

**Huntington School Parent-Teacher Organization**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**October 12, 2017**

*Board members in attendance:*

Leeann Wiess, President  
Ann Yarka, Vice-president  
Meghan Vitale, Secretary  
Emily Pascale, Treasurer  
Angie Vigliotti-Martinez, Treasurer

*Administrators:* Joanne Harlow, Principal

*Others:* 4 staff members, 6 parents, 3 students

**Welcome**

Leeann welcomed everyone and introduced the board members.

**Board member reports**

*Back-to-school BBQ and orientation*

Meghan reported that we served about 375 hot dogs. We bought 400 this year, so had much less left over than in previous years. Ms. Stroman reported that the teachers discussed the BBQ/orientation in the first SLT meeting, and feedback was that the teachers thought it went well, but they would prefer that it be held after school starts next year. Ms. Hallinan said that kindergarten had orientation the day before so it was redundant for kindergarten families. Meghan noted the front of the school seemed calmer than last year on the first day, and speculated that maybe this was because parents were able to come to orientation the night before to find classrooms and drop off supplies. Ms. Harlow said that there were no lines getting into the building on the first day this year because parents did not have to go through the Raptor system; she noted that staff were present at the front door to monitor the traffic and that they generally are familiar with parents. Ms. Appleton said that no pre-K families came to her classroom for the evening orientation because Pre-K had their own orientation during the day.

*Karate*

After-school program is running well. Leeann reported that the program is full.

*Box Tops*

Mary Beth reported that a lot of people have been sending in their Box Tops, but not indicating the teacher so she can't credit these to a class for the monthly contest. Ms. Radley's class had the most returned for September. The teacher selects the prize (chips, candy, etc.) and Mary Beth will deliver it (PTO reimburses her).

### **New business and upcoming events**

First Family Dance is November 3. Students in pre-K through grade 5 are invited. Admission is \$5 per family, and parents must attend. We will draw the raffle winners that evening.

Election Day Bake Sale is on Tuesday, November 7. There is no school that day. Leeann will run the sale this year with assistance from another parent who could take over next year. We need volunteers to bake and to work shifts that day.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 9. We will have representatives from the Facilities Department to give an update on the building renovations at that meeting.

### **Funding requests**

No requests.

### **Parent Involvement Plan**

Mrs. Harlow described the proposed Title I Parent Involvement Plan and distributed copies. She explained that most schools in the district receive \$6,000 each year to support parent involvement activities.

Activities in Huntington's proposed plan for 2017-2018:

- Food and paper products for back-to-school BBQ and other events: \$1,500 on a Wegmans card
- Staff costs for planning/attending multicultural fair, science fair, and student showcase: \$3,564
- Supplies and materials to support these events, copy paper for fliers, etc.: \$550
- Parent representative to the School Leadership Team: \$300

The School-parent compact will be sent with students, along with a letter. We invite parent input throughout the year; please let us know what other events/activities would be useful.

There were no questions/comments on the proposed PIP.

### **Administrative reports**

Mrs. Harlow introduced seventh-grade student Brandon Wilson, along with his friend and his aunt. They were invited to talk about the petition that Brandon has circulated online regarding the "no-pass" day policy. Mrs. Harlow explained that last Friday afternoon for the final hour of the day, a "no pass" time was called. In these cases passes are only given in emergencies, and students must have an adult escort in the hallways. Brandon and Mrs. Harlow have already spoken about what happened, and have discussed both the students' perspective and the building administration's perspective on this policy. Mrs. Harlow stressed that the purpose of this policy is to keep a calm and orderly environment.

Brandon stated that last school year, he was denied a bathroom pass by a teacher, and then he asked to go to the nurse, and he was still denied. He also stated that the doors were closed when he tried to use

the bathroom after class. When the no-pass time was called this year, a lot of students complained, so he decided to create the online petition opposing the policy.

Emily stated that she also has a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student and she saw the online petition. She indicated that at present, there are 153 comments from members of the Eastwood Neighborhood Group on Facebook. As a parent and Eastwood resident, she was disappointed to see how it was rolled out. It resulted in a very negative conversation on social media that elicited a lot of opinions from people that have no connection to the school or first-hand knowledge of the situation in the school. Emily stated that although it was brave of Brandon to speak out, his peers are out of control in the hallways and something must be done to maintain order. She asked for thoughts on how this petition effort could be used to encourage more students to behave properly.

Leeann and Angie said that although the intent behind the petition was good, it was lacking facts and the way the petition was written, it gave the impression that the bathrooms are always locked. This misconception has resulted in discussions online that have been blown way out of proportion.

Mrs. Harlow noted that she is now taking applications for the student council, and she hopes Brandon and other concerned students will apply. Hallway behavior will be one of the first items on the agenda. Mrs. Harlow stressed that there is a very small percentage of students that are not behaving correctly, but they can cause disruption for many students. Mrs. Harlow talked about the new cell phone policy instituted this year, which has been very successful.

A parent asked how much time there is between classes (answer: 3 minutes) and questioned why students don't use bathrooms between classes.

Ms. Stroman noted that the comments online were very disappointing. She encouraged students to come to their teachers to discuss concerns before turning to social media; teachers want to help students resolve issues in a positive way. She noted that hallway behavior is generally much better this year.

#### **Added agenda items**

No items.

Mrs. Harlow would like to add student council report as a standing item to the agenda for future meetings.

#### **After-school program update**

No report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.