

CHMS PTO General Meeting Minutes February 13, 2019

Meeting was called to order.

Presidents' Report (Lisa Romberger & Theresa Gannon)

- The November 14th PTO General Meeting minutes were approved.
- The PTO presidents attended the February Presidents Meeting and shared several items.
 - D181 Unplugged week is going on this week. The goal is to reduce students' time on screen. The elementary schools are having the students sign a pledge to not use technology. The middle schools are reminding the students of alternative, technology-free activities (during CHMS daily announcements) and want to create awareness of how much time we spend on technology. This is the first year of this initiative so kinks are being worked out.
 - The village and D181 held a mediation on Friday, February 8 to resolve their differences involving the proposed parking deck. This mediation was successful and we will be notified of the details soon.
 - There is a D86 referendum information presentation at HMS from 9-10 am on February 27 in the gym. There are also tour dates available, which will be listed in the weekly PTO newsletter.
 - We are able to have a referendum table at our upcoming PTO events and lay out the nine D86 pre-approved documents on this table. We cannot staff this table with individuals in support of the referendum. We will also have these nine documents available as a widget on our CHMS PTO website.
 - The Department of Learning have been working on the math and ELA placement criteria and are close to hammering out the details.
 - The Hinsdale schools in D181 will be participating in the Stuff the Squad event from April 28th-May 3rd. This is coordinated through the Hinsdale police department. The Hinsdale police department will be approaching the Clarendon Hills police department to see if CHMS schools will be participating as well.

Dr. Brown's Report

- On Friday, February 15th, we will be halfway done with third quarter.
- The Disney concert went well. Erick Jones was at the concert and shared information on recent events, including Kindness Week, D181 Unplugged, and PTO Turnabout.
- The sixth graders recently had the Robert Crown presentation in their science class and feedback was positive.
- David Flood was recently here, presenting to both parents and students on the importance of being kind. The PTO and D181 Foundation provided the funding for these presentations. The students were very engaged. He challenged the students by asking them to 1) look inside themselves for empathy, 2) thank two staff members, looking them in the eye for nine seconds, and 3) never let a student eat alone at lunch. CHMS is pushing kindness all year. David Flood will send a follow up video in a few weeks to remind the students of their challenges and to ask how they are doing on them. The sixth and seventh graders are making kindness posters and the eighth graders will be making PSAs on kindness and respect. These will be shared with current students and with incoming sixth graders.
- Levi shared that he and Erick were starting to look at next year's schedule and staffing.
- The Department of Learning recently proposed the addition of an Integrated Math class for next year to the D181 board. They will vote on this class at the next board meeting.

- The Department of Learning also proposed to pilot a beginner's guitar class for CHMS. If it goes well, they will expand it to HMS the following year.
- Students will be picking their ENCORE classes soon.

Treasurer Report (Stephanie Stern)

The P&L, for the period ended January 31, was shared at the meeting. Stephanie highlighted four points on the P&L.

- The Eagle Café Spirit Lunches shows a higher income than what it will be at the end of year because we still have four more Eagle Café lunches and the money is collected at the beginning of the year.
- The School Fundraiser, Turnabout 2019, line item shows a projected income of \$20,000. This is the minimum amount needed to fully fund our operating budget for next year. We are hoping to raise \$35,000 so that we can fund \$15,000 in special projects. As of the 2/13 meeting, 10% of the CHMS families had donated and we have raised \$9,000. (See below for details)
- The invoice for the directories has not yet been paid, so this line item will decrease.
- The Media Center Support line item shows \$1,893 in its account but money will be spent out of this account soon, as the upcoming reading incentive program – SOAR – begins and as Ashley purchases some new books (including adding some books for our higher-level readers).

