

**Minutes**  
**Homestead Parent Club Meeting**  
**September 11, 2014**

**Present:** *Kathy O’Shaughnessy, President; Kim Brown, Secretary; Judy Fehlhaber, Treasurer, Heather Wilcox, Vice President; Karen Dvorak, Jen Couch, Liz Nussear, Karen Kirby, Meaja Miller,Carolynn Hendrickson, Saghi Togashi, Jennifer Loudini, Jennifer Bradford, Denise Gonzalez, Danna Bartz, Kim Shelford, Beth Zweig, Christina McArdle, Johanna Ducker, Jill Smith, Amy McGuire, Cindy Volk, Liz Auger, Madeline Negron, Beth Wetherill, Kathy Little, Beth Piel, Elizza Wesner.*

The meeting began at 11:00 am.

**Welcome by Kathy O’Shaughnessy.** Kathy welcomed everyone and apologized for sending out multiple Sign Up Genius invites. There were errors in our email list. We are working with the administration to get the correct email list.

**Assistant Principals, Steve Lake and Susan Summers – Senior Experience and Dual Credit**

- Steve Lake – meeting with principal and department heads and graduated seniors. Doing surveys of students at different colleges about things we can do to improve the senior experience at Homestead.
- Piloting four classes this year at Homestead. Entry level classes that they want to get out of the way. In Indiana, we have an articulation agreement with several colleges.
- We want them to be better prepared for what they see when they leave high school. It is not just about college credit. Need to schedule and plan their own free time. Huge adjustment. No longer have parents/teachers telling them what to do on a daily basis.
  - Reading contracts
  - Time management
  - Budgeting
- Meeting with area businesses to seek out different options for kids who can take Ivy Tech classes then go straight to work. Some of the highest paying jobs in the area are with Associate Degrees.
- If it does move forward, they would like a unique area for the seniors for their free time. Where they can work with other students on projects. We want to encourage the students to use the teachers’ office hours. Looking at room 303 across from the library to be a project room, where they can build, model, and present projects. Also want them to have a senior Lounge where they can sit with their friends.
- 100 kinds in the program this year taking block classes
  - Psych, speech, W131
  - Looking at the Future Teacher Class, pair it with Children’s Lit, psych or speech
- Want to give them the freedom to explore
- They are talking to colleges to find which classes will translate
- Looking to add Community Service. Would like to add community service projects to give our senior opportunities.
- Some Dual Credit classes have an AP component.
- Kathy – mental health issues as children go away to college. Talking with Lindsey Laughlin, head of counseling, about having a senior retreat or adding to advisory.
- Susan Summers – identify what classes can be brought to Homestead. Will be putting this online at some point.
- Ivy Tech has the General Education transfer core. You can walk into any state college and you don’t have to take any of the general studies. It’s a 30 hour program.
- Also looking at the Core Transfer Library. For every course, you can look at the transfer list and see which class it replaces at all the universities in Indiana.

