

Clarkston High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
October 9, 2018



Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Meg Pardee

I. Welcome: In attendance were Amy Metz, Nancy Ritchey, Gary Kaul, Meg Pardee, Kim Hardtke, Cale Herzenstiel, Brooke Larkin, Katrina McMahon, Mary Herzenstiel, Andrea Rozman and Dianna Zabinski

II. Action Items:

A. Meeting minutes from the September 11 meeting were reviewed. Kim Hardtke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Andrea Rozman seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Ways and Means Requests: Kim Hardtke

Ms. Hardtke presented two requests for the board's consideration. Prior to the meeting, the requests were considered by the members of the Ways and Means committee, and both requests were approved unanimously by the committee. As such, the requests were considered without a formal motion and based upon the committee's recommendation, and the board proceeded immediately to a vote on each.

First, Rachel Vickers requested an amount between \$350 and \$600 to obtain two "stand-up" desks for use in her co-taught ELA classroom. She explains that the desks would be used primarily for students affected by ADHD who currently find it necessary to leave their seats and often stand on the sides of the room or walk around. She believes that the stand-up desks will aid these students in continuing their work and participation in class even when they need to leave their seats. She includes two bids for differently priced desks, and the committee approved the \$350 amount to purchase the lower-priced option. The board voted as a whole on the committee's recommendation and unanimously approved the recommendation to grant the \$350 amount to purchase the two desks.

Second, Jeanne Lebnick and Katie French requested an amount between \$85.38 and \$107.07 to purchase fluorescent light covers for their classroom which serves both ELA co-taught classes as well as LRC support classes. The board has approved requests for light covers in the past, and Ms. Lebnick and Ms. French explain that the light covers provide a filter for the harsh fluorescent lights and provide a more pleasant atmosphere for the students. The committee approved the \$85.38 requested amount, and the board voted as a whole to approve the recommendation to grant \$85.38 for this purchase.

C. Career Day and Grad Night Party: Kim Hardtke

Ms. Hardtke reported that the Career Day program will take place this year on December 13th. She indicates that all-day moderators and half-day moderators are still needed, and that she will be sending out a Sign-Up Genius to this effect.

Regarding the Grad Night Party and other Senior celebrations, Ms. Hardtke reports that a "Senior coordinator" is still needed, a position that oversees the many sub-committees that work to put on the Grad Night Party. A "Junior coordinator" has been identified, and the "Senior coordinator" importantly does NOT need to be a senior parent. We are also in need of a Treasurer for the overall Senior Celebrations group. In addition, a "Picnic chair" has been identified, but we are still in need of a "Junior chair" for the picnic event, who would need to be available to help coordinate and assume the role of "Senior chair" next year.

III. Reporting Items:

A. Treasurer's Report: Andrea Rozman

See Financial Report and Bank Statement in meeting packet. Our checking account balance is \$15,851.55 and our cash balance is \$13,231.16. Our Ways and Means currently available balance is \$5,180.16 (prior to today's approved requests).

B. Membership: Nancy Ritchey

We currently have 187 members, 53 of which are staff. Our current donations stand at \$5966, which is down from the \$6800 amount we had at this time last year. Ms. Ritchey reports that the membership form will be sent out to Renaissance teachers and there is some discussion of Renaissance parents' participation as well.

C. Volunteers: Katrina McMahon

Ms. McMahon reports that we currently have a working list of 53 volunteers, most of whom have indicated interest in supporting the parent/teacher conference dinners and/or the staff appreciation week events.

D. Web-site: No report

E. Advocacy: Mary Herzenstiel

Ms. Herzenstiel reports that the Education Reform committee in Lansing is ramping up to introduce and consider multiple bills, and that after the upcoming election, she expects to see more activity from this committee. She reports that the Michigan PTA advocacy group has become part of a larger steering committee for an advocacy coalition, which indicates that group may be becoming more active than in the past. The Michigan Department of Education is addressing which records can and cannot be shared by schools under the federal FERPA laws regarding vaccinations. Finally, a rally will take place in Lansing to address the fact that Michigan is the only state in the nation that was targeted recently as needing improvement in special education by the federal Department of Education.

