

Hammond Middle School PTA

Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2013

Attendees:

- Joanne Ashton, President
- Karin Bruce, 1st Vice President
- Daphne Stanley, 2nd Vice President
- Tricia Miller, Treasurer
- Pat Johnson, Secretary
- John Woodson, PTACHC Representative #1
- Deveonne Hamilton-Stokes, PTACHC Representative #2
- Kerri Dufresne, HMS Principal
- Sam Davis, HMS Assistant Principal

Minutes

- The meeting was called to order in the HMS Media Center by PTA President, Joanne Ashton.
- Joanne thanked everyone for attending.
- **Secretary's Report (Pat Johnson)**
 - The September meeting minutes were reviewed, updates were made to correct spelling errors and the Treasurer's Report (In previous years, the school received the Shopping Rebates income. The Box Tops income will go to the PTA.) Daphne Stanley made a motion to approve the updated minutes; Joanne Ashton seconded; the motion passed.
- **Principle's Report (Sam Davis)**
 - Pride slips will be emphasized this year, for students and teachers. A \$10 gift card will be given to the teacher that gives out the most pride slips. To fund this, each of the teams (6th, 7th, 8th, Applied Academics) contributed \$50 of their team fund money to purchase the gift cards. Kerri will email Tricia with the list of suggested gift cards.
 - The first MAP testing is completed and went fairly well. The teachers will receive additional MAP training during the next Professional Development Day.
 - Howard County Public Schools is using a Gallop Poll Survey to gauge engagement levels. Research shows a great correlation between hope and how students progress through the school system. They will start slowly, with students taking the 10-20 minutes survey during their social studies class. Staff and parents will also be polled.
 - Starting on October 9, construction equipment will be moved into place for the stream restoration project. Safety will be a key element of the project. The bridges will not be disrupted during the project, which will continue through spring 2014.
 - A big thanks to the PTA for their support at Back to School Night.
 - Family Life curriculum will be available for parent review on October 16th.
- **PTACHC Delegate's Report (Deveonne Hamilton-Stokes and John Woodson)**

- STEMulating Minds Math Festival will be held for K-12 students at Centennial High School on December 10, 2013 from 6:30-9:00pm. The purpose of the Festival is to get students and their parents excited about Math and careers involving Math.
- The Superintendent of Maryland Schools (Dr. Lillian Lowery) went to several Maryland schools recently, talking about the Common Core. November 17 & 24 are potential dates for her to visit Howard County Schools. Sundays were chosen because PTACHC would like maximum parent participation and felt a Sunday would provide the best option.
- PTACHC wants to address the wellness program, specifically school snacks and the quality of school lunches. There are more students, but revenue is down.
- PTACHC also wants to address the theory behind allowing students to bring their own device to school. They are concerned with unintentional consequences. Kerri and Sam requested PTA input on this topic, as they are slowing implementing at Hammond Middle School.
- PTACHC requested PTAs be careful with their Newsletters, and not include any political aspects. With the upcoming elections, they want to be sure the PTA remains neutral.
- PTACHC coat drive starts this month. There will be a box the Hammond Middle School lobby.
- PTACHC will offer additional Treasurer training available in October.
- The PTACHC received an overview of the role and functions of the Ombudsman. There is always an option to request support/services of the ombudsman.
- **Presidents Report (Joanne Ashton)**
 - Communications Procedures: Joanne distributed HMS Communications Procedures that she developed with the board. It outlines how to obtain PTA approval for communications from backpack flyers to Email Blasts. It also included information on printing flyers via Outer Office, reimbursement for expenses, and reserving dates for PTA activities.
 - The PTA Website is currently down. Frank and Joanne are looking into the cause.
 - Box Tops: Pat will work with Shelly Cohen on the Box Top plan for this year. We cannot easily change the PTA budget once it has been approved. It is very important to know about program expenses at the beginning of the year to ensure they are included in the budget.
 - Board Contact Information: Joanne asked everyone to add their phone numbers to the PTA board listing, so she and others can reach them via phone instead of email.
 - Meeting Time: Can the starting time of the PTA meeting be adjusted to 6:30pm? Yes. Joanne will include the new meeting time in the next PTA newsletter.
- **Treasurer's Report (Tricia Miller)**
 - Current balance is \$10,321.35
 - Income: Membership Dues and the Viking Fund.
 - Expenses: Photocopying and Fall Dance DJ deposit.
 - Tricia recently met with Tim Fargo, CPA. He will do a 2-year review of the PTA books. Initial feedback: need more of cushion for next year's PTA.
 - According to Bess D'Costa, Spirit Wear sales were really good; estimated income is \$1,000.
- **1st VP Report (Karin Bruce)**
 - Staff Appreciation & Adopt a Staff
 - All families have been designated a staff member. Letters with this information are in the mail.
 - This year's Staff Appreciation theme will be "Around the World in 180 days". Each month will feature an event from a different country. Snacks and goodies will relate to the theme. October's theme is Germany (October Fest).
 - Spirit Wear

- Sales are very good this year, better than last year.
 - **2nd VP Report (Daphne Stanley)**
 - Spelling Bee Dates have been identified.
 - Currently looking at dates for the 8th Grade Dance...possibly June 6th or 12th.
 - Daphne will work with Kerry Dufresne (HMS Principle) on potential cultural events and grants for this year.
 - **Fall Fling - October 25, 2013**
 - Flyers will be going out soon.
 - All students must be picked up by 5:30pm.
 - Student Government will be collecting canned goods at the Fling and during that week.
 - **Roundtable**
 - Deveonne asked about After School Programs. Kerri and Sam noted that they will start in November (soccer, basketball, etc).
 - Can Parks/Rec come to HMS? If Chuck Parvis approves of the request, it is OK.
 - Daphne Stanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Deveonne seconded; motion passed.
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Minutes respectfully submitted by Pat Johnson, HMS PTA Secretary.