

DHHS PTO
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
Minutes from general meeting

Attendance: Jeanne Stevens, Machel Braxton, Debbie Helgeson, Barbara Carpenter, Jennifer Tung, Carolyn Rotermund, Janice Florentine, Ann Haren, Jeanne Morrissey, Meg Lyons, Maryann Francischelli, Christine Odabashian, Antonia Jibilian, Ellen Frank.

Also attending: Jean Baker, DHHS Guidance, Barbara Britton, DHHS Principal

Recorder: Janice Florentine

Meeting called to order at 8 a.m.

Jean Baker passed out hard copies of the DHHS HANDPRINT newspaper. The paper is written and published entirely by students. Hard copies are available in the school or it can be read online.

Transition from APTS (Alliance of Parents, Teachers & Students) to DHHS PTO is official; new bank accounts, EIN, and seeking 501c3 status. It is agreed that the newly formed DHHS PTO will open its checking account at NewAlliance Bank because of free-checking and extended on-line access. \$2850 in membership dues have been collected to date and will be deposited. Likewise, all monies from the APTS account will be transferred to the new PTO bank account.

Membership Drive - The PTO is urging all families to donate the \$20.00 per family fee. This donation will enable the PTO to continually enrich the curriculum at Hand through inspirational presenters, technology improvements and various other educational needs. As noted above, to date \$2850 has been collected.

A brief overview of some of the items and events PTO has listed as goals for the school year 2010-2011 was presented.

SMASH- now known as LIFE- living intoxication free everyday, is made up of 29 students. These students along with PTO would like to partner together to bring the inspirational speaker I Am Dirt to Hand. This is a one man show who presents how your decision to use drugs and drink alcohol affects more than just you.

Additionally, wireless capabilities, computers, and response cards are on the long list of goals for this year.

College Bowl, Sunday October 24, 1-4 pm. Mainly for 10th-12th graders. This event reviews the college application process. The PTO will sponsor hospitality, promote event and collect/process registration fees. Monies generated at this event will be shared among the DHHS Guidance Department (to fund Spring college visit programs), The Madison Foundation's MaryEllen Bossi Scholarship, and the DHHS PTO.

Guest Speaker- Jean Baker, DHHS Guidance: Naviance- web based program for students and parents. All parents are given their own number to access Naviance. Freshman parents have not been assigned a password yet.

Support Staff - Erin Corbett- MYS. She sees students weekly or sporadically, according to student need. She also sees all drug and alcohol issues. A parent or student can request assistance.

Counselors at Hand see approx. 260 students per year. Guidance department sets up college visits from 150 colleges in the fall of each year. Announcements are made so students know which schools are in the building.

Donna Konarski- RN: She emphasized communication is key in regards to illness, emotional concerns, social concerns, and injuries. The nurse's office sees approx. 75-95 students per day. Emergency forms need to be returned ASAP. Outfits your child wears to school needs to be compliant with school dress codes. Sports registration forms can be found online and returned to the nurse before the season begins.

A brief review of "Daniel Hand High School Counseling Curriculum Calendar- Grades 9-12" was undertaken.

Pam Rotere - Special Education Coordinator: There are 10 special education teachers at Hand. They focus on post-secondary plans where students learn to

function on their own independent of their parents. The special education department also does evaluations and intervention crisis.

Ben Shriver - Social Worker: The social workers job is to break down barriers getting in the way of learning. They see students who are dealing with a divorce, loss, or relationship challenges.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 from the Teachers Lounge.

PTO Meetings- Generally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m. at Daniel Hand High School. Sign in at the main office and they will inform you where the meeting will take place.

November 9; December 7; January 11; February 1; March 1; April 5; May 3.