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October 12, 2022 HIGHCREST PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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- I. Call to Order: Called to Order – Megan Gemp at 9:15 am.**
- II. Motion to Approve Minutes from September 6, 2022 PTO Executive Board Meeting made, seconded and unanimously approved.** Minutes will be posted to the HMS PTO website shortly.
- III. Principal's Report - Kelly Jackson**
- Parent Teacher conferences will be held in November. The default is for virtual conferences but in-person conferences are being discussed as an option.
  - The Outdoor Classroom has been a success with two sessions per week with warm fall weather. One fun event for the students was fairy garden pumpkin painting.
  - There is a parent education event on October 12 - Parenting in the Digital Age - which will be posted online thereafter. Sixth graders will also have a social media safety assembly.
  - In house clubs are going strong (students' clubs resulted from surveys illustrating the kids' interests for clubs). More clubs may be added in the future based upon interest. Students sign up on the link in Schoology (not parent registration) and some clubs are weekly drop-in. Note that MathCounts is a competitive sixth grade activity with a December competition whereas the Math Club is not competitive. Discussion ensued as to in house clubs and participation.
  - Freaky Friday is coming - October 21!! Students are very excited for the spooky extravaganza.
  - Halloween 10/31 is a half day for the district students.
- IV. Teachers' Report - Becky Kross**
- German classes celebrated Oktoberfest with food, singing and dancing.
  - Student led Live Broadcast is back! Students write scripts and film every Monday in homeroom about various topics - weather, sports, what's in Lost and Found. Live Broadcast definitely is a community builder at HMS; there have been three so far this year.
- V. President's Report – Megan Gemp**
- All necessary positions on the slate are filled! Thanks to all parents who have volunteered.
  - The Outdoor Classroom has had two successful events. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out. There is a great committee which has organized a winter planting event as well as a pumpkin rock painting event. Students are limited by passes per class but there has been a strong interest to date.

- Mark your calendars for the Wilmette Theater's movie date of January 27 (an early release day). Movie TBD...stay tuned and mark your calendar.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Ways and Means: Casey Brown (verbal report provided by Megan Gemp)**

- iGNITE donations are progressing.
- Donations for Birthday Books are steady. Contributions often occur at the beginning of the school year but also on a rolling basis during the year.
- Book Fair dates are set for October 24 - 28; possible food truck discussed as well as the need for volunteers and the location of the Book Fair.
- Spirit wear discussion ensued.

### **Enrichment: Rebecca Freeborn**

- Successful field trips for the sixth graders to the Heller Nature Center; great turn out and beautiful weather for the sixth grade Night Sky Event. Thanks to the PTO for these enrichment events!
- Upcoming events include but are not limited to the fifth grade field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry (chaperones will be needed) in January; Mr. Freeze for sixth graders, BMX Biker in April, and possibly Discovery Center mobile planetarium as a possible event.

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

- Freaky Friday is scheduled for October 21 from 5-6:30 (with a rain date of October 28)
- Freaky Friday vendors secured, photo booths, Kona Ice trucks, spooky forest (but no haunted house) - Committee is still in need of volunteers, especially clean up and floaters. Ticket sales TBD.
- Discussion ensued as to Parent Connections Party for both HMS and WJHS - more info TBD

### **Communications: Johanna Toppenberg**

- Freaky Friday communications on the way.
- Membership Directory has 80 percent usage.
- Website continues to be updated. If you notice errors, please contact Communications.

### **Community Services: Carrie Phillips**

- Have secured a parent volunteer for School Supplies and Yearbook - thanks for volunteering!
- More information re: Yearbook. Jostens website is live. Do not wait to order your student's yearbooks. Order today!!
- Teacher Conferences luncheon and snacks being planned; volunteers will be needed to assist.

### **Student Programs: Dan Magestro (verbal report provided by Megan Gemp)**

- After school clubs are moving forward.

- School Store aka the Hawks' Hut is open and is quite successful with the students. Thanks to Jennifer Engelhaupt for taking the lead. Thanks to all the parent volunteers! Discussion ensued as to the Hawks' Hut and staffing needs.
- Variety Show - Winter 2023 date TBD
- Reading Challenge - Matt Aho will be the contact with a spring roll out.
- Student Council - discussion as to the PTO role and students attending a PTO meeting or two
- Community Service - MAAD scheduled for October 21 (3 people on the committee)

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

- Updated financials were provided as well as the updated budget.

**VIII. Adjournment** at approximately 10:35 am.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- November 9 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- December 7 - 7:30 pm Exec Holiday Get Together - TBD
- January 4 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- February 1 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- March 1 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- April 5 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- May 3 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- June 7 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting and Final Celebration TBD