

Minutes
Homestead Parent Club Meeting
October 10, 2013

Present: *Kathy O'Shaughnessy, President; Alicia Giulio, Vice President; Judy Felhaber, Treasurer; Kim Brown, Secretary;*

The meeting began at 11:02 am.

Welcome by Kathy O'Shaughnessy

Guest: Saghi Togashi, ACT/SAT Practice Exams

- Three Homestead counselors are present– Amy Hamilton, Tom Quigley, Jerry Anderson
- We offer this service: 1) to let the kids who want to practice the exam, go through the process, get the results, and see where they stand; 2) funds from the exam help to support the grants that the Parent Club gives to the teachers at Homestead
- Why did I pay for it at registration when the sophomores and juniors take it at Homestead? The Princeton Review offers a copy of the current SAT and ACT for practice. We are the only school that offers it for practice.
- Homestead's ACT/SAT Practice:
 - Actual copy of the exam. Students take it on a Saturday.
 - Students are allowed to bring a snack to our test.
 - We also provide take home exams so you can do it over the weekend – for illnesses and scheduling conflicts.
 - We send them to Princeton Review for scoring.
 - Review Session once scores are returned
 - i. Strategies for taking the test are discussed when they review scores.
 - ii. Go back and review your answer.
 - Take both the SAT and ACT for practice so you can see how you do.
 - You can see where your student needs additional help. Tutoring.
- Other Offerings:
 - Homestead offers a good review program before taking the actual exam. Students can get the schedule from Student Services. Homestead offers separate math and language sections. You can just take one section if that is all that you need.
 - Princeton Review offers a more expensive program.
 - Or, your scores may be good and you'll find out that you don't need additional help for your student.
 - Kaplan and collegeboard.org are good sites as well as Homestead High School – all have sample exams available. You may not have the correct answer available.
- PSAT:
 - The PSAT that is taken here is for the National Merit Scholarship, taken at the junior level. Our sophomores take it for practice. It is the Preliminary SAT. Not the practice SAT. The top 1-2% of all students are National Merit Scholarship finalists. The PSAT puts those students on the radar for receiving full-ride scholarships from colleges.
 - The PSAT is a nationwide, multiple-choice test taken by 3.4 million high school students every year—mostly sophomores and juniors – in the month of October.
 - Three levels are awarded:
 - i. Commended (score of 200),
 - ii. Semi-finalist (score of 215 in Indiana),
 - iii. Finalist

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- The test lasts for 2 hours and 10 minutes. It contains math, critical reading and writing sections. Each section has a maximum score of 80.
- The PSAT is not a college entrance exam.
- Cost of exam is included in your school fees.
- Students received a practice booklet to review before the test.
- Students get their exam back with a scoring summary and you can go to a website for more information.
- SAT:
 - An entrance exam to help make admission decisions. One of many criteria that the schools use.
 - Sign up through collegeboard.org.
 - Offered in October, November, December, January, March, May, and June.
 - Three sections: math, critical reading, writing. 800 pts each for a total of 2400.
 - The test takes three hours and 45 minutes.
 - The SAT is more verbally challenging.
 - Incorrect answers are counted against you.
 - They Super Score your results – take a composite of your best scores from each section. If you take it more than once, they take your highest scores from each section. Not all colleges accept Super Scores.
 - Your student should have all testing done by the end of their Junior year.
 - SAT is not offered at Homestead in October due to band competition nor is it offered in June this year due to a conflict with graduation. Students can take the exam at other locations.
- ACT:
 - An entrance exam used by most colleges to make admission decisions. It assesses the students' general educational development and their ability to complete college level work.
 - Covers four skill areas: English, math, reading, science, (writing is optional)
 - Maximum score is 36
 - Test last 3 ½ hours
 - More straight-forward than the SAT. Easier to understand on the first read.
 - Incorrect answers are not counted against you.
 - The next ACT exam is October 26.
 - ACT has a science section.
 - 55% increase their test score when they retest.

Principal: Park Ginder

- Student leadership. Mr. Ginder would like to bring in a leadership trainer, Ted Wiese – www.TedTalks.com. Mr. Ginder has used him at other schools with good results. Ted is phenomenal. He is interesting.
 - Train 70 kids each AM and PM for a total of 280 kids.
 - Only about 30 seniors, mostly juniors.
 - Very interactive day. Caring for others.
 - Choose kids by asking staff for student leaders. Second email for the second tier leaders – those who the other kids follow. The teachers nominate the student. A number of those kids who are on the margin have never been asked to do anything. It can be a life changing experience.
 - Within two weeks the culture of the school changes. Keep a few in next year's training but get new kids involved.
 - We have one corporate sponsor who is putting in \$600. He costs \$2400 for two

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days.

- New Idea for Homestead that Mr. Ginder saw on display at another school:
 - We have a unique staff. We have masters and doctoral degrees.
 - He would like to hang an 8x10 frame outside each teachers' door,
 - Include: name, photo, what they teach, where they went to school.
 - Need help to design.
 - It sets up a culture of expectation for post-secondary education for our students.

Business Meeting, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, president

- The minutes were approved as corrected.
- Lynnette Godfrey – PCC Meeting:
 - Redistricting mostly affects Chestnut Hills.
 - Updating the security system for the whole district. Some don't have digital video cameras. Aboite is getting a new entrance and some new classrooms.
 - Homestead is getting a new track and they are resurfacing both middle school tracks. New football field. Band getting old field. Possibly making the freshman academy into a senior academy. Still in the study stage.
 - Finger scanning will start next year.
 - School calendar for 2015-2016. Losing a weekend over Christmas. You won't be allowed to leave early because of exams. Vacation won't start until Wednesday 21st. No parent excused absences. School board will approve it the first week of November. Let your school board members know your thoughts.
- Alicia, Vice President – teacher grants –should we send all teacher IT grants to the tech committee before they come to us? We need to change the wording on our grants before they are sent out. Sending out grants on xxx. Department chair must sign off on all grants. May need to meet in December just to discuss grants.
 - \$5500 asked for by the Tech Dept. for professional training. 5 days of ½ morning training and 7 days of all day in-services. Summit giving \$1300. Woodside hasn't met yet. Homestead is deciding our portion of the involvement based on our grants. District has approved subs for the teachers. They want us to provide snacks, lunches, beverages, gift cards. Teachers are training each other.
- Judy, treasurer, we have higher expenses and lower income this year. This may affect how much we have available for grants.
- Kathy –
 - If you haven't signed up for teacher conferences, they still need food donations.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Kim Brown.