**Minutes**  
**Homestead Parent Club Meeting**  
**September 11, 2014**

**Park Ginder, Homestead Principal**

- eLearning Flex Days. Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the first one this year. Teachers have been given talking points and the requirement to work with each class to tell them what an eLearning Day will look like
  - must turn stuff in that day, real time, next day, or part of next day's discussion
  - how to turn it in
  - where to find information/instruction
  - Teachers will be available to the students from 12:00-2:30 for the students.
- Positive feedback from upperclassmen on eLearning.
- Most class work should be completed in 30 minutes. Teachers have 47 minutes of class time.
- The day should look like March 12<sup>th</sup> – our last snow day. A true eDay.
- Purpose is professional development. We'll save \$36,000 as a corporation over these 4 days because we won't have to pay for substitutes. We are hoping to get the teachers proficient in various skills. Bringing small numbers of tools to bring everyone's talent levels up.
  - On setp 23<sup>rd</sup> the training will be on SchoolNet. It ties into PowerSchool. Testing and Assessment tool. 8 teachers are trained. Homestead teachers will break into 8 groups/16 peers per group. They are placed with specific teachers so they are in new groups and can come up with new ideas. Break. Regroup into 4 groups by subject area. They are working by kind to work on real situations and vet it with each other.
  - SchoolNet lets us test kids and gives us data. It has a bubble test option – like a scantron. It allows us to do short answer questions and true/false that are left out of common scantron tests. The data should help the teachers to see which areas someone is covering
  - Oct 23 – GoogleMax – similar model. Bringing over some WMS teachers to train.
  - Nov – HP Classroom Manager. One-to-one computing. We have it but no one knows how to use it. Training!
  - Dec – second GoogleMax training.
- Mr. Ginder did a video for the students to help them understand their responsibilities on an eLearning day. We expect 150-200 kids to come to school. Buses will run. Lunch will be served. They will be served by paraprofessionals. Students who choose not to do their eLearning. Will be required to come to school on the next eLearning day. The video will be part of HHS Indepth. On our Home page we have weekly video announcements and daily announcements. Liz Auger -- Printing at home is still an issue. Can something be done? Two newsletters have gone out so far. The audience is the parents. Trying to keep them to 12 pages. Two juniors are interested in being part of the process and helping with the Course Description. Kathy – include full calendar on website. US News top 50 schools. Called US News and spoke to the number cruncher. Walked through all the markers. We needed two more students to pass math or English on ECA. Or having one kid move from Pass to Pass + and one other kid passing. IF those two kids had passed, we would have been 5<sup>th</sup>. #1 predictor of success at high school level is parents economic level. #1 indicator in college is the rigor from high school level. Put into place English labs and Math labs to help students. Algebra enrichment. Trying to make that number move. Math Fit still in place.

**Minutes**  
**Homestead Parent Club Meeting**  
**September 11, 2014**

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

- Heather Herron Wilcox, co-Vice President with Alicia DiGuilo. Presidents Council
  - **Research Based Dialogue.** Asking community members what they value by doing 5 community meetings in the fall. At different schools on different days. To gather data and put together a report. Markers that we need to meet. What our mission should be, our costs. Working with IPFW since February. At the end they hope to have data and evidence to present. You can ask to be interviewed or to be a part of it. Questions about 21<sup>st</sup> century learning looks like to you. Strengths and weaknesses of the school? Are children ready for college experience? Andy Downs' students at IPFW are involved. Funding through the Kettering Foundation. Action steps on how to raise our bar. Andy presented to the school board meeting. Community leaders. Anecdotal. It isn't costing our school district.
  - **Registration** differed this year – over two days. Did it work or not work? Elementary was all online. It was great. Statistically, how many people at homestead did nothing on line. Like to come to school and walk around the classes. Annoying that they rewrite the payment sheet in triplicate. Have to stand there and wait. Person doing the rewriting was able to talk to people and explain some of the charges.
  - No plans for **redistricting**.
  - **School Board** – four seats are open.
  - **Flex Days** – maintain educational momentum. We aren't going to lose holidays.
  - **Back to School Night.** Need some structure to the open house concept. Some teachers waiting until they had a group then talked for 10 minutes.
- Wants to host a forum for the people running school board. An evening event. Student Government did it in the past.
- Minutes from April were presented. Heather motioned to accept the minutes. Liz Nussear seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.
- Treasurer Report, Judy Fehlhaber. Membership dues are down a little but the practice exam income is up this year. They were set up this year at Door #1 and were able to talk with people as they came in the door. Did a great job selling the practice exams on registration day. Last year we gave over \$7000 in curriculum grants.
- Practice SAT and ACT exams, Saghi Togashi and Beth Piel, committee chairs. December 6 and March 14 are the dates for the practice exams here at Homestead. Review sessions held after the exams are returned are very helpful. Budget meeting
- Honor Roll is October 16<sup>th</sup>. Johanna Ducker.
- First Staff Appreciation is pizza for Parent/Teacher Conference Night, Oct 23. Denise Gonzales and Kathy Little are the chairs. Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, Feb 11, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Big Event Dates. Proposed budget is \$2000. We rely on parent donations to help keep the budget down. Teachers are extremely appreciative. They get a chance to sit and talk with each other.
- Liz Auger runs the copy room.
- New Business – parent club board discussed a Senior Experience Scholarship similar to Woodside and Covington. The board would like to move forward with this. Ideas we considered – a bucket list, worked hard during high school, what is something you've put off due to school and homework, what is something you'd like to do as a last hurrah before going to off to college or work? Or a service project they'd like to work on, etc... If you'd like to help use create that scholarship, let us know.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Kim Brown.