

Hamilton PTSA meeting notes **May 5, 2021** **at 5:30 PM** *Via Zoom*

Present: Alia Gonzales (VP), Anna Kluver-Fensler (Treas), Robyn DiFalco (Sec), Tiffany Berry (parent), Nancy Nyhus (faculty), Harmony Hey-Koski (parent), Christian Sawyer (Principal); Savannah McClinton (parent/staff), Kristy Sawyer (parent), Palmyra [didn't catch full name]

Absent: Nilka Kentish (President)

Agenda:

- PTSA summary from the year (popcorn share) - 8 minutes
- Dr. Sawyer announcement and share - 10 minutes
- Renaming the PTSA - 10 min.
- Walk A Thon planning committee update - 10-15 minutes
- Update on staff appreciation week - 8 minutes
- Treasurer's report - 3 minutes
- Update on Fundraising: Dines Out for Noodles, Panda Express, Cheddar Up contributions - 5 min.
- 8th grade continuation update - 10 min.

Summary of PTSA Success from this year!

- Hooray for having a solid board this year and participation from parents, teachers, staff. Especially having teacher involvement when they're already doing so much.
- We actually raised some money this year!
- Great job establishing monthly Dines Out
- Husky merch finally got started, something we were about to launch just as the pandemic started in spring 2020.
- Teacher appreciation efforts were great

8th Grade Continuation update -- Savannah McClinton

- Thursday, March 27 from 6-7:30 at Hamilton back field
- Met today with all 8th grade teachers
- Finished all invitations to 8th grade students, with names, laminated, in the envelopes, put in the mail today. Staff got invitations in school mailboxes.
- Sent out school Deets and Messenger for RSVP; so far 160 have RSVP'd
- DPS protocols are very strict about people helping
- King Soopers is donating cupcakes, all pre-packaged
- Will have a photo booth and we'll need someone to run and operate that. Comes with an SD card which saves the photos taken. Then it gets sent to an email but we will also still have a copy.
- Haven't ordered chairs yet because have to see how many people/guests coming first.
- We will be on the field behind Hamilton
- Need help setting up chairs, check-in, guide people
- Decorations, still figuring out what that looks like. Still figuring out how to orient everyone, facing east/west to prevent people being blinded by the setting sun.

- Caps / Mortarboards -- we're ordering white caps, they will pick them up on Monday, they get to decorate them.
- Huge thanks to Savannah for all this organizing and how much time and energy and dedication has gone into this planning.
- Live Streaming challenge is whether our Wifi can carry the stream from outdoors; also how many people need to be on the stream because we have over 100 students so that comes to more than our Zoom account can accommodate. What about recording and sharing, if we can't have everyone at 6:00? We talked with Madeline about doing the livestream vs recording. Haven't decided yet. What if PTSA bumps up our Zoom membership to allow up to 300 people? Also, we can't do everything so we might just have to limit who has access to the livestream.
- Robyn will get with Savannah to do a list of jobs for volunteers and she can help with a SignUp Genius.

Principal Update by Dr. Sawyer

- Announced that Ms. Gwen Victor has been appointed Principal of Fairview Elementary next year. This is great news for her and for Fairview and sad news for us that we're losing her. But wanted everyone to know this news. We'd like to recognize her with a special gift on behalf of PTSA. She's been so committed to Hamilton and it's been a gift to work with her.
- We have two retirees and Ms Victor so we could do this at the end of year luncheon. Or could give to Ms Victor at Continuation. Recognition at Continuation could be a good fit.
- In the past, the retirement gifts have been kind of personality-specific, around \$50. One year we had a social committee at Hamilton that had guidelines on this but we haven't had this lately.
- Lastly, thank you sincerely for all the nice things you've been doing this week for Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. It's been really special and touching and much appreciated!

Staff Appreciation Week Update

- Monday we gave out flowers with some students (6th graders) on a rainy, cold day
- Tiffany did such an amazing job with the treats/candy/chocolates for Tuesday.
- Wednesday for the limited staff who are in the building today. This afternoon chalk messages on campus, with students participating.
- Tomorrow, Thursday -- giving out Dairy Queen Blizzards to all teachers at end of the day, from a generous Hamilton parent who owns the local DQ. 85 frozen blizzards to hand out in teacher parking lot after school! Remote teachers will get a DQ gift card.
- and Wassila coordinating Jimmy John's lunch on Thursday
- Friday is coffee and sandwiches at lunch
- At end, Anna is compiling some pictures and a summary of all that was done so we can post and share so everyone knows all the great things that were done for our staff/faculty.

Renaming the PTSA

- Considering a nickname that overcomes the preconceived ideas of what "PTA" groups are. So we're pitching the idea of a name change

- Also wanting more student involvement -- some discussions on how to do that, like having student reps from Student Council, or other leadership groups. Dr Sawyer talked about his goals to strengthen student leadership through affinity groups and encourage involvement through that.
- Shared support for the idea but voiced concern that we'd always have to explain it
- Maybe it just needs to be as simple as "Holm Helpers" (like Hamilton Helpers?) and say that it's just our nickname for PTA.
- Another part of this discussion was about bringing together our other parent groups such as AAPAC and ELAPAC so that we can bridge the divide.
- Suggestion for a tagline that expands the vision of who we are and how people see us.

Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser event for next fall 2021

- There are 5 people who stepped forward for this planning committee: Tiffany Berry, Robyn DiFalco, Karen Castillo, Savannah McClinton, Heather Wilson. Anyone else who wants to be involved is welcome
- We're scheduling a planning meeting for next week. Feeling optimistic that we'll be back in person next fall
- Tiffany said her elementary school (Lincoln) is holding their walk-a-thon this week so she's connecting with their organizer to learn some key things from her.

Treasurer's Update

- We currently have \$7,404.83 in the bank
- Haven't collected proceeds from our recent fundraisers at Torchy's or Panera or Noodles yet.
- Through CheddarUp we raised \$856 in donations for Teacher Appreciation Week! And there was a huge range in the donations, from \$3 to \$100 so we learned that it really works to make a specific ask and people really do give.

Final thoughts for our last meeting of the year...

- Christian said they're talking/planning for some summer learning plans for students who need to catch up. Question: are any teachers willing to teach summer school, after this year? We do really need to give teachers a break this summer so we're still figuring out what that looks like.
- Our enrollment is looking really healthy for next year. We beat our projections for next year, and we're one of the only schools that did. We think our strategy of going directly to 5th graders really paid off. We mailed directly to those 5th graders so they get something tangible from us.
- Summer Academy question about whether current 6th graders (rising 7th graders) who didn't get the in-person academy will get that chance this coming August. Robyn shared that at the April CSC meeting, this was also voiced as a hope and VP Amber Shearer expressed that they are hoping to be able to offer this, but schedule and funding will have to be determined.
- Our last dine out of the year is Thurs, May 20 at Panda Express, lunch and dinner, 11am - 9pm
- Last push for yearbooks purchase, deadline next week!! It's actually pretty cool!

Next meeting: September!!!