



PTO Business Meeting Minutes January 17, 2018

Meeting called to order at 9:16 AM

Secretary

Lynn Hare requested approval of the October 18th, 2017 minutes. Motion made to approve the minutes by Mariana Giebel and second by Mary Henneman

President's Report

Suzanne Wychocki introduced the new PTO Website. She demonstrated how to navigate the new site, less picture focused more information focused, more like a Blog. Volunteer opportunities, for Freshman or anyone who wants to get involved, committees who need volunteers with the chairpersons contact information. PTO events that are not meeting oriented, College Workshop for example is a community service. The Parent Network has a committee is described in the site and involves not only new families of freshman but any new families.

Treasurers Report

Audience member asked about the Panhellenic Committee. Suzan explained that it is a committee that hosts college age women representing their sororities who speak to seniors about rushing and navigating the greek System. A representative from National Panhellenic speaks. Free event held at the school. Mary said that it's a good idea if your daughter wants to rush a sorority to help them gain access to a Sorority. Helps the girls put together their Resume and letters of recommendation in order to rush a sorority.

The site offers a place to give donations and register. A question was asked if registering was the same as joining the PTO. Suzanne said yes it is the same thing. You can register with the district or on the PTO website which is easier to direct people to after registration. There was a question about how to use Directory Spot after registering. Suzanne explained that the same email you used to register, is the one you use to access Directory Spot.

Calendar: The PTO website is connected to the district calendar.. The only things highlighted on the PTO site are those things specific to the WHOLE student body as opposed to the Athletic calendar or specific student activities.

If you want something to go into the eblast, attached flyer or image there is a place to do this and/or make it linked to Remind, Facebook or twitter, Sign Up Genius or added to the District calendar (which it goes to Stephanie directly) there is a place to do that on the site. Suzanne stressed making sure you have the correct links and information is clear before sending. A

question was asked that if She needed to send out a flyer in the eblast, instead of writing to Suzanne, all she needed to do was fill out this form on the site and that is it? Suzanne said yes yes but make sure you check your links and the more information the better.

Reimbursement: Same thing as above, Suzanne demonstrated how to do this through the website. Mary Henneman and fatima showed an example of a reimbursement done incorrectly, where the picture of the check submitted was not complete. When uploading it's important to include the whole check and receipt.

Remind: A question about using remind was asked from the audience and Mary explained how to submit things to Remind using the App. To: 81010 and in the conversation box put: @25b7 you should receive a text that you are joining the HCHS PTO. Turn on alerts Remind in settings

A question was asked if things were edited before they are posted to the site. Suzanne said the answer is yes, there are a few people who review what is submitted before it hits the site, but we are trying to get away from asking that they write the headline or the whole flyer, they only edit.

Question was asked as to how the budget was affected by the new registration process and the fact that the PTO doesn't print a Directory. Suzanne is going to run the numbers this month, but it looks like we are short three to four thousand dollars than the normal 25 to 30 we normally get. We are going to take away access to the directory which should generate some registrations, but it's going to take a year or two for people to get used to how things are. It is a learning curve. Most of the Freshman parents are used to it so it shouldn't be as difficult. Fatima said the only other place we lost money was the adds not generated in the printed directory, but it was offset by the cost of the printing.

Principals Report

Final Exams: Reschedule Request Form went over well based on opinions of parents and students. Mixed feedback from teachers. 350 requests were submitted to reschedule final exams. First time tracked data. 136 moved on Tues, 149 moved to wed and 65 students started winter break early. Old way for exams was: 3 exams first day, 3 second day and 2 on third day and last for make-ups. Next year he thinks they are going to do 3 exams, 3 exams, 2 exams. This year, because students may have had only one exam on Thursday, opted to move them creating havoc for the teachers.

District 86 Community Planning: There will be five meetings. Exciting opportunity to look at the direction of the school specifically academics. It's been sixteen years since they have really looked at this again. He is excited about this.

Senior Final Exams: Seniors can opt out of Finals second semester and he is ironing out the procedures to do this. He wants to gather data based on why they are opting out of finals and

be able to present this to the board and gauge the validity of this choice. Driving point behind this. Hinsdale Central Graduates on May 24. Finals are 9,10 Monday, 3,4,5,6,7,8 Tues, 1,2 on Thursday. Hinsdale South graduates on May 23 so all exams on Monday and only 2 on Tuesday. Opting Out was driven by Calendar issues. Parents don't want kids graduating on Friday of Memorial Day. Data revealed that because of week less instruction, finals 50 minutes not 60 and they are finished. They are thinking that they need to have all senior grades reported by the Wednesday before Graduation so they can make an informed choice of opting in or out of the final.

AP Finals are a problem because they go up until the Monday before senior final exams. Some teachers were giving a practice and on the final day giving an assessment. Now any assessment given in the third or fourth quarter are a grade, finals must be on the assigned day and count as a final. AP tests are not a final.

Question was asked if the Board is looking at eliminating Finals all together. Mr. Walsh said that the committee that made this recommendation ASKED to continue to look into issues regarding assessment. He was not sure what those were. Teachers have pride in their curriculum and they want a final assessment to see how they did as instructors. Still working on the procedures with the Opt Out.

Last Board meeting, new calendar has not been approved, but the point was brought up at the meeting that the break was too long. Talking about changing some days Teacher Institute day. If you want to make any suggestions about the calendar, attend the next Board Meeting.

Announcement of Next Meeting:

Community Speaker Series

Dr. Michael Bradley- Crazy Stressed: Saving Today's Overwhelmed Children

February 21, 2018 at 7:00pm The Community House

February 22, 2018, 9:30a The Community House

Next PTO Business Meeting:

Wednesday, March 22, 2018 9:00AM

Meeting Adjourned 10:00am

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Hare, Hinsdale Central PTO Secretary

