

Minutes
Homestead Parent Club Meeting
April 17, 2014

Present: *Kathy O'Shaughnessy, President; Kim Brown, Secretary; Carla Overdahl, Pam Lunsford, Johanna Ducker, Kim Shelford.*

The meeting began at 11:05 am.

Welcome by Kathy O'Shaughnessy. Kathy welcomed everyone and explained that today we will talk about the school calendar and a few additional items. Then Carla will discuss the college planning process.

Principal Park Ginder & Jen Bay, Assistant Principal

- Mr. Ginder – He will be starting a Principal's Newsletter on a monthly basis. He would like input on style or format. Blog format that will include links. Or, Flipbook style. Still looking for a template or model to use. Kathy suggested asking the students what format they think should be used.
- Jen Bay – She is putting together a survey of both students and parents regarding their eLearning experience for both the make up days and the one snow day.
 - Hot topics – the length of time required to do the homework.
 - Which kinds of lessons did they find most meaningful and why?
 - Which of your eLearning experiences did you find meaningful?
 - How was it delivered?
 - How difficult was it for the teachers to create the lessons?
 - Are teachers getting the mentoring they need?
 - What was the teacher's biggest obstacle?
 - How many kids had IEPs? What happens with those kids.
 - Families with multiple kids and a slower wifi experience at home. People without wifi could use MYFY from Verizon which creates a hotspot.
 - What things did the student enjoy (value) about the experience?
 - Were teachers readily available on that snow day?
- Wayne Township Schools (Ben Davis) the corporation pays for wifi for students without wifi at home. The kids check the MYFY out of the library if they are able to plan ahead, for example if they are aware that the next day is a potential snow day, then they check it out of the library.
- Child care – mom and dad go to work and the high school student now has to provide child care for younger siblings. How many of our students did that effect?
- Flex Pilot – if we get the okay from the State of Indiana, we would do eLearning Days during the fall. The morning sessions will be for teacher development.
- Suggestion from Kathy -- Have webinars for teachers during eLearning days.

Carla Overdahl – Parent to Parent: College Conversations

- Handout of information.
- Good news – There is no perfect school. That is also the Challenge – there is no perfect school.
- A good school is a good fit for your son or daughter academically; they feel like they can grow there.
- Best part of conversation is listening. Character, things they gravitate toward. What do they enjoy about a class or subject? The number crunching of math or the problem solving of math?
- Affirm the things you see in them. If you see a characteristic in your child, affirm it.

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- They are moving to a new city for four years, so what is important to them in their living environment/learning environment. Go and visit. Pick up a student newspaper and see what the kids are writing about. Do you want four years of that?
- The idea of college is to give you an education. What you do with that education will get you a job.
- Sports – Division I or Division III or club? What does that time commitment look like for you?

Business Meeting, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, president

- Minutes – Kathy moved to approve. Carla seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted as corrected.
- Staff appreciation lunch was great. Sending survey to teachers to ask them what they like. Two co-chairs leaving the team. Found three new people to take over. One more Staff Appreciation on May 29th.
- Treasurer – budget for this month. If income is down again next year, then all budget items will have to take a hit next year. We need to reach out to 8th grade parents before registration to inform them so they can get involved with the Parent Club. Mr. Ginder is looking at making Parent Club a default setting on the registration form so that you would have to opt out of getting parent club emails. Reduction in the number of people taking the SAT/ACT practice tests.
- Registration – PTC table at front entrance. Separate table for SAT/ACT practice tests. Are you a sophomore? STOP HERE.
- Presidents' Council Meeting report:
 - HHS Registration is Tuesday, August 5.
 - Back to school night is August 20th.
 - Freshman Orientation is August 7th.
 - eLearning was discussed. Dr. Yager and Dr. Downs talked with Indiana State officials and feel eLearning will continue into the future. Suggested that next year they have an eLearning night for parents. Same with My Big Campus.
 - Talking about a pilot program for preschools in the old Woodside hallway in those rooms that aren't being utilized. Fall of 2015 applying for a pilot of the preschool program. Homestead students in child development classes will go in and help.
 - Finger print program has been shelved for the moment.
 - Block scheduling at the middle schools, the school board is voting on it next Tuesday (block-hybrid).
 - Still working on a senior area. Not getting rid of freshman academy. Just creating a new space for seniors to gather.
- Proposed calendar for 2014-2015, changed winter break back to two full weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Brown.