

March 12, 2019 KHS PTO Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Megan Roche, Shelly McDonough, Lynne Hamilton, Marcy Gurd, Laura Selent, Mary Toth, Julie Voudris, Albert Tien, Tom Gabram

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by KHS PTO President, Megan Roche.

- I. **Approve Minutes** — Albert Tien motioned to approve the February 2019 meeting minutes. Lynne Hamilton seconded. Minutes approved.

- II. **Principal's Report**

- A. Working on master schedule; all incoming freshmen schedules have been inputted and now working on balancing the coursework. We're in better shape this year than last year; enrollment is a little lower; plan to wrap it up before Spring Break.
- B. Letters to Senior and Junior parents went out last week containing pertinent information for each grade level.
- C. KHS will be offering a new "AP Capstone" class for incoming sophomores. Sophomore year, the class is called "Seminar," which is a combination of their English requirement and AP US history (every other day). Second year of the program, juniors take a class called "Research, which includes English and AP Government. Includes research on student-led topics and culminates with a presentation (dictated by the national curriculum set up by College Board and AP); Both classes are year-long; Chagrin and Rocky River are other districts that offers this capstone class. This option is for students looking for a higher challenge and rigor to prepare for senior year. Capstone class will run through the English department, with Tony Marchesi teaching the Sophomore class (attending a training in Chicago this Summer) and Jeanette DiBernardo teaching the Junior class. Students will get a college elective credit for their junior year class and ultimately grants them an AP Capstone Certificate -- great for their transcript! As a side note, to get an AP Capstone Diploma, you have to score 3,4,5 on the Capstone class and 4 other AP classes.

Mr. Gabram noted that they looked at freshman PSAT scores and math/english grades and approached those students that would be potential candidates for this two-year capstone class.

- D. Two new classes being offered next year: AP Physics 2 and AP Principles of Computer Science.
- E. Mr. Gabram noted there's been a lot of excitement surrounding the many students that went to States in the following sports/academic groups:
 1. Speech & Debate
 2. Mock Trial
 3. Tia Speece's debate at Cleveland City Club
 4. Bowling

5. Swimming/Diving
 6. Gymnastics
 7. Wrestling - went to states as "alternates"
 8. Science Olympiad -- Per Julie Voudris, the team missed states by one spot (lost a lot of people this year; rebuilding; new students welcome)
 9. Band/Choir - OMEA competitions
- F. Winter Sports Awards Night coming up March 20th at 7:00 pm
 - G. Fashion Show -- Looking forward to Friday's event (March 15th) and hope that there is good attendance by students. Mr. Gabram noted that every year we talk about how to sustain this event -- will students attend? Is there something else that could be done? He recognizes it's difficult to get kids to commit due to sports and other extracurriculars.
 - H. Shelly McDonough asked about Senior Skip Day and the school's perspective on it. Mr. Gabram noted that the school doesn't recognize it and that students/parents should follow normal attendance guidelines.
 - I. Prom -- a senior meeting will be occurring soon. There has not been any communication yet about the venue being changed to the Westin in downtown Cleveland; no busing on behalf of the school; security will be at the event

III. Treasurer's Report

- A. \$17,122.37 bank balance; \$5,691.81 left in budget for committees; \$3,930.56 cash available for funding requests

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Bomber Hangar -- Shelly McDonough reported that BH is selling at KHS this week -- Thursday during lunch periods; Friday at Fashion Show, Sunday at Pancake Breakfast. Spring sale at end of April/beginning of May
- B. Care Blue -- no report
- C. Celebrate Blue - Laura Selent/Julie Voudris reported that a lock was purchased for freezer; Switched to Giant Eagle and they delivered to KHS cafeteria; this worked really well! This also puts the committee under budget by about \$150. Asked if they should use up the budget for the last ice cream day? Group advised them to do so.
- D. E-Comm/Website/Membership/Volunteers - no report; still looking for someone to chair this role next year
- E. Senior Breakfast -- Laura Selent/Lynne Hamilton reported that they learned that the breakfast does not have to be catered by Parkside (this is NEW for this year). Looked at Panera for breakfast sandwiches, fruit, pastries; cost comes in under budget. Breakfast first and rehearsal afterwards.
- F. Staff Appreciation -- Lynne Hamilton/Laura Selent -- event is on Wednesday, May 8th, Luau theme; Lynne created invitations; Laura working on menu; Suggestions given re: food (Hawaiian BBQ, Hickory Smoked BBQ, Cowboy, Blazin Bills). Albert Tien offered to donate leis for the staff; Asked for suggestions on gifts -- tumblers or a cooler bag.

- G. AftersProm -- Mary Toth reported that Fashion Show this Friday; great participation; double the number of kids involved + Sparklettes; tickets on sale this week (\$6 presale; \$8 at the door), as well as raffle tickets for girl/boy gift baskets; selling Krispy Kreme donuts at the event. Regarding After Prom -- Sat. work sessions are getting good attendance; Wednesdays not as many; still much to do.
- H. Hospitality -- no report
- I. Bomber Bash -- Lynne Hamilton reported that the check presentation to A Kid Again is today at 11:00 am!
- J. Directory -- Lynne Hamilton reported that a few checks still coming in; expense total was \$150 for directory; there will still be a printed directory next year; Mary Toth asked if the directory could be given to new families -- can each PTO get extra copies? Or ensure each family gets a directory? Lynne noted.
- K. Beautification -- Marcy Gurd will decorate in the next few weeks for Spring.

