

Present: Alia Gonzales (VP), Anna Kløver-Fensler (Treas), Robyn DiFalco (Sec), Monica Snyder, Kirsten Kennedy, Gwen Victor (Vice Principal), Eryn Osterhaus, Nancy Nyhus, Kristy Sawyer, Harmony Hey-Koski, Amber Shearer (Vice Principal), Christian Sawyer (Principal), Carolyn Leahy, Karen Castillo, Savannah McClinton

Absent: Nilka Kentish (President)

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Principal's Report
- 8th Grade Continuation Presentation & Discussion
- Virtual STEM Event w/ Ms. Kennedy & Ms. Fusner
- SPRANCE Trip Update -- info meeting on Thu, March 4, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, must RSVP
- Fundraising decisions for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022
- Elections Update & Timeline
- Treasurer's Report
- Hamilton Dines Out Update

Principal's Report -- begin with **Thanks** again for the love PTSA shows our teachers and staff on Valentine's Day.

- Let's talk about the "here and now". We came together this quarter with a hybrid model. Now that we're here, how do we adjust with new territory in instruction. Some of our staff are in a pilot exploring technology to create a heightened experience for in-person and virtual students. Continual learning on how to do this better.
- Also continuing to focus on how to keep working on "closing gaps" for students of color, and working on the Black Excellence Resolution.
- Next, continuing work on social emotional needs. Our Whole Child team, teachers, etc.
- We're trying to plan a special celebration for the 8th grade continuation, scheduled to take place in the TJ parking lot.
- 2nd round of teacher/staff vaccinations scheduled soon. May be an asynchronous day for students, to be announced soon.
- Long term: where are we headed? We had a tough budget season with overall budget reduction. One reason is that Hamilton improved in our "performance" which reduced our extra funding that supported this growth/improvement. Importantly, we maintained our IB model with special staffing in languages, arts, etc. Also retained whole child support team.
- Unfortunately, we can no longer afford to keep our Communications Specialist role. We've spoken with PTSA about how this team can support those efforts next year.
- Next year, will we be back in person or hybrid? We just don't know yet. We're all eager to hear what's decided and we expect DPS will be making some decisions next week.
- As you've heard, Christian is going to be out for medical issues for a few weeks but he's confident that our great team of leadership will carry on strong in his absence.
- Question from the chat: "When and if appropriate, can we revisit the social emotional issue? Great to have some events! On the day to day, however, how are teachers being helped or directed to help bring kids back into school after a year out, how are kids getting some social opportunities and social learning, and what is the direction for the cohorts?" Christian responded that the Advisory class time is

all about the social-emotional topics and time to develop those relationships. Then later in the day, there are the “ignite” sessions that are focused on resiliency.

- Amber asked Eryn to clarify her question about cohorts. Eryn said she’s asking about DPS and intention to continue being in limited cohort groups. Yes, remaining in cohorts this year; not sure about next year.
- Helping kids un-mute, share their voices and faces on videos. Kirsten/Nancy, could you share some of the work you’re doing in the pilot project? The goal is also about harnessing student energy, being engaged in class. Kennedy shared she has a special camera on the teacher at the board, and the camera can turn to a student who raises their hands and a powerful microphone picks up their voice so everyone can hear. Having in-person students say hello and welcome the virtual students. Nancy shared her slightly different model in her room. Finding games and ice breakers for all students to do together, fast and energetically.
- Enrollment for next year? Unfortunately our projected #s for next year are not as high as we thought but district wide, we are hearing that many families didn’t complete the School Choice Round 1 form so we really don’t know how many to expect.
- Question about the 2nd Covid shot: Is it possible to be on a “B” day this time so that the “A” students don’t miss another in-person day? Probably going to be on March 15 and we don’t have control of that. We’ll give that some thought as a leadership team to see what can be done. We also may have a high percent of staff who are too sick to teach that next day, after that 2nd shot.

8th Grade Continuation Presentation & Discussion

- Being coordinated by Savannah McClinton (staff & parent of an 8th grader), our Deans, PTSA collaborating
- Date is Thursday, May 27 at 12:00 noon
- A drive-up event, in cars, in the TJ high school Parking lot. Maybe a large screen where people can watch from cars, another idea is a big balloon tunnel to drive through, teachers cheering, etc.
- Livestream so that distant family can watch/participate remotely.
- Question about whether we could even do a structured outdoor socially-distanced ceremony that is structured enough to be safe? Unfortunately DPS is saying no to everything.
- Do we need more parent involvement on this planning team?

