

HICKMAN PTSA MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2024 5:30 pm

Attendees: Rosemary Feraldi, Kate Canterbury, Jill Fischer, Ellen Wilson, Jonathan McFarland, Sue Schommer, Genalee Alexander, Kristin Bowen, Carla Fletcher, Chimene Schwach, Brian McCartney, Valerie Freed, Joseph Sall, Mary Jo Creech

Zoom: Christy Reedy, Amy Zguta, Adrienne Jacober, Rebecca Gingrich, Jessica Anderson, Jessica Patchett, Dana Carter, Naomi Leer, Lauren Hermann, Amy Childs, Marian Shen, Julie Mitchell

Call to Order at 5:32pm

Minutes from previous meeting: Carla moves to approve, Kate seconds. Motion passes.

Financials – see treasurer's report

Student Council - Sam Stewart: good feedback about homecoming to improve future events. Still considering what this year's passion project will be. Kristin points out that HHS Stu Gov received recognition from the state – Sam reports that HHS was running for the office of president of the Missouri Student Council for 2025/26 academic year; HHS won the office and will host the council next year.

PTSA President Report - Geni Alexander

Old Business:

- **Concessions** - Sue Schommer: income was over \$28,000 for the fall, about \$2500 more than last year. December has quite a few events, clubs are volunteering for several, there are four dates the first week of December, will send an email with a sign-up genius link tomorrow. Adding four wrestling events this winter and boys volleyball in the spring. Please volunteer – point people are always available, no experience necessary. Seeking more point people as well.
- **Kewpie Cleanup** - 4 ½ bags picked up in October; 13 in November. Next date is December 14th from 9-11 am – please come any time during that window to help out.
- **After-School Meals** - Nutrition Services brought back the meals at PTSA request

New Business:

- **Restroom Disparity** - Ellen Wilson & Jonathan McFarland-representing HHS Leadership Council elected by peers. Discussed having more outdoor trash cans; they are about \$50 each, would like 8-10. A main focus for this year is the bathrooms. HHS bathrooms do not compare to facilities elsewhere. Please ask your students about the restrooms to increase the awareness in hopes of increasing the likelihood of funding. Next year is the 100th anniversary so HHS will have more visitors and should be prepared. E-hall Pass was started last year in hopes that it will help with restroom security. Hopefully improving the facilities will improve the situation overall. Decreased supervision is part of the problem but is hopefully moving toward improvement. AP Stat students are collecting data on what's broken or missing, usage traffic, wait times, etc. Chimene suggested a quick survey about usage as well. Kristin warns to be mindful of wording to reduce wrong information being perceived. Restrooms that are most accessible between classes are the worst ones. Concessions restrooms are locked during the school day. Sam suggests that Stu Gov could create a QR code survey posted in the restrooms. It was stressed that this is not a custodial performance issue at all. Hickman custodians have more maintenance than newer schools. Rosemary suggests a letter from PTSA as well as personal emails to the district office. Chimene points out that HHS has more students with disabilities than any other high school so this also needs to be considered. The Leadership Council surveyed the restrooms last month and found stats such as only 48 of 63 toilet seats were fully functional.
- **SICC Jams** - Jonathan McFarland started this club in 2021 and has been hosting the SICCSTRAVAJAMZA music and arts festival every April on an early release day with student bands set up by Spanky's pavilion and displays of student artwork. Event raises thousands of dollars for the food bank. This helped to inspire live music at homecoming and it went great! HHS Dark Room Records fosters production and recording. There is also momentum to bring the radio station back as well. The

current need is for a PA system rather than having to rely on personal equipment of students/families. The cost is about \$2800. Chimene suggests using part of the proceeds of the event for this need or making a direct ask of others in addition to PTSA. Sweetwater is the recommended resource for the purchase. About 20 participants at the club meetings. Other clubs are also involved with the event. It was reported that about 150 students attended.

- **Kewpie Grants** - Rosemary Feraldi: 16 applications reviewed and recommended for approval by the committee for a total of \$3,637. Rosemary moves to fund all 16 requests, Kate seconds the motion. Motion passes. Kate will confirm PTSA membership prior to distributing funds.
- **Club Cash** - Geni Alexander-2 applications reviewed and recommended for approval by the committee. Rosemary moves to fund the requests, Mary Jo seconds. Motion passes.
- **Barnes and Noble Book Fair** - Chimene Schwach: should get voucher number tomorrow or soon thereafter for the book fair on December 7. Volunteers needed to hand out vouchers from open to close that date. There is also an online fair that is open for 5 days. Sign-up genius will go out soon with the help of Kristin. Chimene plans to be the point person all hours except from 9-12 due to a meeting. Looking for HHS alumni, firemen, state representatives, etc. to read for story hour. Poetry club did readings last year, open to this again. Kristin will post on social media. Looking for connections to music/arts students – will contact Mr. McFarland. Also working on having a Santa. The cheerleaders and/or mascot could be invited. Kate suggests handing out vouchers at athletic and local events prior to Saturday. Brenda suggests adding a QR code to the voucher to link for volunteering. Considering selfie-station.

Principal's Report – Ellen Wilson and Jonathan McFarland (Mary Grupe unable to attend due to illness): East side access will be open before school and during lunch in the coming months. Ground has broken on the gated passageway between the main building and the Fine Arts Building – plan was revised as discussed at last meeting to create more space. Student runners and singers continue to impress at state competitions. Musical production of Chicago will open soon. Welcoming a new interim administrative assistant focused on attendance. Tardiness during the first block continues to be an issue and can no longer be blamed on the weapons detection system. Students are checking in at the north office but taking a long time to get to class and are not counted present until they are in the classroom.

Committee Reports

Beautification: *Volunteer Needed* to host clean-up events

Membership: Kate Canterbury- will send a call to join in the newsletter in January, maybe an email. Discussed putting links in the announcements as well as other options.

Teacher Appreciation: Mary Jo Creech- Salad bar 10/29-great volunteer turnout to serve about 150 faculty and staff. Made 300 gift bags for HHS and Douglass staff and bus drivers. 11/21 will be the next event – appetizer meal. Sign-up will go out soon. Also created a google form to survey teachers about attendance and food preferences as well as gift card suggestions. Douglass doesn't have a PTSA so we include them when feasible.

Website: Carla Fletcher- Kristin created a document including log-in credentials for accounts and will need to give Carla access to the google drive to get her up and running-thank you!

Social Media: Kate Canterbury- no new report

Reflections: Valerie Freed- posted in the announcements and will send to Kristin to post on social media; Ms. Wilson will discuss in the department meeting this Wednesday. Deadline is December 10th.

Hospitality: *Volunteer needed*

Adjourn Rosemary moves, Kristin seconds – 7:00 pm

Upcoming Dates:
December 2: Next regular meeting, 5:30 pm, HHS Media Center
December 7: Barnes and Noble Book Fair, Columbia Mall
December 14: Kewpie Cleanup, 9-11 am