

Minutes

Homestead Parent Club Meeting

November 14, 2013

Present: *Kathy O'Shaughnessy, President; Alicia DiGiulio, Vice President; Judy Felhaber, Treasurer; Kim Brown, Secretary; Carla Overdahl, Ann zelt, Jim Smith, Saghi Togashi, Linette Godfry, Silvia Grote, Cindy Volk, Gabrielle Alicea, Liz Auger, Beth Zweig, Beth Wethern, Madeline Negoron*

The meeting began at 11:04 am.

Welcome by Kathy O'Shaughnessy

- President's council meeting. Changes:
 - Based on parent feedback. Gaining an extra week of summer vacation. All registrations will be the same week. Homestead's registration and all the elementary schools are on the same day. Middle School is the next day. Our voices do matter.
 - Calendar: Was supposed to be voted on last Tuesday. Tabled. Proposing two new calendars. One is the original calendar. The new one has three weekends for Christmas Break. It adds one or two days at the start of the school year (2015-2016). The calendar is posted online.
 - If you have any concerns or comments, please email the superintendent or your school board members.
 - SACS District updated the Social Media Policy. Making a safety net so that if a student signs up for something and has to click "AGREE" to a policy, their computer will only share their name, grade level, and birth date. No other personal information will be shared. Trying to make it safe for the kids to navigate. The teachers must get administration approval before going to web sites.
 - Several schools now have Twitter accounts. @sacssacs. Thor has a Twitter account.
- **Alicia Giulio, Vice President**
 - We received 16 grant requests. 14 were department specific. One was from Mr. Ginder for student leadership training. One from Mike Gorman and Chris Riley for professional development.
 - Met Monday with the Tech Committee to review 5 grant requests that were technology related.
 - Will send out the Grant requests electronically. Review the proposals and send any questions to Alicia.
 - December 12 we will meet to discuss and vote on the grants.
 - We will have a set of guidelines or a rubric to use when making decisions.

Principal: Park Ginder

- Working on an eLearning Grant through the department of Education. Possibility that we would be an eLearning school with 6-8 days over the course of the school year. On an eday that day's schooling is delivered electronically. No students in the class rooms on those days. Teachers would have professional development on those days. If we get an okay, then in the spring we would train our teachers in how to prep for the first session -- how to create lessons for the students.
 - It is currently being done at Noblesville as well as other schools.
 - The buses will still run. The school will still be open.
 - Special Ed courses and classes would still run as needed. HHS would open a space with supervision such as the library or community room.
 - The purpose of it is for professional development time for the teachers. They need on-going, consistent training. We don't want the student laptops to be a \$2000 pencil. They need to engage kids in ways that matter. Utilize the skills and talents of those who are already using technology in productive ways. We don't have enough opportunities for our teachers to learn what is out there. Things such as advanced search techniques. More specific -- What would help you in science or language arts.
 - Why is it being opposed? Politics. If the kids aren't in school they aren't learning. Kids are not supervised at home.
 - It should be collaboratively created within a department. Everyone who is teaching the same topic should work together to put it together and then evaluate it afterward to see

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- what worked and what didn't.
- A teacher knew he would miss two days of school so he recorded the lessons in advance. He also posted them online. The kids knew if they were absent, they could go online and see the lesson.
- Read the book: *Smarter than You Think* by Clive Thompson. The key to education is the amount of time kids spend with the content. It should allow the kids to have more interaction with the material. The teacher should be a facilitator instead of the teacher. Teacher should spend all their time working with the kids one-on-one during the class period.
- One-to-one in an English class – the kids know already that they can find information on the internet. Unfortunately, the teacher stopped them. The teacher wasn't ready for a change in the classroom.
- He wants to give out a Golden Plunger to the teachers every month who try something new and it failed. Wants teachers to try!!! Some of them are scared of change.
- The Way Back Machine allows you to look at every single day of every website.
- Rolling Grades – Next year we will have a new grading system. Students will no longer have end of 9 week grades. 9 week grade will be a grade check. Now you don't start over after 9 weeks. Your grade continues. Allows more formative assessment especially where there is a steep learning curve. Who do you want packing your parachute? Make the most important things the events at the end of the semester. Lots of formative feedback in the beginning. What are we assessing our kids on?
- Pajama pants issue – per the handbook, anything “disruptive to the learning environment” is not allowed. We don't want this place to become the place to lounge around. Reaction was basically reaction against “the man”. Almost all students who wore pajama pants that day brought jeans to change into any way. An email was sent to parents.
- Community Tours: We had our first. Have a list of 95 people we're inviting to come to the school. We are Homestead. We are competing for students against the 3Cs (Carroll, Concordia, and Canterbury). We have things to sell that make people want to come here. The Culture, the expectation, the opportunities that are here. In our first group, invited 40. 8 responded yes and 4 showed up. The mayor was one of them. Inviting people with a vested interest in SACS. Families in area tied to businesses in our area. Create a relationship so that they spread the word of what we are doing here. This is what we are doing here. This is what it looks like when the kids are here. What we do at Homestead is truly unique. Our kids come from families that value education. We don't have to deal with other issues. Fewer students per class than any other school. Mostly 22-24 per class.

