

PTSA Meeting Minutes

Hillcrest Community School (HC), In Person
Bloomington, Minnesota
March 12th, 2024
6:15 PM



ATTENDEES

Executive Committee Attendees: Miranda Nesbitt (President) Ali Blessing (Treasurer) Don Gramenz (Principal), Bianca Boomer (Teacher Representative)

Others Present: Maureen Gray, Heather Antonovich, Tracy Zeimet, Bianca Boomer, Becca Effertz, Jeremy & Jennifer Dahlen, Kate Ford, Brett Larson, Sean Johnson, Jasmine McNellis, Melinda Morvari, Kendra Oxendale

PROCEEDINGS:

(I) Welcome and Introduction **Welcome (Miranda Nesbitt)**

PTSA Topics

- ☐ Cookie Dough: Forms are due at the end of March and pick up will be at Eileen's to transport back to school. Tuesday, April 16th is pick up and it'll be hosted in the cafeteria.
- ☐ Spring Carnival: Meeting happening after tonight's PTSA meeting. Incoming Kinders will get complimentary tickets to the carnival. Maureen will bring tickets to surrounding Preschools in the area to promote the carnival. A donation letter has been sent out to families with the collection sheet for businesses to get their tax deductions. The raffle baskets are put together by Ms. Wills and include the dollar raffle. Either gift cards, cash, or donations will be accepted for her to put together. The junk food and pop toss will be a signup genius. We hope to have two junk food walks.
- ☐ Spring Conference meal: It went well and Olive Garden was great! Perfect amount of food and it was much appreciated.
- ☐ Sidekicks: Our executive board has exceeded our term limits and is hopeful to find at least one or two people to sit by us the whole school year next year to allow for crossover and training, while also being readily available for questions. It's a great time and we are very laid back & flexible. We used to have two people per role as co-presidents, co-treasurer, co-secretary, etc. The idea would be that each year everyone has a shadow to help them and do everything together. We'd love to know who would like to volunteer for these roles before the end of the school year (ideally) so we can ease into things.
- ☐ 5th Grade Graduation: Fifth-grade & fourth-grade parents do everything together so that the fifth-grade parent can enjoy the ceremony and the fourth-grade parent can "be in charge" during the event.
- ☐ Kindergarten and 1st Grade Music Festival: It'll be at the end of the school day and refreshments will be outside by the playground (weather permitting). A signup genius will go out soon to volunteer for those items.

(II) PTSA Business

February 2024 Minutes (Alissa Babcock)

-February 2024 minutes were presented to members, Tracy Zeimet motioned to approve and was seconded by Becca Effertz.

Principal Report (Don Gramenz)

- Blake Nellis is working with a second grade on their unit of Balance.
- This Friday, March 15th is Bring a Buddy Day: stuffed animal or something that can fit in their backpack
- Lots of events coming up: book fair, math night, Grandfriends day, etc. and Spring break
- Orchestra Hall was amazingly well prepared and did great being an audience member & role model for other schools there.

- In April Bob Lentz will begin implementation for the mural after gaining feedback from staff.
- Yearbook orders are due April 8, 2024!
- If you do before/after school care for Kids Safari, registration opens on April 8th for the 2024-2025 school year. Register early because it fills up quickly.
- The fifth grade starts testing two weeks after Spring Break. Three consecutive weeks of testing.
- Staffing/Rightsizing the Budget: overall Hillcrest equates to approx. 1.5 FTE to measure salary and benefits. Kindergarten enrollment went up by a handful. First & Second grades remain the same. We lost quite a few to Elements so there are two 3rd grade teachers. The amount right now is 32 students per section. Based on Right Sizing the Budget, if we added 1 more fifth grader for this fall, it would add another section as there are currently two. Some staff have needed to reduce their hours and, at this time, we no longer have three gen. ed paras we will have two next year. We continue to advocate for 5th grade and the whole school as best as we can.
- Parent volunteers can help at both recess and the lunchroom. You need to go through specific training for the lunchroom/food service piece.

Teacher Update

- Grandfriends Day is open house style; they can go to the book fair and in the cafeteria for refreshments. It starts at 8:15 am and teacher contract time begins at 8:20 am. Upon arrival, they are welcome to go to the cafeteria first and it will close at 8:45 am to clean and get ready for Kids Safari breakfast at 9 am. Food will stay in the cafeteria to allow it to remain contained. Please remind grandfriends to arrive on time and not early as teachers/spaces may not be ready earlier than 8:20 am.
- The lost & found is largely growing - check it out!

(V) Adjournment

Kate Ford motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jasmine McNellis.

Next, the PTSA Meeting will be held in person on April 9th, 2024 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. at Hillcrest.

Submitted by Alissa Babcock, Board Secretary

Hillcrest
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

