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May 4, 2022 HIGHCREST PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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- I. Call to Order: Called to Order – Megan Gemp at 9:18 am.**
  
- II. Motion to approve April 6, 2022 Minutes; minutes approved and will be posted to HMS PTO website shortly.**
  
- III. Principal's Report - Kelly Jackson**
  - ABC Countdown - 26 days left of school beginning May 4 will be celebrated with dress up days mirroring the letters of the alphabet.
  - High Five Concert on May 5 - congratulations to all of our participating students!
  - The Spring Party was a resounding success. Special thanks to Megan Lahey and her entire team of volunteer parents. Thank you to Elizabeth Jensen as well. The students had a wonderful time and the weather held up until the end. Lots of parent volunteers made a very well attended outdoor celebration safe and successful.
  - Enrichment BMX Presentation is today, May 4, and the students are excited to have in person enrichment opportunities.
  - While there has been a slight spike in COVID cases in the district, the district is maintaining its mitigation protocols.
  - Make note of end of the year celebrations: Field Day, House celebrations, Outdoor Concert in the back of school, and the upcoming Variety Show.
  - 3rd webinar on 5th Grade transitions will be held later this month; make note of the 5th Grade Countdown which will be listed on the PTO website and school website with the dates for student summer playdates (6.3, 6.24, 8.12) with a tour on 8.19. Possibly the Friday before school starts there will be a quick student homeroom teacher meet and greet for students to become familiar with their homeroom teacher and their homeroom.
  - Last meeting for the district Strategic Plan will occur with key performance indicators presented at the May Board of Education meeting.
  - MAP Testing will be held 5.12 and 5.17.
  - We All Live Here art installation is progressing with an anticipated fall kick off. Discussion ensued as to this program.
  - THANK YOU for all of the wonderful Teacher Appreciation breakfast treats, dessert truck, gift cards and especially the coffee mugs. We appreciate all of the hard work of Jenine Tubergen and all of the parent volunteers.
  - Outdoor space enhancement discussion ensued.
  
- IV. Teacher's Report - Becky Kross**
  - Thank you for the lovely Teacher Appreciation Week goodies and treats, especially for the HMS mugs.

- The Poetry Project was a success with writing sessions and an Open Mic Night for student poets to be held May 5.
- Looking forward to the HMS video project for all students celebrating the HMS community and inclusivity.
- The Maker Space has been used by the PE classes; fifth grade students designed a gym shoe and sixth grade students designed mini golf holes.
- Sixth graders have had weekly maker challenges in their homerooms.
- Sixth graders have created graphic novels in their social studies classes.
- All are looking forward to the ABC Countdown at the end of the school year.
- Discussion ensued as to celebrations at WJHS and how to incorporate similar celebrations at HMS.

#### **V. President's Report – Megan Gemp**

- Possible volunteer opportunity for parents in the Garden (last month of this year or beginning of next year).
- Volunteers needed for Field Day (6.6 and 6.7) for popsicle distribution - please reach out to Carolyn Gilbert.
- Motion to approve April minutes; April 6, 2022 minutes approved.
- The Nominating Committee approved the current slate which will be posted by the end of May. Many important roles still open, including president elect, after school club liaison.
- Please pass on information/contact before the end of the school year if transitioning from a PTO role or chair.
- Last meeting - June 1

#### **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Ways and Means: Ivana Uzelac**

- New Fifth Grade t-shirts will be ordered.

##### **Enrichment: Rebecca Freeborn**

- May 4 BMX Biker presentation with Matt Wilhelm will be coming for the 5th Graders. Poetry Learning Experience - 5th and 6th graders had a workshop on April 25 with a May 5 evening Open Mic Night. Night Sky Viewing unfortunately will not occur this year but will hopefully be scheduled for next year. Plans for next year's enrichment are on-going.

##### **Special Events: Elizabeth Jensen**

- The Spring Party - Aloha Spring - was a great success. 630 kids attended and the weather held out for a fun party. Thanks to all of the volunteers for your time and energy. It will most likely be rebranded Spring Fling for next year. Again, thanks to Megan Lahey and all of the committee members for such an organized and memorable evening for the kids.
- Parent Party - most likely a kick off party in the early fall after the beginning of school

##### **Communications: Amy Giannico-Schuster**

- Variety Show email sent out for advertisement.
- Slate will be posted.

**Community Services: Jenine Tubergen**

- Thanks to all parents for their generous gift card donations and to the committee members. Teacher Appreciation Week scheduled for May 2-6 was a huge success.
- Yearbooks are on track.

**Student Programs: Sarah Squires-Doyle**

- The Variety Show is in full swing with over 45 exciting student acts so far. There will be a 4:30 and a 7:00 pm show. Parent volunteers are needed.
- Student Council is spear-heading a spring toiletry drive benefiting Connections for the Homeless with donations accepted through early May. Sorting will occur next week.
- The Wilmette Theater movie was a great opportunity for HMS students to enjoy an evening at the movies with 2 sold out shows.

**VII. Treasurer's Report – Patrick Parmentier**

- Updated financials were provided as well as the updated budget.
- The 2022-2023 Budget was discussed and will be finalized.

**VIII. Adjournment at 11:03 am.**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- 6/1 Executive Board Last Meeting and Luncheon - Evanston Golf Club 11 am