

Herrick Middle School
PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2020

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell and Board of Education President, Darren Hughes toured HMS with a focus on long-term master facility planning.

- Russell provided the Board with information as well as answered questions given to the board by HMS parents and staff, including:
 - **8th Grade Promotion** is currently scheduled for 06/02/2020. The venue is still TBD.
 - **Parent question: Why are cell phones allowed in school?** While Herrick policy is for student phones to be out of sight during the school day, it is difficult to control and sometimes cell phone usage provides students access to tools and apps that can help them complete class work. These tools can also teach students to develop better study habits, like time management and organization skills. However, the administration realizes that these devices can also be a distraction and this topic is always being reviewed. Dr. Russell encouraged parents to reach out to him and the administration if they have thoughts on alterations to the cell phone policy.
 - **Parent question: What is the SEL assessment I read about on Facebook?** The IL State Board of Education has developed a set of assessments to incorporate social and emotional development standards as part of learning standards. The testing is to make sure the curriculum is meeting the standards. The board stressed that this was not a mental health screening and parents have the right to opt out of testing. Recommendation for SEL assessment will be presented to the Board of Education at their meeting on Monday, March 9.
 - Darren Hughes reviewed Facility Planning progress and intent for board to poll community to assess interest in different levels of improvement and spending.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Budget review/ reconciliation. While eighth grade dance committee expenses over 2019 proposed budget by \$3000, did not technically lose money because of amount gained by student registration costs.
- L. Dominow to reach out Dance Etiquette chairs for budget detail and written recommendations for next year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Mr. Yambao is researching a new sound system for the PTA. The proposed gift from the PTA will cost approximately \$2000.
- The last paper report cards will be going out on 03/13. Going forward all report cards will be in electronic format.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Budget review for 2020-2021 School year.
- Will need PTA nominating committee for April (voting in May).

- 7th Grade Open House May 4th at 7PM
- Board of Education Meeting with HMS student council March 9 at 7PM.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- HMS will not host any home track meets this year due to construction at Downers Grove North HS.
- Reviewed recent Dance/Etiquette program and recommended to set a code of conduct with consequences next year to better control behavior problems .

VP FUNDRAISING REPORT:

- Planning Mod Pizza Fundraiser for May, date TBD.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

- Teacher Dan Dvoracek proposed fundraiser, Faculty vs. 7th Grade Basketball Team. Proceeds to benefit Children's Cancer Research. Dvoracek is requesting PTA to purchase t-shirts for faculty (uniforms). He is planning to attend next PTA meeting to discuss his request.

NEW BUSINESS:

- PTA voted and approved Gina Pekofske as new PTA Co- Treasurer.
- Vote on \$2,000 speaker gift to school at next PTA meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Next meeting April 7 @ 1PM and May 5 @ 4:30pm