

HPHS PTO MEETING
February 9, 2009
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:15 a.m. by Jody Weinberg, President

ATTENDANCE: Jody Weinberg, Susan Berk, Carrie Codell, Amy Perlmutter, Amy Kaufman, Beth Conen, Marjie Sandlow, Janna Berk, Liz Copeland, Jill Katlin, Kathy Derman, Elisse Halpern, Robin Nasatir, Terri Olian, Sarah Liebman, Brad Swanson

II. Minutes – Motion made and passed to approve December Minutes.

III. Committee Reports – FOCUS – Carrie Codell spoke about the recent mailing that went out regarding volunteers for Focus. This needs to be returned by next week. Three time segments are available this year during which you can volunteer (morning, midday, afternoon) as opposed to specific timeslots. This is in an effort to make scheduling easier. So many artists were interested and available this year that we had to turn some away.

New this year: Ravinia Park has commissioned a musical performance for Focus which will be take place at HPHS on Thursday morning. Parent volunteers are welcome to assist in the classrooms with the artists and to attend this and other workshops and performances.

The deadline for donations to be acknowledged in the program book is coming up in a couple of weeks.

IV. Principal's Report – Brad Swanson began the report with a discussion of issues related to registration/enrollment for next year:

Program of Studies changes:

1. Dual Language PE class – will be offered again (for the second year). Class make-up – 1/3 Spanish native speakers; 1/3 taking Spanish classes; 1/3 learning Spanish through this class.
2. Algebra I – being offered for the first time. Integrated Algebra/Geometry has existed, but the stand-alone Algebra is new.
3. Lab Phys./Chem. for Freshmen – class will include much more Physics – pilot program.
4. Photo and Ceramics – being offered to freshmen. Intended to help the Fine Arts curriculum – seems to be popular.
5. Driver's Ed – may not be offering the Early Bird program next year – too many difficulties. This course will probably go back to the regular day slot, but is still under discussion.
6. Freshmen – Free periods that are not lunches would be assigned as a study hall. Students would be allowed to sign out of the study hall to go to a resource such as Language Lab or Library, etc. This would provide good usage of time and productive study habits as freshmen become acclimated to the highschool. This is still being decided.

Discussions took place with Brad regarding various aspects of scheduling for next year. Questions were asked about the validity of continuing block scheduling on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Also, a discussion regarding on-line registration for classes on Naviance was brought up. It appears that the worksheet showing final class choices is not updated accurately on Naviance when final class selections are made.

A discussion also took place about party buses at Formal and procedures for checking for alcohol. Parents are concerned about a lot of the issues surrounding the school dances, and what role the school should play in giving guidance and support to the parent community.

V. President's Report – Parent Education Night was extremely successful and got a huge attendance. A committee has been put in place to do follow-up since this topic was so relevant (“Are You On-Line or Out of Touch” – related to teens and the internet/facebook/blogging, etc.).

Please note the date change to the Lunch with Brad, to be held March 5th, at 7:30 p.m.

VI. Treasurer's Report - \$45 in membership was collected this month. There was a request from Alan Wertheimer – Student Assistance Coordinator for “Alcohol EDU – Online Alcohol Education Program”. \$1000 was requested and approved for this program.

VII. School Board Report – Susan Berk reported that the 113 Caucus endorsed the following candidates for the District 113 School Board: Bonnie Shlensky, Harvey Cohen and Annette Lidawer. The election will take place during Spring Break, but there is early voting beginning March 16th.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS – GRAD NIGHT – Planning for Grad. Night is going smoothly. A lot of volunteers have responded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.
Next meeting April 20th at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janna Berk, Member-at-Large
For Carrie Codell, Secretary