

# High Bridge Parent-Teacher Organization

## Meeting Minutes

### February 20, 2024

#### WELCOME

#### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Membership Drive
  - i. One new faculty membership.
  - ii. Membership is open all year round.
- B. Kids Night Out
  - i. We bought basketballs and volleyballs, bigger games, adding beads and coloring to downstairs for this Friday.
  - ii. The last one was very busy with 83 kids.
- C. Valentines Parties
  - i. Parents were showing up who weren't signed up.
  - ii. All volunteers must be HIB trained, so we will need to stress this for the end of school year party.
  - iii. The PTO supplied snacks for anyone who forgot their Party in a Bag.
- D. Valentines Dance
  - i. The dance was fun but we need to get creative for a DJ. Dr. D wasn't getting back to us with a price and he indicated it would be increasing, so we went with a new company.
  - ii. The new DJ was not as interactive and played mostly Taylor Swift. We need variety and more interaction with the kids.
  - iii. The cost was \$550 plus tip.
  - iv. Will possibly look into a HS student next year.
  - v. Some behavioral/safety issues with kids not listening (jumping on mats, etc.); if someone gets hurt, it's the PTO's liability so we need parents to watch their kids.
  - vi. Some 5<sup>th</sup> graders attended because they do not have a dance; if they can do sports/KNO etc. we should discuss an option for a dance that includes 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- E. School Supply Drive
  - i. Huge success; the PTO was able to purchase some items and parents also donated.
  - ii. Filled an entire shelf in the teacher's lounge.
  - iii. Lisa Kerr's class won so they got a prize on Valentine's Day.
- F. Conversations With Dr. Hobaugh
  - i. Hosted the last conversation with Dr. Hobaugh.
  - ii. Discussed whether he should host one more and invite the community given all the issues coming up with taxes & school cuts.
  - iii. Voorhees has a Principal's Advisory Committee – can we do that?

- iv. Parents are being asked to send letters to try and save funding.
  - v. We suggest he hold another one, and perhaps focus on the topic of consolidation.
- G. Guidance Counselors Day
  - i. PTO gave each Guidance Counselor flowers in appreciation.
- H. Teachers of the Year
  - i. We celebrated Mrs. Ziegler with flowers and Mr. Doerwang with a history of High Bridge book at the Board Meeting
- I. 501c3
  - i. We need to put this project on hold, it's too cost-prohibitive.
  - ii. Will vote at the end to take the \$1,000 from this line item and moving it into the teacher grants.

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

- A. \$19,322.07 beginning balance
- B. Total income was \$738.42; total expenses were \$1,203.43
- C. Ending Balance of \$18,857.06 (see finance report)
- J. Treasurer created a new spreadsheet to show over/under each line item; added paper products as a new line item.
- K. Submitted annual report to the state (\$58 fee)

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- A. No representative in attendance

#### **TEACHER LIAISON**

- A. Mrs. Morris shared thanks for the supplies, especially the K Cups.
- B. She said she really enjoyed the Valentine's Dance (attended for the first time).

#### **SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:** March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 11th

#### **NEW BUSINESS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- A. Middle School KNO: February 23 and March 1
  - i. We need more volunteers in order to have 2/23 KNO.
  - ii. On March 1, there will be an admission charge for pizza as a Student Leadership Fundraiser
  - iii. On March 1, games will be run by former High Bridge students who are now seniors at Voorhees. These seniors didn't get to finish out their 8<sup>th</sup> grade KNOs because of COVID so they are excited.
- B. ES family BINGO night: March 15
  - i. The PTO is working together with the teachers for their Read Across America reading challenge bingo, which coincides with our St. Patrick's Day bingo.

- ii. If they complete a row, they get their name on the Bingo board. If they complete all 25 squares (the ultimate challenge) they will get entered into a contest; prizes will be unveiled next week.
  - iii. Any kids who come to bingo night will get a free spot with the Read Across America bingo board.
  - iv. Our bingo night prizes will be treasure chest items that we purchased with our scholastic dollars. No cost to us.
  - v. We will sell concessions.
  - vi. Reminder that this is NOT a drop-off event.
- C. MS School Play: March 21-23
  - i. We NEED volunteers to help with ticket sales, concessions and candygrams.
  - ii. Four of the Board members have kids in the play so they would like one night to sit & watch with their families.
  - iii. Renee Brown stated she can help at all 3 showings. Jessica Biehl can help, dates TBD.
- D. MS Student Leadership Bingo Night: April 12
  - i. The PTO was asked to help.
  - ii. There will be a charge for admission with a bake sale/concessions.
  - iii. Gambling license is complicated and takes time, so we still need to talk to Coleen Conroy about prizes.
- E. Clothing Drive: April 9-12
  - i. Please read the flyer carefully because they change what they do/don't accept each time. If we have items they have to dispose of, it costs us money so we want to minimize that.
- F. Cleaning up the Library at ES: Date TBD
  - i. The ESD Library needs a lot of help, because the current librarian has been pulled in many directions so we would like to help organize
  - ii. Will do a book drive concurrently – things that your kids have read/are current/in good condition to hopefully restock our shelves.
- G. Graduation Sign Fundraiser
  - i. Need to start thinking about it and getting the word out.
  - ii. Katy Lido has been in contact with Travis (printer) so it's on his radar.
- H. Future Meetings
  - i. March's meeting will be held in person.
  - ii. A lot of Board members are going to be rolling off in the next 2-3 years so we need to recruit new Board members/volunteers, especially the parents of our younger students.
- I. Book Fair: April 15 to April 19
  - i. Books delivered April 12.
  - ii. Posters and flyers should come in the week before spring break
  - iii. Because of how well we did last year, we're now "premium" so we will have more cases, 2 registers, hoping to add cookbooks, etc.
  - iv. Phylcia Polanco and Kelly Mayer will co-chair the Book Fair.
  - v. The company is hoping we can bring back the fall book fair.

- J. Field Day: June 6
  - i. Confirming with Kona. If they can only do 1 truck it will be at the MS after lunch and then the ES at 2 p.m.
  - ii. Rain date June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- K. Big Fundraiser for 2024 (Color Run and Tricky Tray)
  - i. Color Run: May 31 – need to give teachers a schedule; website is set up, just needs to be published.
  - ii. Do a tricky tray in the fall. We will need to do the gambling license; cannot use the school's 501c3; Dr. Hobough will give up a parking spot. Can use Scholastic dollars to look at other items besides books.
- L. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
  - i. Request submitted to ShopRite.

#### **VOTE**

All voted YES to move money from 501c3 back to teacher grants

#### **QUESTIONS:**

Q: We need better communication around opportunities for parents to volunteer in the schools. There is a lot of misinformation about who can volunteer.

A: The PTO uses Sign Up Genius for all volunteer opportunities. It's sent out by the school. Any parent who wants to volunteer in the school must be HIB trained.

Thank You for attending. If you have any questions, please reach out to  
HighBridgeSchoolsPTO@gmail.com