

Harvard Schools PTO
Fall Member Meeting
Wednesday, November 8th, 7:30 pm through Zoom

- **Welcome (Dana)**
 - Welcome & Thank You
 - Overview of tonight's agenda
 - Introduction of Board Members
 - Dana Oliver (Pres)
 - Amy Nutt (VP)
 - Alissa Weiss (Asst Secretary aka Social Coordinator)
 - Julie Hopkins (Secretary)
 - Seth Trotz (Treasurer)
- **Introduction of TBS & HES Administrators & Epic Game (Julie)**
 - Many thanks to the principals for joining us
 - Rebecca Katsch-Singer (HES Principal)
 - Hilary Sturgis (HES Assistant Principal)
 - Kim Murphy (TBHS Principal)
 - Stephen Greene (TBMS Principal)
 - The "Newly-Thrown-Together-In-Workplace-Bliss Game"
 - Each contestant must answer 4 questions about their co-administrator
 - The administrator who knows their colleague best wins an epic prize
 - PTO Cooler Bag otherwise ONLY available with a \$250 Gold Membership
 - Final Score: 3-Way Tie between Hilary, Rebecca and Stephen (2 correct each). Closest respondent to Tie Breaker Questions: Dr K
 - TONIGHTS WINNER:
 - Congratulations to our big winner!
 - Dr Rebecca Katsch-Singer!!!
 - (For more details about the questions and answers in this contest please email info@harvardpto.org)
- **Overview of 2022/23 (Amy)**
 - Mission
 - We worked last year to fundraise but also to do more PTO and school community building and to increase our in-person presence
 - We expanded our events and programs and did:
 - Events like: Kindergarten picnic, principal coffees, parents nights out, sprint soiree, and of course the book fair
 - Programs like square 1, apparel, science fair judging, DEIB, and teacher appreciation
 - Our Grant Program Grew

- We funded \$29.5K+ in 2021-22 (HES \$17.8K, TBS \$12.5K)
 - We funded \$35.3 K+ in 2022-23 (HES \$15.3K; TBS \$20K)
 - Last year we saw an increase in TBS interest in the grant program and requests from a wide range of areas in both schools
- This year we are off to a fabulous start...
 - We have supported a range of school events
 - The K-Picnic
 - (2) HES Principal Events
 - Ice Cream for the TBMS Scavenger Hunt
 - Held the first ever PTO Pickleball tournament
 - Have funded over \$9000 in grants (For details check out the PTO webpage)
 - We have signed up 142 primary members, 101 secondary members as of tonight, with a goal of hitting 250 primary members for the year. Membership makes up a significant portion of our budget, and we want to be able to help fund all the great requests that come in, so every member counts. Please encourage your friends to join if they haven't already!
 - And our Committee Chairs have been hard at work with fall and upcoming winter events and fundraisers...
- **Review of 2023-24 Fall & Upcoming Winter Fundraiser & Events (Seth)**
 - Supplies - Dana
 - Chair: Rachel Kopay
 - Supply program ran again this year with increased participation and success
 - Teacher Appreciation - Dana
 - HES Chairs: Geena Fitek & Lauren Kelly-Joseph
 - TBS Chairs: Rachel Huelin & Jessica Reynolds
 - This committee continues to hold monthly teacher events, stock the snack carts and coffee and show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate them. Conference dinners are coming up next.
 - DEIB - Amy
 - Chair: Christa Maxant
 - "Everywhere and Nowhere" workshop upcoming December 2nd by rogram is upcoming on December 2nd by [Wee the People](#), a group of Boston-based social justice educators focused on inspiring children to notice injustice and discover the power of their own voices. This program is best suited for kids 6 and up in grades k-2. It focuses on: *What does it mean to belong? What does it mean to be indigenous to a place? What happens when the things that make us who we are are left behind -- or taken away? This*

workshop explores immigrant and indigenous stories of home, migration, displacement, and belonging.

- Book Fair - Sowmya
 - Chairs: Ellin Wade, Sowmya Sampige
 - Partnering for the second year in a row with Silver Unicorn Bookstore. Over 200 titles selected for the fair, all published in the last 18 mos.
 - Upcoming next week!
 - Volunteers are still needed!
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845A8A82EA1FEC16-45663637-2023#/>
- New Family - Dana
 - HES Chair: Shannon Boeckelman
 - TBS Chair: Alissa Weiss
 - 5 new families since then summer
 - All get a welcome back from Arm & Arm and monthly info emails from the PTO
 - APPEND: With further research there were an additional approx 25 families who had registered electronically who have now been added to the NW email liast
- Apparel - Dana
 - Chair: Marnie Reichenbach
 - Fall spirit drive complete with about 160 items ordered & delivered
 - Teacher Fleece & Vest sale running with approx 15 orders to date
 - Solid sales, modest profit (approx \$500)
 - HES T-Shirts being provided to all new staff and students with financial needs (x18)
 - *Marnie is looking for a co-chair and eventual successor
- Square 1 Art - Julie
 - Chair: Elizabeth Bulger
 - Coordinated with Ms Owens to create art
 - Order forms coming out soon for families to order keepsakes prior to the holidays
- Business Partners - Dana
 - Chair: Dylan Brix
 - Goal to get the directory out in December
 - (Power school updates pending...)
 - Business Partner recruiting just getting underway
 - *We are looking for more hands for this job next year

- Pam O'Connor is interested in helping
- Pickleball Tournament - Dana
 - Chairs: Sarah Tate & Jessica Brix
 - 1st Annual Tournament
 - 20 teams with 2 Skill Categories
 - Double Elimination Brackets
 - Prizes donated by the Marcus Lewis Tennis Center
 - Great day of fun and fundraising!
- Fun Run - Julie
 - Tentatively scheduled for January 7th
 - Looking for a range of volunteers to help out
- Other Committees with updates?
 - None
- **Call for Volunteers & Open Floor - Dana**
 - Call for volunteers
 - Apparel
 - School Store
 - Fun Run
 - Business Partners
 - Book Fair Volunteers
 - Board Members
 - info@harvardpto.org
 - Questions, comments, call for ideas
- **Thank you & Adjourn - Dana**

Members in Attendance

1. Amber Aftosmis
2. Anitta Namanya
3. Spencer Holland
4. Cathy-Ann Alexander
5. Katie Berg
6. Lauren Derse
7. Julie Hopkins
8. Amy Nutt
9. Charles Oliver
10. Dana Oliver

11. Stacey Keneally
12. Pamela O'Connor
13. Sowmya Sampige
14. Karen Shuttle
15. Seth Trotz

Additional Guests

1. Rebecca Katsch-Singer (HES Principal)
2. Hilary Sturgis (HES Assistant Principal)
3. Kim Murphy (TBHS Principal)
4. Stephen Greene (TBMS Principal)

Minutes & Attendance taken by Dana Oliver - Reviewed and approved by the PTO Board