

HBMS PTSA Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2011

Attendees: Deb Drouin, Joy Belanger, Katie Corsetti, Pay Goyette, Marybeth Carroll, Deanne Martin, Cheryl O'Donnell, Jeannette Hallerman, Maryanne Shanley, Penny Arsenault, Ellen Kotelly, Krista Whalen

Principal's Report:

Pat discussed the new course, "Middle School 101," for seventh graders this fall. She said that it was developed because Family and Consumer Science was eliminated. She and Assistant Principal Steve Secor created the class to help incoming students without adding more study, workload, and homework to their already full plates. Mr. Secor is teaching during the month of September. He's holding classes on PowerSchool and helping seventh graders settle into their middle school routines. Carolyn Jahns (media specialist) and Joe Gruce (computer specialist) will teach during October and November helping students create a mock research paper. No grades will be given; the emphasis is on the process, not the content. In December and January Michael DuBois (guidance) and Shelia Mandragouras (nurse) will deal with emotional health, stress, relaxation, and some guidance issues. In March, Pat Goyette will teach "High School 101" for eighth graders.

Student enrollment is down four students from last year. The school is expecting enrollment next year to be down about 25 students. New staff includes Lynne Ouellette as art teacher (from Nashua Catholic), Amy Bouchard as seventh grade English teacher (from eighth grade in Bedford), and Caitlyn Silveria specialized life skills (from RMMS in Brookline).

The Writing Review Committee has members from each school in the district. Karen Coutu (8th grade English) and Maggie Grupposo (8th grade English, retired) represented HBMS. The goal is to collect data on how students are progressing in writing at their transition years (end of 3rd, 6th, 8th, and 12th), then determine strengths and weaknesses to help develop the teaching process. However, assessments didn't happen when expected, so they were conducted at the beginning of this year for grades 4, 7, and 9. Writing samples are anonymous. Students were given writing prompts.

Open House received a great turn out for 8th grade on September 14; 7th grade is tonight. Parents get their student's PowerSchool password on their Open House schedule; otherwise it will be mailed to them.

The Building Leadership Team (BLT) involves teachers participating in a book study on the book, *How to Grade for Learning*, by Ken O'Connor to help guide meaningful assessments as well as to help parents understand how final grades are determined.

Over \$700 was raised from students singing at the June NH Fishercats game fundraiser. The money will go to the choral program.

Treasurer's Report:

Penny Arsenault is the HBMS senior secretary who is willing to be the PTSA treasurer for this school year. To date, \$1895 has been collected for membership; 11 staff members and 184 parents. \$1527 has been collected for 218 student directory orders and \$762 has been collected in donations. To date \$4184.00 has been collected with a balance of \$19,132.97. It was motioned and seconded to defer a budget vote until next month as there is still more time for funds to be collected.

It was motioned and seconded that any reimbursement of \$50.00 and below will require only one signature. Any amount \$50.01 and above will require two signatures. Treasurer and Co-presidents have signing authority.

It was motioned and seconded that any treasury records older than 7 years be destroyed.

It was motioned and seconded that a web hosting fee of \$50.00 be paid.

There has been a request from Lego FIRST for the PTSA to pay the registration fee. So far, no additional requests have been made nor information given, so that is on hold.

Scrip: Deb said that the PTSA should reduce the amount in the budget it expects to receive from the scrip program as it has low participation. A discussion followed about increasing publicity. Perhaps students or Student Council could help with publicity. Deb suggested adding Chunkey's movie tickets to the scrip program, but it was decided too many other groups are selling them for now.

SpiritWear: Krista, Deanne, and Cindy (VanCoughnett) will have a booth set up at Old Home Day on September 17 to order/buy available spirit wear. They are looking for some responsible kids to help staff the booth. A discussion followed that no one at the high school except individual sports teams sells spiritwear. Maryanne will check with Mr. Rhupp (athletic director) and HS Student Council if it is acceptable for HBMS to sell spiritwear at the HS. All spiritwear says Hollis Brookline only. There is nothing about middle school/high school or Knights/Cavaliers so that is will have a longer shelf life. If students/parents want school names or something else embroidered on, that is an option. There are several new designs. It was suggested that maybe a link on each school website could be made for buying spiritwear.

Directory: Maryanne, Jeannette, and Katie will work on student directory soon.

Volunteer needs:

The library is in great need of parent volunteers.

A committee chair for the 8th grade celebration in June is needed.

The ski program needs a coordinator for chaperones. Penny is the contact for this. Free passes go to chaperones; 6 Monday evenings in winter at Wachusett Mountain; will check with 6th grade list who did program last year to try to find someone who may be interested.

Update bylaws: This is due in April. Cheryl O'Donnell mentioned she has been through it in the past and it is a long meeting as each bylaw needs to be reviewed and the proposed changes voted on.

Other:

Gina Quinn is considering being the vice president for MS PTSA.

Penny put leftover photo frames in the PTSA closet.

Maryanne is looking into what mail server the PTSA will use to consolidate mailings. She is leaning towards Mail Chimp. Several people mentioned they've had success with that.

Marybeth Carroll mentioned having a fashion show as a fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10a.m.

The next meeting is October 20 at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Corsetti