

MINUTES

HSA PTA Meeting

April 3, 2024, 8:45 am | Meeting called to order by PTA President Lydia Vincenty

CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: Lydia Vincenty, Jen Donnelly, Nancy Chin, Kate Cox, Diana Tate, Nick Bondi, Natsumi Saito, Emily Casey, Vanessa Shropshire, Maria Rentzelos, Jackie Kelly, Mira-Loh Trivedi, Debbie Sprindzunus

OLD BUSINESS

- I. **Spring Fundraiser:** Thank you to everyone who helped. Raised almost \$20K more than last year. More people at check-in helped. Some quirks with credit cards and RSVPs but overall pretty good. Basket fix is needed to ensure pickup: suggestion to add paddle numbers to tickets, then have someone call out actual attendee names (not just ticket numbers) at the event. It was suggested that it might be nice to have principal of a day be the paddle drop to make it more inclusive. Regardless, everyone liked the paddle drop at the end. Ran out of all drinks so we'll need to make sure drink ticket volunteers are staffed the whole night next year. Suggestion to perhaps pay for signature/souvenir cups.

NEW BUSINESS

- I. **Report Card Pickup/LSC Elections:** April 10th no school, it's report card pickup day so teacher luncheon will happen that day. Mira and Veronica will manage again; others (Diana, Lydia, Vanessa) offered to help. Planning on same lunch as last time but open to new ideas. LSC elections are that same day. Whole LSC is being elected; 6 parent seats open. You have to be in person to vote. Mr. Rollins sending out more information soon.
- II. **Spring Movie Night:** Date is 5/24. Between Inside Out and Super Mario Bros. JH may sell concessions. Will also have spirit wear and lost and found. FYI that if it rains vendor will cancel. PJ day and donuts that same day for raffle.
- III. **Chicago Fire Outing:** \$25 tickets at 200 level for Saturday, June 1st game. Tickets go on sale Friday in blast. Remind folks to get the right amount of tickets as we expect them to sell out.
- IV. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** 1st week of May. PTA will sponsor breakfast and snack cart on Monday/Wed and room parents will be contacted to coordinate something for Friday/rest of the week. Will update favorites list then circulate and send reminders to room parents.

OTHER BUSINESS

- I. **Student Council:**
 - a. Student Council sold approximately 2,540 **Patty-grams** and raised a total of \$4354.80. Minus the cost of the candy (\$1668) they grossed \$2686.80. They will be donating \$1350 to the American Library Association 21st Century fund to support their work regarding book bans. The other half will go to PTA to fund the inflatables for field day.
 - b. For the end of the year the Student Council will be leading a **schoolwide ABC countdown** to the end of the school year. Starting May 1st each day there will be a different theme or simple activity for students to have fun and connect.
 - c. **Lost and found** almost out of control again. Come get it at report card pickup or they'll start sending out for donations.
- II. **HS Panel:** Need to come up with a different day to coordinate this. Maybe parent zoom and kids zoom. May 17 is Career Day in the meanwhile. Thursday April 11 is an in-school day for elementary schools.

- III. **PTA roles:** Need to start thinking about next year. Need to be clear about which roles have openings and what committees need help. Nominating committee will coordinate openings. Kristy no longer leading spring fundraiser, extra help needed there; may also assemble K committee after 5/19th acceptances.
- IV. **Walkathon shirts** are ready. Being distributed this week.
- V. **Bulls tickets** distribution happens next week early.
- VI. **JH Activity FYI:** Yellowstone 8th grade trip will now be a Smokies trip to mitigate high costs. Then still 8th grade trip to DC. Will still do Laredo Taft in 7th grade fall. Considering a fall 6th grade Dunes trip.

UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Principal Davlantes shared some updates. First, amazing year for HSA 8th graders: 90% got first choice of HS; remaining 10% got 2nd choice. Also, Hawthorne has been nominated for a Blue Ribbon.

New budget will come out on Monday, and administration is bracing for cuts. CPS is moving away from student-based budgeting to using opportunity index to fund schools. HSA pulls from 45 zip codes, but school's location in Lakeview creates funding challenges. CPS meetings leading up to budget release have been vague and the preference for neighborhood schools clear. With bussing gone and the lack of clarity about future Magnet status, forthcoming budget cuts are clear. Previous budget was not even enough to fund staffing; JH and K classes are very full. Current estimates indicate HSA will be short 3 teaching positions, and that's even without the elusive Magnet funds. CPS is promising to staff an AP at each school but that's complicated by the reality that the money allocated for that will require another (teaching) position be cut. Principal Davlantes is so grateful for the unofficial but essential AP support she's received from other members of the HSA staff/admin with former experience.

Beyond staffing impact, it's likely HSA will no longer be able to offer wait lists beyond its first offer; no room for more students if there isn't financial relief in place. Waiting to know actual numbers so community can mobilize on behalf of city-wide magnets. Principal Davlantes will send talking points for those interested in attending community meetings; may be helpful to have representation at board meetings. A reminder that Hawthorne has been a gold standard for CPS: eg, press used the school as an example in reopening after covid; we're 9th ranked in the state. We've overdelivered on our mission and it's only fair to ensure funding acknowledges that.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Wednesday May 1st.

Meeting adjourned.