Virtual STEM Event w/ Ms. Kennedy & Ms. Fusner

- We’ve been talking about how we used to host events, like HMS did last year and other things we could do to showcase what students are creating.
- Vision so far is a virtual event, webcast, awards, STEM-enrichment activity.
- Seeking input from PTSA about what you would like to see included.
- Extemaganza was a blast last year, with ten hands-on stations, completed activities and
- Meeting on 5:00 on Monday. Announcing in School Deets. Kirsten will post the meeting link in the chat in a minute.
- Comment that historically HMS hasn’t done much of a science fair kind of thing, besides the ExSTEMaganza event we did last year. It’s been quite a few years since we’ve done something like that. Make sure we reconnect with industry connections that we made last year.
- STEM Fair Committee Meeting, Monday, March 8th, 5PM-6PM
- <https://pltw.zoom.us/j/97136813202?pwd=aWpUUDI3N3hOVGcxb01CRWg1NDJ2Zz09>
- kirsten_kennedy@dpsk12.org

>> Savannah McClinton joined the call so we asked if there's anything else she'd like to share about the plans for 8th grade continuation. Wanting to do something extravagant and go out with a bang. Balloons, bubbles, streamers, cheering, do something special for the teachers.

- Appreciate help with planning and getting the word out. Robyn can help with a draft to put out in School Deets & Heads Up Hamilton
- Budget of \$5000 but trying to use under \$3000. In past, we've used more like \$2000. Can't use confetti so use streamers instead. (Shoot streamers into the air.)
- Gifts for teachers - maybe collaborate on our Q4 gifts, maybe only 8th grade teachers and unified arts.
- Reschedule next planning meeting soon.

SPRANCE Trip Update -- info meeting tomorrow on Thu, March 4, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, must RSVP

- Basically just quickly announced that this meeting is tomorrow.

Fundraising decisions for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022

- PTSA board met last week and reviewed all current plans, ideas and strategies.
- Spring Plant sale efforts were vigorously underway but we can't find a nursery to work with us and we're just not finding a vendor that will work out. So unfortunately it's just not going to work this season but for now we need to scrap it in 2021 and hope we can do it next year.
- We also talked about other fundraising ideas that have been discussed lately such as a walk-a-thon, silent auction, etc.
- We're going to keep doing the Dines Out at a different restaurant every month.
- We're going to start planning a strong fall 2021 big fundraiser, a walk-a-thon is our focus.
- At this time we want to get the key people on the fundraising team, with Tracy Smith as Chair.
- Auction (virtual with Bidding Owl). We've talked about doing an event like a walk-a-thon that concludes with people picking up their silent auction items.
- Harmony announced Noodles & Company April 29 confirmed. Panera March 24. We do want to work with local/independent restaurants but so many of them aren't in a position to do something like this these days so we've had more success with the chain restaurants. Also talking with Milk & Cake.

Elections Update & Timeline

- We've had some people step up and express interest. But we didn't receive any official names submitted so we'd like to extend the deadline to March 26, just before spring break and make sure all candidates get their nominations in.
- Then we can hold election in April. All in favor? Any opposed? Approved!

Treasurer's Report

We brought in \$20.17 from Amazon Smile, \$193.00 from Box Tops, \$700 in donations for staff appreciation. We also realized we had \$780 in our PayPal account from the last plant sale that was sitting there since 2018. We spent on \$560 on staff appreciation in February (Valentine's day) and we currently have \$6794.53 in the bank account. Check from the Torchy's Tacos dines out night is coming soon, amount to be announced.

One last thing: Nancy Nyhus putting on a virtual drama production "Virtually Ever After" by students. Any dates we need to avoid? Maybe try to avoid CMAS but that's after spring break.

Because we can't sell tickets, we could ask for donations to support the drama department. Could use CheddarUp or PayPal, either go through PTSA or Nancy could set up her own CheddarUp.

Yearbook -- Nancy also doing the yearbook; we need school portraits; challenge scheduling with the photographer. Something like an outdoor drive-through. Holm is doing it where over 4 days, families drive up,

kids run in for photo and then back. We have used Lifetouch in the past, we tried to schedule, then rescheduled, and had to cancel because we couldn't do it in the building. Comment that there may also be a contract with LifeTouch that precludes us from doing our own photos with an independent photographer. Nancy says we cancelled our contract with LifeTouch; we go with HerffJones now. Discussed need for more photo submissions for the yearbook and we may need help getting the word out about that. Deadline is April 6. Can ptsa help with a school deets message to parents asking them to help kids submit photos? Yearbook Order deadline is through May 15. We can promote on social media too.

Next meeting: April 7