concerts. Jimmy asked if the Palace had been considered as a venue. Ms. Kirch said that they had investigated this in the past, but it was cost prohibitive.

VII. Office of Family Engagement report

Holly reported that the Title I plan was approved. There will be an ELA night (in person) on March 16 for parents of 3rd through 8th graders, to discuss what will be on the state assessments. There will be a similar session for math, planned for Thursday, April 21. Will have food to go, which people will be able to take as they leave. She will send out registration links. On March 9, there will be a Dibbles data sharing night for K-2 families.

VIII. Administrative report

Ms. Kirch gave the administrative report. The ELA exam is last week of March, math is last week of April. Kindergarten orientation February 15 and March 17. Ms. Patrick will host both kindergarten orientations. Parents must register ahead of time.

There will also be a high school choice night for parents and students, led by Mr. Leonardo, on Thursday, February 17. This will probably be virtual. Meghan asked why this wasn't held prior to the end of the high school choice period, since the high school choice surveys were due January 31. There was a session in December to provide assistance with the survey, so how is the event planned now different from the previous one? Ms. Dupree said that Mr. Leonardo is inviting guidance counselors from the high schools and will talk about 9th grade schedules. Meghan expressed that while she felt that the district provided a lot information about the CTE programs through the high school choice program, there was very little information provided by the district to all parents about the traditional high school programs. Ms. Dupree said that she has heard this from other parents as well, and will pass along the feedback.

Ramie spoke about the need for new PTO Executive Board members. The current board members all have middle school students so will be "aging out" soon. If the PTO doesn't get new leadership, it may just become a financial "steward" to the remaining account balance, but not much more. The Board will consult the bylaws on the timeframes necessary for nominations and elections for next year's Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.