Fundraising & Activities

- The Fall Book Fair was a big success. We raised \$1,400 in book credit with Anderson Book Store, which will be used to purchase new books for our MRC.
- Turnabout 2019 (February 1st – 28th): All CHMS parents are invited to support our annual PTO fundraiser (formerly Phantom Ball in October). Minimum funds needed to support our annual PTO budget = \$20,000. This year's goal is \$35,000, with extra funds going toward the purchase of additional bike racks, flexible seating in classrooms and a refresh of the first floor Teacher's Lounge.
- No school next Monday, 2/18 for President's Day.
- The 7th and 8th grade band, choir, and orchestra will perform at Walt Disney World this weekend.
- D181 Foundation Young Writers Night – Thursday, 2/21 (6-9pm) at HMS. This event is planned for all 3rd – 8th graders and their families in D181 to celebrate, share, and encourage writing.
- Presentation: "The Opioid Epidemic" in DuPage County on Thursday, 2/28 at HMS Gym. D181 welcomes community leaders to learn and discuss what we can all do together to support our youth and one another with this growing problem. Speakers include: Chelsea Lalberte, MSSA, Dr. Roger Stefani, and Robert Berlin, DuPage County State's Attorney.
- Pizza Wars is Wednesday, March 13th from 6-8pm in the gym.
- We are currently seeking nominations for PTO Executive Board positions for the 2019-2020 school year. Please speak with Jill Conley or Kathie Cihlar if you are interested in learning more about open roles on the board.

Endless Appreciation

- Karen Deane for her creative work in coordinating our CHMS Turnabout 2019 online fundraiser.
- Christina Mehta for partnering with Ashley Rasmussen (MRC Director) on the upcoming SOAR Literary Reading Challenge (formerly Million Words contest). Students and staff will form teams and compete for fun prizes from March 1st – April 4th. Sign up starts in late February.
- Lauren Walsh, Jill Conley and all the parents who volunteer for the monthly Eagle Café lunch program.

Speaker: Officer Mike Coughlin, Hinsdale Police Department: Vaping and Drug Use in Middle School – What are the Signs?

Officer Coughlin's Vaping 101 presentation can be found on the PTO website and at this direct link:

<http://www.chmspto.org/wbcntnt3236/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/VAPING-101-2019.pdf>. Some highlights from Officer Coughlin's presentation are below:

- Drug use in our community is real. Officer Coughlin has been in our schools for 19 years and there are 10 students that he taught DARE to that are now dead from drug use.
- In addition to the vaping epidemic, there are also opioid epidemics and social media epidemics that we need to deal with. As parents, we need to monitor our children (including looking through backpacks, going through rooms, and looking at social media accounts). We are their parents.
- Vaping is less dangerous than smoking but it is definitely NOT safe. There are more kids addicted to nicotine than previously because smoking cigarettes had been on a decline. Ironically, use of vaping is leading to an increase in cigarette smoking.
- One in five students in high school have tried e-cigarettes. All three area middle schools (HMS, CHMS, and SIJ) have had vaping incidents with eighth graders.
- Hinsdale is trying to pass a village ordinance so that anyone 18 or under caught vaping could get charged under this new ordinance and would need to attend court with parents. A separate ordinance is needed because vaping is not covered under the current smoking ordinance. The current local ordinance covers tobacco but not nicotine.
- In addition, Illinois is trying to raise the legal age of smoking to 21.
- The Hinsdale police have used a reverse sting to make sure that local stores are not selling vaping equipment to children under 18.
- Students use hoodies as a filter.
- Key to dealing with your children is communication. You need to communicate to them that you care about them, love them, and that your rules are enforced to make sure that they are safe and OK.
- One pod is equal in nicotine to one pack of cigarettes. A pod costs around \$10. The equipment used to vape goes for around \$39-\$49.
- Some kids do OD on nicotine. There are many chemicals and a lot of nicotine that is absorbed in people's lungs when they vape (chemicals added to e-liquids and others produced during the heating/vaporizing process).
- New study reveals teens are 16 times more likely to use juul than older age groups.
- Some use THC wax in their e-cigarettes. The THC is so much stronger than from in the 60s & 70s and the e-cigarette is a stronger delivery system than a joint.
- Because nicotine affects the development of the brain's reward system, continued e-cigarette use cannot only lead to nicotine addiction, but it also can make other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine more pleasurable to a teen's developing brain.
- The industry's relative youth means that the long term effects of the e-cigarette on your body are unknown.