F. Reflections: No report

G. Kroger Community Rewards: Meg Pardee

Ms. Pardee reports that the recent quarterly Kroger Rewards check was received in the amount of \$2828.23.

H. Health and Wellness: Amy Metz

Ms. Metz reports that the two "Real Talk" sessions will be taking place on October 25 and 26, hosted by teachers from CHS and taking place at the local Methodist church and attended by Clarkston High School students and staff. In addition, a "Drugs 101" seminar will take place on October 30th. Clarkston For Life will be hosting a book study at the Clarkston Independence District library on Monday, October 29th to discuss the book "Daring Greatly" by Brene Brown. Finally, on Saturday, November 17, a "Suicide Survivor Day" event will take place locally at Calvary Lutheran church in Clarkston which includes the viewing of a documentary, a keynote speaker, and break-out healing sessions.

I. Principal's Report: Gary Kaul

Mr. Kaul reported that Homecoming Week took place beginning October 1st this year, culminating with the football game on Friday, October 5th and Homecoming dance on Saturday, October 6th. The set-up for the dance was amazing with many of the decorations having been hand-made by Rachel Vickers and her leadership students.

Teachers and staff will wear their favorite college sweatshirt or t-shirt on Wednesday, October 10th in order to support national "College Application Month".

Teachers will attend a showing of the documentary "Angst" on Friday October 19th, which addresses teen anxiety.

Parent teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday, October 16 from 4:00 to 7:00 and Thursday, October 18 from 5:00 to 8:00.

The CHS Learning Showcase will take place on Tuesday, February 5th from 4:30 to 6:30pm in conjunction with scheduling in an effort to help students and parents make more informed decisions in scheduling their classes.

Some discussion was had regarding the current vaping issues we are facing among the student population, and links to an article and two videos were provided. They are listed here:

Your kids think it's cool to vape at school. It's a big problem. Lori Higgins, *Detroit Free Press* Published 6:00 a.m. ET Sept. 25, 2018, Updated 5:32 p.m. ET Sept. 25, 2018

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2018/09/25/vaping-teens-school/1404821002/>

Links to videos:

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/17/health/ecigarettes-vaping-cannabis-study/index.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Wellness/high-school-senior-sounds-alarm-teen-juuling-trend/story?id=54903814>

The new break room intended to serve all students as needed is complete. Students will fill out a "reflection" sheet upon entering the break room. Students may enter the room as a "student-initiated" break or a "staff-initiated" break.

Fall signing day for athletes will take place on November 7th, and there is a new Athletics portion of the district website in the works. It should be ready to launch by the winter season, and will make accessing schedules and rosters much easier.

The CHS Madrigals have been asked to be the demonstration choir for the Michigan Music Conference again this year and will travel to Grand Rapids on January 24th for this program.

This year's musical will be "Hairspray," which includes a strong component of race relations and the acceptance of different body types. The Drama department is encouraging all students to consider participating and auditions will take place at the end of October.

The marching band will compete in the Livonia Franklin Invitational on Saturday, October 13th.

Repairs are being made to several sections of the roof where leaks have occurred.

Students will be encouraged as part of College Application Month to sign the "I Applied" wall and enter for a chance to win prizes in the "I Applied" raffle on November 1st.

J. President's Report: Meg Pardee

Ms. Pardee reported that copies of the group's bylaws are available for anyone who is interested in obtaining a copy.

Discussion was had regarding sharing the cost of the teacher conference dinners with CHS.

The group was offered the chance to sample the honey produced by the beehives the PTSA supported in an earlier year through a grant to Mike Olsen. The students harvested 75 pounds of honey in the spring, and will bottle and sell the honey shortly. A label contest was held to select a label for the honey containers.

IV. New Business:

A. Possible Change to PTO structure

Discussion was had regarding the group's previous consideration of disbandment and re-forming as a PTO during this school year. A general explanation was given as to the process going forward, and an informal show of interest was requested so as to decide whether to move forward. A unanimous show of hands indicated interest in continuing with the process, and further updates and information will accordingly be given in the coming months.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Amy Metz
Clarkston High School PTSA Secretary