

MINUTES OF FHGM BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2013

INTRODUCTIONS/SIGN IN

A meeting of the Friends of HGM Board was held in K109 at NHHS on Monday, November 18, 2013.

Peter Benn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Introductions were made, and those in attendance were as follows:

Peter Benn, President; Laura Frazin Steele, Secretary; and Board members Ruth Otarola (Linan), Mina Yang, Michel Algazi, and Liz Harris. FHGM parent Yazmin I. Peebles also attended.

Ethan Bradbury, HGM Coordinator, and Zepure Kivork, NHHS Assistant Principal, attended to represent NHHS faculty/staff.

Minutes were taken by Laura.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2013 Board meeting.

COORDINATOR REPORT AND FACULTY REQUESTS

A brief discussion was held to discuss Naviance, a college prep program. Some parents reported that it is useful; however, at this time the Board felt it might duplicate Ms. Rademaker's efforts.

Kersten Peppermueller's hours at NHHS have increased to 6 hours per day/5 days per week. For 3 hours per day/5 days per week she is employed as an independent contractor and her salary is funded by FHGM. Mr. Bradbury reported that Ms. Peppermueller is truly an asset to the HGM program, and all concerned are happy and grateful.

Mr. Bradbury submitted receipts for reimbursement for AP French books previously approved for Ms. Spadafora's classes.

Ms. Lee attended a weekend out-of-town math conference and requested hotel reimbursement in the amount of \$172.41. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to reimburse Ms. Lee \$172.41 for hotel costs.

Dr. Haut requested reimbursement of \$10.00 to cover the cost of refreshments for a house meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to reimburse Dr. Haut for the \$10.00 cost.

Mr. Bradbury and Ms. Kivork discussed monetary needs in the Athletics and Music Departments at NHHS, and it was agreed that Ms. Kivork will discuss these needs further with faculty. The Board discussed the possibility of making monetary contributions to the Athletics and Music Departments. Legal issues prohibit LAUSD schools to fundraise, and FHGM is the only parent group that fundraises significant amounts of money on the NHHS campus. A letter from Dr. Delling went out to families to discuss monetary needs.

Presently, the Athletics Department needs \$7000 to participate in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), which is a citywide athletics program. There are approximately 15 athletic groups at NHHS, and 300-350 students at NHHS, including HGM students, participate in CIF. It is estimated that 60-70 HGM students participate in CIF. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for FHGM to provide up to \$3500 as a matching fund to help raise \$7000 needed for NHHS students to participate in CIF.

Ms. Kivork discussed the need an additional golf cart on the NHHS campus for safety and security. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to fund \$2000 for a golf cart.

A one-day conference on Gifted/Talented Education sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles Gifted Children's Association, the LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs, USC, and the Central Cities Gifted Children's Association will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Interested families/staff may contact Ms. Kivork for additional information.

TREASURER REPORT

FHGM Board Treasurer, Steven Caraco, was not able to attend the meeting. Peter Benn reported that Steven is working on a projected budget.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy Chair, Jennifer King, was not able to attend the meeting.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising chair Peter Hahn was not able to attend the meeting. However, fundraising letters were sent out by U.S. mail and eblast. Peter Benn requested that Peter Hahn and Steven Caraco work together to eblast parents with information on expenditures and to remind them about what has been accomplished with their monetary donations. Parents can be reminded that they can now pay on the website by credit card.

ALUMNI RELATIONS

Brad Blick, Alumni Relations Chair, was not able to attend the meeting.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP/WEBSITE/COMMUNICATIONS

Michel reported that pertinent information about the Winter Potluck, including the auction and talent show, are available on the HGM website.

The transition to Mailchimp is complete and ready to go. All emails will be blasted from Mailchimp by Ruth.

Donations to HGM can now be made online.

Michel discussed the possibility of creating an online form to be filled out by new students or their parents so that contact information doesn't have to be entered manually. Additionally, it would be helpful to have parents include information about their occupation as well as their ability to offer internships for HGM students. Michel will work with Ms. Kivork and/or Mr. Bradbury to explore this further.

TEACHER WISH LIST/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Richardson is requesting supply and equipment upgrades for Chemistry and Biology classes as discussed below.

Pending approval of Dr. Delling, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to purchase 42 stools for Ms. Richardson's classroom (for labs) in the amount of \$2824.08 plus tax and delivery. LAUSD will supply 10 additional desks for the classroom. Mina is coordinating the purchase and delivery of equipment.

At the October 14, 2013 Board meeting, Mina presented a request from Ms. Richardson for 21 laptops (for 42 students) and a laptop cart to be shared with Mr. Maine and other faculty as needed (see October 14, 2013 minutes). Since that time, Mina and Michel have further researched the matter and offered answers to questions raised by Board members on October 14 as follows:

- To avoid connectivity problems with the NHHS wireless system, Mina and Michel suggested that we purchase laptops with local storage (not web only). All software will be installed on hard drives in the event that there are problems connecting to the internet. Therefore, there is no concern about overloading the wireless capability at NHHS.
- There is no information about when LAUSD will provide iPads for NHHS. Furthermore, the programs Ms. Richardson would like to use for her students can't be run on an iPad.
- The issue of students bringing in computer viruses is a real possibility; however, as with all computer systems, antiviral programs and computer maintenance can address the problem.

- Ms. Richardson would like to utilize the laptops to bring in curriculum that is not readily available through other means.
- Because LAUSD is a public school, students cannot be compelled to bring their own computer equipment to school.
- Michel suggested using Chromebook instead of laptops. (Note: since the meeting, it was determined that the instructional material that Ms. Richardson plans to utilize is not available on Chromebook.)

A motion was made and seconded to purchase 21 laptops or Chromebooks costing up to \$500 each for a total of up to \$10,500 plus 1-2 laptop carts. Mina and Michel would work together with Mr. Maine and Ms. Richardson on the purchase. The motion passed with 4 Board members voting yes and 2 abstentions. Mina did not feel comfortable moving ahead without additional Board support, and suggested a vote by email prior to the next Board meeting. Mina and Michel would like to move on this asap in the hope of purchasing the computers this month or at least by the end of the calendar year.

WINTER POTLUCK

Ruth Otarola (Linan) and Yazmin Peebles, Potluck Co-Chairs, discussed the Winter Potluck to be held on Friday, December 6, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the NHHS cafeteria.

Ruth and Yazmin need help with the set up/purchase of decorations. Anna Mueller is loaning us black tablecloths, and the Math classes might be making snowflakes. Peter and Laura offered to help shop for decorations/gift cards. Ruth and Yazmin are asking people to volunteer 45 minutes of their time the night of the potluck. The volunteers who are setting up will be arriving around 2 p.m. to begin, and students who help will receive community service hours.

Liliana is holding auditions among HGM students for the talent show. All students who audition will be allowed to perform.

Families were eblasted information about the potluck (RSVP forms, silent auction, talent show auditions), and all information is available on the HGM website. Flyers were also sent home with students.

The next FHGM Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013 at NHHS in K109.

The meeting was adjourned by Peter Benn at 9:25 p.m.