

Minutes
Homestead Parent Club Meeting
December 12, 2013

Present: *Kathy O'Shaughnessy, President; Alicia DiGiulio, Vice President; Judy Felhaber, Treasurer; Kim Brown, Secretary; Carla Overdahl, Saghi Togashi, Cindy Volk, Cathy Mowery, Karen Mackenzie, Linette Godfrey, Liz Auger, Madeline Negron.*

The meeting began at 11:00 am.

Welcome by Kathy O'Shaughnessy

Guest: Assistant Principals Steve Lake and Susan Summers

- Senior Concept
- Views from seniors – preparing for college ends at the end of junior year. Entering senior year, all requirements are met. Many have already been accepted into college through early admission. Senior year has little relevance.
- Book: Crossing the Stage: Redesigning Senior Year by Nancy Faust Sizer
- Bill and Melinda Gates are backing schools in eight states that are introducing a program that lets students finish high school in two years after passing several tests and enroll directly in community college.
- Steve believes that the students need to stay in the game through;
 - Dual Credit or concurrent credit. Receive both high school credit and college credit at the same time. The college approves the teacher and the syllabus. The course is taught at Homestead. It used to be that you had to be a certain age but that is no longer the case. We partner with IPFW and Ivy Tech. They look at grades and PSAT scores. The courses offered are in the CORE TRANSFER LIBRARY. These classes are accepted at all State Universities in Indiana. The website is www.transferin.net/CTL.aspx. It shows you what the colleges label each class.
 - We teach dual credit classes in Business, Engineering, Science, English, Theater Arts and Early Childhood Education, and Social Sciences. We hope to add many more next year – including World Languages. Every class is completely free at Ivy Tech. No admission fee or course fee. English Comp at IPFW is \$25, science courses cost \$420. At IPFW it costs over \$1000.
- Why does a university allow kids to take classes at Homestead?
- Our seniors prefer taking these courses. We would like for them to be able to take the classes here. What if we block time and offer the classes here the same as at IPFW, for example, take the class on Tuesday and Thursday only. Give seniors some freedom and let them make some choices. Put them in block scheduling similar to college. Create an area in the building for the seniors to go to for studying and socializing, eating, etc. Many kids want to stay because they are involved in band, athletics, etc.
- You can still take classes at the universities but they aren't free. If taken at Homestead the classes are free.
- Students want scheduling freedom, they want to pick and choose when and where they are going to classes.
- What about kids who go on to 2-year tech schools? Provide these students with career connections and opportunities.
- Expand their education beyond the classroom walls and into the community. Develop independence and refine their problem-solving abilities and sharpen critical self-advocacy skills.
- Would like to put together a group of parents and get their input.
- Homestead already has a core team of teachers working on this. They have identified the purpose and are currently gathering information and looking at alternatives that are already out there. School in Cleveland, Ohio does have an innovative program. This team of teachers will present their findings to school board.

Minutes
Homestead Parent Club Meeting
December 12, 2013

Business Meeting, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, president

- The minutes were approved as corrected.
- Treasurer report. Our income is down this year. Discussion on whether or not we may need to use some of the cushion in our savings for the Teacher Grants. We will wait until we've discussed the 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 Togashi has someone to replace her with SAT/ACT testing. Beth Piel. 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 on taking their exams. Had Princeton Review proctor the exam.
- 5 positions to be filled.
- Reviewed the teacher grants. See attachments.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Brown.