Guest: Officer Harriott, Student Resource Officer

- Thor's Twitter account: @hhs9thor. He Tweets about 75% fun, motivational stuff. 25% drug education or safe driving tips. He has 300 followers. He doesn't discuss his searches or findings.
- She has a senior presentation that she gives at the end of the school year that covers what to expect at college, date rape, stalking.
- Drug Abuse presentation used in the students' Health Classes at Homestead. What she is showing the students and why she is showing it. At Homestead it is pills, weekend drinking parties
 - Synthetic marijuana, called K2 or Spice, Spark, Pulse, Buzz, Summit, Yucatan, Mystic, etc. Bought in convenience stores. Kids are told that it is “like” marijuana but doesn't show up in your system. They are told it is legal. It can be 800 times more potent than marijuana. Even pot heads are scared of it. So use has gone down.
 - Sizzurp – inner city things. Also called Lean. A drink you can buy at liquor stores. It is codeine and methozine. It can stop your respiratory system. Lil Wayne had a Sizzurp overdose last year.
 - Alcohol poisoning and Drunk Driving crashes.

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- Huffing or Whippets – inhaling chemical vapors like gasoline, or sharpies, aerosol cans, hair mousse, paint thinners, glue. Cardiac rhythm change leads to quick death.
- Molly is ecstasy. It looks like candy. Looks like smarties or M&Ms.
- Date rape drug is accessible on the internet. Amount that fits in a water bottle cap is enough to kill you.
- Heroin. Most users graduate from marijuana.
- N-Bomb is a new synthetic. Kids are dying from it. Possibly the deadliest synthetic drug today.
- Bath Salts – sold in packaging that looks like common household products such as plant food, bath salts, or jewelry cleaner. Excited Delirium. No controlling them. They strip because they get so hot. You lose control of yourself and your ability to make decisions.
- Hooka – looks like a marijuana bong. They smoke actual hooka tobacco. Girls look at it like a clothing accessory. It is legal, you have to be 18.
- Krok – homemade heroine. Life span of 2-3 years. Eats away at your body.
- Pills are a problem here at Homestead. Getting in medicine cabinets at home.
- Currently working on bringing in an ER doctor from Indianapolis to speak to the entire school. Or it could just be the freshman class every year. He is a former actor. He shows them pictures of what they will experience if they choose to use drugs.
- Some kids try it on the holidays. It's okay, it's a holiday.
- School consequences of kids being caught over the weekend? Office Harriott is notified (not a requirement). Usually it is through the rumor mill that they hear about it here. It is off school grounds so the school can't deal with it. If athletic student it may effect their participation.
- Social Media Presentation (70-80 showed up)
 - You need to see what your kids are posting out there.
 - ASK FM – they can ask anonymous questions. 90% is bullying and harassment.
 - You should be following your kid. If they say they are hardly on it, they have another account. Popular with late middle schoolers and freshmen
 - Instagram is very popular with high school kids.
- Suggestion for shorter presentations for Advisory classes

Business Meeting, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, president

- The minutes were approved as corrected.
- Treasurer report. Our income is down this year. Discussing if we may use some of the cushion for Teacher Grants.
- December 11th is the next teacher appreciation. Soup and salad. Soup comes from the school. Asking for bags of lettuce, etc. Last event, had trouble getting people to sign up and many did not bring their items. Parents do get a reminder two days prior. Hot Dog buffet for the Super Bowl.
- National Honor Society last night. Very nice event.
- Saghi has someone to replace her with SAT/ACT testing. Beth Peil. She is an IPFW adjunct teacher. She sat with Saghi at the last event. 60% of the kids showed up. 20% took home the exams. 5% changed their test date to March 15 and the remaining will be contacted next February to be offered options ontaking their exams. Had Princeton Review proctor the exam.
- 5 positions to be filled.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Brown.