

Holliston PTSA
Town-Wide Board meeting
December 8th, 2015

In attendance:

Lynn Whynot, Ray Oquendo, Kathi Hothem, Nora Oquendo, Jill Sykes, Neela Patel, Kristine Perlmutter, Jill Alford, Dawn Latshaw, Lisa Kocian, Sara Ahern, Cathy Snyder, Stacey Raffi, Erin Ornsteen, Tom Bolton

7:03 Lynn Whynot calls meeting to order

Stacey moves to approve the October minutes, Cathy seconds, all in favor

Treasurer's Report (Ray) Highlights:

- The current net profits of \$49,003 will quickly dwindle as we pay expenses related to DI and Ski Club.
- At our last meeting, we approved the shift of budget and expense responsibility for Elementary Culture Connection to the Elementary school PTSA. As a result, \$5,205.64 was transferred from the town-wide bank account to the elementary bank account to settle all previous activities related to elementary culture connection. Vote needed to make changes final
- Kathi moves to make changes, Stacey seconds, all in favor
- Complete report: [December 2015 Treasurer's Report](#)

Parent education (Lynn)

- Deadline for submitting information for January/February newsletter is December 15th
- On Wednesday December 7th, RAMS is again hosting a Parent Technology evening with Adam Steiner covering chrome books from 6-7 and the Metrowest Partnerships for Youth program, Navigating the Cyber World, from 7-8.
- Chris Herren, Monday February 1st, 7pm, HHS.
- Parent Ed will partner with the Holliston Police Department to bring the "Social Host Liability" program, also through the Metrowest Partnerships for Youth, on Thursday, April 7, 2016, 7pm at RAMS.

Sara Ahern, Assistant Superintendent, presentation

- Administration was offered a training by Naami Turk, addressing the issue of student mental health and behaviors at home and in the classroom
- Focus going forward will be on to identify certain behaviors and patterns, as opposed to "labeling" students in the traditional way ("anxious", "depressed", etc.)
- Terms are already being used in the schools; need to bring to a parent audience
- Administration is asking board for support in advertising and financial ways (\$1500), if possible
- Ray moves to support via advertising, Cathy seconds, all in favor
- Stacey moves to support with \$1500, Ray seconds, all in favor □ Tentative date for presentation to parents: 3/8/16

Ski club (Jill)

- All payments have been moved to online and all payments have been made – no more checks
- Middle School sign-ups are right at the level where if many more sign up, we will need to either shut it down at 2 buses or extend the date and add another bus. Much discussion concludes that it's best to shut it down and create a wait list and wait to see if we can fill another bus before actually committing to one.
- Increased fees by \$10 to cover the stripe and the insurance

SCRIP (Cathy)

- SCRIP cards available online. Can be mailed or picked up in-person at school.
- Question about how much to discount them 5% or 10%?
- Sitting on \$5500 worth

Scholarships

- Jill is spearheading
- Written submissions have been very poor
- Discussion around how to increase interest and quality: Is amount of scholarships too low? Can we word the request better? Can we look beyond written submissions for other ideas? Can they use something that they have already written earlier in the school year?
- Sara adds that this is a learning opportunity for HS guidance to help the kids more, like a class on how to write an essay

Grants

- Kathi in charge of grants
- Two cycles for town-wide since we already have funds in place to support
- Teachers and administrator accustomed to the one, late-winter cycle

Dissolving our relationship with state wide PTO

- Jill moves to reopen the discussion, Stacey seconds
- Tabled for next meeting

Culture Connection (Nora)

Calendar of Events

- Additional event: Whale day for 1st graders
- Looking for someone to shadow Nora now to take over CC for next year

Technology (Tom)

- Tom still updating web site
- Heads of boards potentially looking for more training on how to update site on their own
- In light of potential break from National PTO, rebranding will create extra work
- Certain forms still need tweaking

Destination Imagination (Kristine)

- 21 teams in place
- 3/19 Town tournament
- Discussion surrounding having a separate line item for money that's earmarked just in case a Holliston team wins and is invited to Nationals. Concerns about how this money would not then be available for future groups once spent. □ Film festival 1/31, 12-2
- Future payments for DI should be online, just like Ski Club

Other business

- Discussion surrounding scholarships for Ski Club and DI concludes that we need more consistency with how these scholarships are given out
- High school representative for future HPTSA meetings: Erin was contacted by Holliston mom whose son is interested. Lynn will follow up
- Stacey from School committee – please raise awareness. Community involvement is crucial
 - DVR meetings on HCAT or click here:
<http://www.hcattv.org/programming/educationchannel/new-individual-program-page-3>
 - Visit webpage: <http://www.holliston.k12.ma.us/home/school-committee>

Motion to adjourn