

**Minutes**  
**Homestead Parent Club Meeting**  
**October 09, 2014**

**Present:** *Kathy O’Shaughnessy, President; Heather Wilcox, Alicia DiGuilio, Vice-Presidents; Kim Brown, Secretary; Judy Fehlhaber, Treasurer; Virginia Kreamer-Lutz; Saghi Togashi; Gabrielle Alicea, Liza Auger; Jill Smith; Amy McGuire; Linette Godfrey; Tim Loomis; Beth Zweig; Beth Piel; Cindy Volk; Lynn Camino.*

The meeting began at 11:02 am.

**Welcome by Kathy O’Shaughnessy.**

Report from Presidents’ Council meeting:

- Let’s Talk – Public Forum. Evaluation and more questions after the events. They want to know about what the public and the tax payers think about public education and where it should be going. How tax dollars should be spent. Working with IPFW, the Downs Center for Indiana Politics, and the Kettering Foundation.
- School Calendar – email the board and give your opinion about the calendar. The administration is reading through all the input. Your opinion is important. They will be listing the calendar option soon. Voting on it at the November 15<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting. They have made some tweaks already.
- Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00, the HHS *Spartana* Newspaper and IPFW are hosting a public forum with the four school board candidates – following a national format. There are four students from the *Spartana* who will present questions to the candidates. No debate. Just a public forum. Afterwards, there will be a meet and greet.

**Assistant Principals, Jen Bay – Women of Worth (WOW)**

- Jen Bay – Started Bully Prevention lessons this week. Videos.
- Adrienne Schwartz and Celeste Whalen, founding a new group. Seven seniors.
  - Starting a club for girls for girl empowerment. For girls to be happy with themselves inside. Bullying, academics, body issues, and social confidence are topics that will be addressed. Looking for a diverse group of girls to come together and build new friendships. Events – community service.
  - This group will be a safety net for girls. Not meeting based. Event based- such as a coffee shop and a mentorship with upperclassmen paired with underclassmen.
  - They met with Kathryn Hill of Vera Bradley. She helped them to create a mission statement: “Empowering girls to build friendships, create harmony, and to challenge the status quo”. Open-minded and welcoming.
  - Value Cards – put them in three groups. What applied to the group and what didn’t and those values that fell in-between. The values they chose were: Friendship. Diversity. Strength. Confidence. Inner Beauty. Unity. Decided how to apply those values within the club.
  - At meetings have an Anonymous Advice Jar. Discuss situations as a group.
  - Question asked: How do you reach those girls who are scared of girls who are in power? They can discuss it in Advisory or seminar.
- The Network – another group started at Homestead that is trying to lift people up.
- There is now a link on our website to all activities here at Homestead.
- New group—for transition students. Someone to escort them around the school. Sit with them at lunch. Started by two sets of siblings that are new to Homestead. They have started it at other schools that they have attended.
- Last year we had leadership training. A diverse group attended the session. Who are the second tier leaders? You see the potential in them. We are looking for similar students in this new women’s group.

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**Park Ginder, Principal**

- Yesterday we had our third community tour with several doctors and small business men, Vera Bradley, GM, SDI, police department, etc. If you know of anyone in the community who would benefit, email Mr. Ginder through Jan Fisher. 4th event in November. We want them to know about the great things happening in public education and at Homestead High School.
- Flex Day – We had 7 students show up this time. Will have closer to 50 students next time because they didn't follow instructions. What did parents think of it?
  - Lynnette Godfrey – her daughter thought it was awesome.
  - Mr. Ginder -- Received 672 responses from the students. Most indicated that they had 3-4 hours of work. There were some specific complaints.
  - Kathy O'Shaughnessy – her kids appreciated that their teachers posted ahead of time what was expected on Flex Day so they were able to work ahead and have some free time. Mr. Ginder – one unexpected benefit, they had families schedule dentist and doctor appointments and so they didn't miss class.
- When we have snow days – teachers won't have assignment information posted a day in advance. They have until 9:00 am to post their assignments. Teachers are expected to stay online through 3:00 pm.
  - If teachers don't have power, they will notify the school and the school will post a notification on their page that there is no assignment for that teacher.
  - Saghi Togashi – the internet access using the school laptop drops all the time. Students use their home computer instead.

**Business Meeting, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, President**

- Approval of last month's meetings? Saghi Togashi moved to approve the minutes and Judy Fehlhaber seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- Judy Fehlhaber, Treasurer – Budget presented for 2014-2015.
- Committee Reports
  - ACT/SAT Practice Exams – Saghi Togashi. Received info from HHS treasurer on who had paid for the exam. They are in the process of comparing that information with the online registrations. They will be contacted through school. Forms are still online up to a month prior to the exam. Sent info to two other schools – Concordia Lutheran and Bishop Luers. St. Elizabeth's has sent people to Homestead to take the exam in the past. December 6<sup>th</sup> is the date of the first exam. You can pick up the take home exam that day between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Turn in by the following Monday. Email: [HHSPracticeExams@gmail.com](mailto:HHSPracticeExams@gmail.com).
  - Copy Room – Liz Auger, all is going well in the copy room.
  - Staff Appreciation – hosting Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday evening. They don't get a dinner break. Parent Club provides pizza and desserts.
- Teacher Grants – Heather Wilcox and Alicia DiGuilio.
  - Reviewed all requests. Gathered questions. Alicia will contact Susan Summers to follow up.
  - Suggestions:
    - What is this replacing? What is being used now?
    - Require the Signature of the Department Head on the form.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Brown.