V. President's Report

- A. Funding Request -- Discussion led by Megan Roche re: request from Mr. Koltis/Math Department for funds to replace/update calculators that are kept in the library and loaned out to students. They cost approx. \$130 each; 10 requested/\$1300; Request to replace with the updated TI84+ (\$129 at Copco, \$132 on Amazon; perhaps on sale at Walmart/Target when school starts). Library currently has 45 total (of older versions) (acquired thru lost and found; donated by math dept., left in lockers at end of school year); math teachers let students know that they're available; intent is to assist students where it's a hardship or multiple students in a family; kids can sign out calculator at school and keep their own to use at home.
 1. Discussion: Can we give them money and let them decide where to purchase/save money? Megan noted that since many of our committees will be under budget, we should be ok. She asked Mr. Gabram if he knew of any funding requests coming up. He said they may create a list of items that require funding (mostly for the tech lab/ hub in the library) and allow businesses/organizations to select what they'd like to fund based on mission statements, etc. Outreach to businesses will be after Spring Break.
 2. Question raised as to whether to fund less now and provide additional later, if needed. Julie Voudris indicated that that full funding might be needed (vs. lesser amount) with testing coming up and the need for updated versions. The math department can decide where to purchase from in order to get the best pricing.
 3. Motion made by Albert Tien to provide \$1300 to the math department to purchase TI84+ calculators. Marcy Gurd seconded.
 4. Majority vote: 6 approved, no dissents.
- B. Fundraiser next year – Primary suggestion is to do an “Un-fundraiser,” which would be a one-time donation request to parents via letter at the beginning of the

school year. Megan indicated she will discuss with Laryn Ullman (KMS PTO President) how KMS is doing it, as we definitely want to be aligned for consistency purposes. Megan noted she'd be interested in trying it, knowing we're also going to put more effort into the Heinen's & Giant Eagle programs.

1. Mary Toth also brought forth a potential opportunity. Her nephew, Austin Hatch, could do a family-oriented presentation re: grit, determination, anyone facing hardship/loss/injuries based on what he's been through (two airplane crashes where he lost his entire family and suffered numerous injuries himself). He went to Michigan State as a D1 basketball player and they created a promo video (Miraculous: the Austin Hatch story) on Austin's behalf; He has talked to churches, businesses, athletic camps, etc. Potential to speak to kids during the day; parents at night as part of Parent Engagement Series. Consensus that we don't feel comfortable making it a fundraiser, but that his message would be welcome. Megan willing to chair this if needed.
- C. Megan discussed Julie Voudris' suggestion regarding allocating money for building project each year as a separate line item -- Megan described that KIS does this for playground; Julie indicated we create a line item that goes towards the tech lab/Hub to allow us to accrue money for this purpose. Allocate the money vs. carrying a balance. Megan indicated that we'd include this opportunity during the budgeting process in April.
- D. Calendar dates -- PTO meetings will remain the same each month
- E. Volunteers for Your Life, Your Choice, April 30th from 8:30 until 12:30 for seniors - 7 volunteers signed up; need total of 9
- F. Board Openings for next year – Fundraiser, Celebrate Blue (co-Chair), Web/E-Communication, Staff Appreciation, Silver Bells
- G. PTO Council Meeting Notes (from March 1, 2019)
 1. Superintendent's Report
 - a) Kenston has a partnership with the Bainbridge Fire regarding vaping education
 - b) Staff Development Day (on March 8) will include a presentation on vaping. Stay tuned for more information for parents. * KHS PTO group in attendance thought the vaping discussion would be good to incorporate into the parent engagement series.
 - c) Kenston Foodservice was audited by the state and received an excellent rating
 - d) Teachers ratified their contract (contract is for a 3 year period) and support staff is next.
 - e) Board needs to approve at next board meeting.
 2. Community Relations Report
 - a) See Something, Say Something Week at KMS and KHS
 - b) KHS has a kindness tree
 3. PTO Council Update

- a) Email issues (i.e. hacking) have been happening within PTO boards at all schools
 - (1) New policy: Each building PTO Board will have 4 email addresses with “kenstonapps.org” (role title@kenstonapps.org)
 - (2) When roster is posted to website, no personal email addresses will be given
 - (3) This is mandatory at all buildings
- 4. Parent Engagement Series
 - a) We are looking for feedback and/ or suggestions for future topics.
Email: pto.engagement@kenstonapps.org
 - b) W3 events were held during the 2018-19 school year:
 - (1) Safety and Security – September
 - (2) Mental Health – November
 - (3) Technology at Kenston – February

Adjourn: 11:44 am

Next meeting: April 9th, 2019

Upcoming dates: May 7th, 2019