



JANUARY 12, 2022 HIGHCREST PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Called to Order by Megan Gemp at 9:18 am**
- II. December 2021 Minutes approved and will be posted to the HMS PTO website.**
- III. Principal Report - Kelly Jackson**
 - MAP testing will begin this month with another round in Spring. IAR State testing (5 days of testing) will occur before Spring Break.
 - COVID updates: D39 has adopted the IDPH guidance of 5 days of quarantine. Shield testing is still occurring for district students.
 - The CRC will be sending out a parent survey as to Social Emotional Learning.
 - Congrats to the HMS Student Council which raised over \$3600 for the VA. Well done!!
 - Supportive clubs have been launched at HMS which are free and drop in.
 - There will be a parent education event - Parenting in the Digital Age - soon. This presentation will be recorded and available to view with both a presentation and question and answer portion.
 - The district continues to evaluate its strategic plan and the transitional process of going from elementary to HMS - what works, what needs to be improved for students. Discussion ensued as to this transition period and fifth grade specific information being shared - how language classes work, daily schedules. Perhaps spring events for 4th graders/incoming fifth graders to familiarize them with HMS and to connect across schools or short videos.
 - Upcoming project: We All Live Here art mural program. The artist has been met, and spring student participation is contemplated.
 - Discussion ensued as to Variety Show and the details of that program for HMS students
- IV. Teacher's Report: Becky Kross**
 - Thank you, thank you for the generous holiday gifts for teachers and staff!
 - French classes have been exploring virtual tours of Paris and creating children's books from such virtual tours as well as exploring modern day rural France. Spanish classes have also completed special projects. Sixth graders have explored virtual civilizations in their social science classes.
 - Thanks to all who donated Legos - the Learning Commons has a Lego wall for students to build and explore maker opportunities as well as portable Lego walls for classroom work.

V. President's Report - Megan Gemp

- Motion for the Board to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes was approved unanimously.
- Discussion ensued with Kelly Jackson and the board re: the We All Live Here art program anticipated for spring 2022
- Valentine's Day yard signs will go out in February
- April Wilmette Theater Box Office Month – the HMS PTO, in conjunction with the Wilmette Theater, will be able to pick a movie to present and then will decorate the box office to highlight HMS during a weekend in April.
- Next year's HMS PTO slate recruitment will begin shortly. Any current board members or new parents interested can reach out to Megan Gemp to become involved.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ways & Means

- Spirit Wear – hopeful to set up PayPal and an online option to purchase Spirit wear.

Enrichment

- Discussion ensued as to potential virtual enrichment options during the winter months and hopeful spring in-person, outside enrichment activities, including but not limited to the BMX Bike event and Night Sky Viewing.

Special Events

- Aloha Spring is April 29 from 5:00-6:30 pm - mark your calendars! (Raindate is May 6 from 5:00-6:30 pm). The committee has met and it will be a great party with some similarities to Freaky Friday but plenty of new surprises.

Communications

- Communications are running smoothly.

Community Services

- Yearbook ordering deadline is last week of February - make sure you order yours today!
- Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May 2022

Student Programs

- **After School Clubs**
Winter Club session sign up is underway. Some clubs still have room.
Discussion ensued as to potential new clubs - newspaper club, Rubix club - teacher sponsored and led.
- **Yearbook**
Ordering deadline is late February.

VII. Treasurer Report: Patrick Parmentier

- Updated financials were provided, as well as the updated fiscal budget.
- Over \$13K was collected for the teacher and staff holiday gift fund. Thank you to all parents and guardians for your generous contributions!
- Discussion ensued as to PayPal as an option for Spiritwear sales.
- The tax accounting firm which handles the PTO tax filing has been engaged.

VIII. Adjournment 10:28 am

UPCOMING DATES:

- 2/2: 9:15 am: Exec Meeting – zoom
- 3/2, 9:15am: Exec Meeting – zoom?
- 4/6, 9:15 am: Exec Meeting – outdoors
- 5/4, 9:15am: Exec Meeting - outdoors
- 6/1, 9:15am, Exec Meeting - outdoors
- Executive Board get together - TBD