



September 6, 2022 HIGHCREST PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Called to Order – Megan Gemp at 9:15 am.**
- II. No minutes from June 1, 2022 PTO Meeting and luncheon.** Casual luncheon at Evanston Golf Club and celebration of the 2021-2022 PTO year. No formal minutes taken by Secretary MaryAnne O’Keefe.
- III. Principal's Report - Kelly Jackson**
- Great start to the school year - thanks to all the staff and faculty for their hard work and dedication to starting the school year off smoothly!
 - Positive feedback on the Fifth Grade Orientation which was reconfigured such that students meet their teachers prior to the school year; further adjustments will occur after a parent survey.
 - MAP Testing began 9.7 and scores will be mailed the week of 9.23.
 - The Garden’s new mini outdoor classroom is open and the larger outdoor classroom will be used. There appears to be great interest in the gardens and volunteering which is wonderful to see.
 - District’s Social Emotional Learning objectives are more defined this year. Please look to the district’s parent resource page and communication regarding CRC.
 - In order to foster a sense of belonging for kids, more clubs are coming in-house to Highcrest. Math clubs will begin registration in November. Discussion ensued as to compensation and reimbursement for club monitors/teachers from the PTO.
 - Parent teacher conferences will be virtual again this year.
- IV. Teachers’ Report - Becky Kross**
- No teachers’ report given.
- V. President's Report – Megan Gemp**
- The Back to School Coffee had a wonderful turn out. Thanks to all the parent volunteers! Thank you also for the Back to School Teacher Breakfast on the first day of school.
 - The slate is almost full. Positions needed: After School Liaison who manages club registration definitely needed.
 - Discussion of the availability of the Wilmette Theater for a movie night ensued. Stay tuned for more details!
 - Recap of School Supply Ordering and Spiritwear merchandise sales
 - Current enrollment - 726 families and 757 students

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ways and Means: Casey Brown

- 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 (verbal report provided by Megan Gemp)

- Met with the teachers and enrichment teams to determine wants and needs from enrichment activities.
- Dates will be forthcoming but enrichment activities supported by the PTO should include the following: (for Fifth Graders: Yes You Can, Starlab, field trip to Museum of Science and Industry, Matt Wilhelm BMX presentation; for Sixth Graders: Heller Nature Center, Night Sky Viewing, Brainetics, Mr. Freeze, Comedy Sports Chicago, field trip to the Holocaust Museum).

Special Events: Elizabeth Jensen (verbal report given by Megan Gemp)

- Successful Fifth Grade Connections event on August 26.
- Freaky Friday is scheduled for October 21 from 5-6:30 (with a rain date of October 28)
- Discussion ensued as to Parent Connections Party for both HMS and WJHS

Communications: Johanna Toppenberg

- Reminder that Communication submissions are due by Wednesday by 2 pm to be included in that week's communication, the Scoop/Blast.
- Please check the website for bad links and notify Communications VP.
- 2019 By laws have been located and will be included on the PTO website
- Membership toolkit is being actively used by parents and has registered significant numbers.

Community Services: Carrie Phillips

- There was a Newcomers event that went very well. It was a great community building opportunity and a lot of spiritwear was sold.
- Thanks to the chair and parent volunteers organizing and distributing the school supplies.
- More information re: Yearbook. Stay tuned!

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

- After school clubs are on the move. Chess is full as is Yearbook Club. Skyline registration closed with 32 participants and 2 casts. Debate will go live shortly. And High Five Choir remains open for registration.
- Details about Volleyball at HMS were presented and discussed. Very exciting to have another on site sports option at Highcrest for students.
- Please note that no refunds will be given after a week.

- School Store aka the Hawks' Hut will open on September 14 at lunch. The Hawks' Hut will be open on Wednesdays with cash accepted for purchases. Thanks to Jennifer Engelhaupt for taking the lead.
- Variety Show - most likely a winter date for 2023
- Reading Challenge - Matt Aho will be the contact with a spring roll out.
- Student Council - discussion as to the PTO role
- Community Service - TBD

VII. Treasurer's Report – Patrick Parmentier

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

VIII. Adjournment at approximately 11:30 am.

UPCOMING DATES:

- October 12 - 9:15 am Exec Meeting in HMS Conference Room
- 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?