



Clayton High School PTO

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL PTO

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 12:00 pm

This Meeting was held on Zoom and in person at the Center of Clayton, Meeting Room C.

The following board members were present in person:

Presidents Joanna Dinsmore, Secretary Amber Kempf, and Treasurer John Holmes.

The following CHS Staff, PTO Members, and PTO Committee/Event Chairs were present:

CHS Principal – Dan Gutchewsky

T-Shon Young – Coordinator of Sports and Activities for the School District of Clayton

Emily Whitney – Staff Appreciation Committee

Amy Wilson – Staff Appreciation Committee

Jenny Abeles – Homecoming Committee and Freshman Parent Connections

Bridget McAndrew – Faculty Special Projects Awards

Tahnee Jackson Whitlock

Deanna Simanowitz

The following members and Committee//Event Chairs were present via Zoom:

Co-President – Jena Schaumburg

Communications Director - Priya Bazzani

Michelle Cissna

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Joanna Dinsmore
- **Presidents' Report:** Joanna Dinsmore
 - A motion was made to move to approve the November 6, 2024, meeting minutes. It was so moved, seconded and the meeting minutes were approved by vote of the members present.
 - Funds for Excellence Fundraising Update – approximately \$15,000 of our \$27,500 budget has been raised as of today. We are ahead of our fundraising last year. An e-mail will be going out this week for one more end of year fundraising push for Funds for Excellence to fund the 2024-25 budget for the CHS PTO.
 - There is a meeting open to the entire Clayton School District Community to learn about and discuss the proposals being developed for the Long-Range Facility Master Plan tonight 12/4 at 7 p.m. at CHS.
 - The Wellness Center will be sponsoring Wellness Week the week of CHS finals. The following events will be taking place that week to support students. Flyers will be going out soon.

- Monday – Therapy dogs through Duo Dogs will be in the commons. Materials and space for students to stop in and to make origami will be taking place in the commons and library.
 - Tuesday – students will be offered materials and space to make DIY stressballs.
 - Wednesday – students will be offered a place to make themselves tea.
 - Thursday – Therapy dogs through Duo Dogs and space to play board games will be in the commons.
 - Friday – students will be offered materials and space to make DIY glitter jars.
 - All students will be offered access to helplines (via phone) for use over break if they need support.
- **Treasurer's Report:** John Holmes
 - Budget review
 - After taking over the treasurer duties without receiving any guidance from the last treasurer (who had to step out suddenly), John reports he is still working to get Moneyminder up to date and reconciled but is receiving some help and support to do that and things are being resolved.
 - There is about \$71,000 in the PTO bank account but a few checks have recently gone out to pay for last month's events.
 - 90 families have made donations to the CHS PTO Funds for Excellence which funds the budget for the 2024-2025 school year. This is more families than contributed last year so things are going well. About \$15,000 has been raised this year.
 - The PTO cannot place a link or set up anything in PowerSchool for parents and caregivers to access to donate to the CHS PTO. Dr. Gutchewsky checked with the District and PowerSchool, and it is not possible as it could result in legal liability for PowerSchool for any financial fraud that could occur. The CHS PTO board will think of other ways to make links available for easier donating by parents/caregivers.
- **Principal's Update:** Dr. Gutchewsky
 - The District is searching for a new Communications Director as the current one has stepped into another role at the District.
 - The CHS Second Fall Play Clue was a lot of fun and had a great turn out from the community to see it.
 - The CHS Girls Tennis and Boys Soccer Teams are State Champions, and many community and alumni fans came to the games to see the teams win the State Championships.
 - The faculty and staff are working to prepare the high school students for finals. They are being offered support during the process with the Hot Sips and Study Tips program. This program is designed to help transition 9th graders through their first experience of finals. They are given lots of information and support to orient them to what to expect their first year. There are also Wellness Week activities during the week of finals to support students. Finals are December 18, 19 and 20 before Winter Break starts. The last class period on the 20, is reserved for making up

finals. If a student also has three finals in one day, they will be allowed to move one to the make-up period on the 20. Staff will also be available on a limited basis during specifically scheduled times over Winter Break to make up finals. Students need to contact their teachers to arrange for any make ups during Winter Break. A question was asked if the times for make ups over Winter Break would be set times to avoid any confusion as they had a student show up for a final when the teacher told the student to be there, and it was an hour earlier than the proctor last year. Dr. Gutchewsky indicated the times would be set for all proctors to help clear up any past confusion on timing.

- Many Teacher and Staff Grant applications are in and reviewed and being reviewed by Faculty Special Projects Committee, the PTO Board and administration. The CHS PTO will be announcing which applications have been awarded funds sometime after Winter Break.
 - There is a Community Conversation tonight to be held about the Facilities Plan Process. All ideas will be presented tonight and then roundtable discussions of those present will be held to get community input on the various proposals. Once the various proposals are firmed up the process will begin to determine the cost of each before all are presented for final decision making by the community and the Clayton School Board.
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- **Activities Update:** Ms. T'shon Young
 - The Boys Swim Team ended the year ranked 3rd in the State. Congrats to the team.
 - The Freshman Class is connecting twice a week through Compass, and the staff are using Compass time to discuss the finals process with the incoming Freshmen, so they know what to expect. Two upperclass students have been attending each Compass meeting with Freshmen to share test taking tips with the Freshmen. Upperclass students will be offering peer tutoring to help students prepare for finals during Greyhound time the Tuesday before finals occur. The CHS PTO is working with CHS staff to provide snacks to make goody bags for the Hot Sips and Study Tips program along with the Wellness Week activities for students to take breaks during the process.
 - After Winter Break will be the 8th Grade Curriculum Night for incoming Freshman for the 2025-26 School Year.
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- **Committee Chair Updates**
 - Staff Appreciation: Amy Wilson, Emily Whitney
 - The Holiday Luncheon for staff will be provided from local restaurant House of Wong. A Sign-Up Genius will be going out soon for parents/caregivers to volunteer to provide desserts and fruit to go with the food. The luncheon is going to be on December 20 which is the last day of school. The monthly donuts for staff are being served this Friday, 12/6.
 - Parent Connections

- Jenny Abeles: Freshmen Parent Connections Chair. The Freshmen parents Connections Event last month at C.J. Muggs went well. Approximately 30 parents attended. The restaurant was great to work with and less expensive than other options that have been used in the past.
 - Faculty Special Projects Awards Committee
 - The requests have been wide ranging and are exciting. It will be announced in January what grant requests will be funded by the CHS PTO for the 2024-25 school year.
- **Questions and any other business**
 - Joanna Disnmore announced that the CHS PTO will not be hosting the grade level Q & A Sessions for Parents with the Counsellor about questions for the college application process. The sessions will continue but the Counselling Staff will be running them going forward, freeing up the PTO budget for events better aligned with the CHS PTO Mission Statement.
 - The District's new Head of Security will be starting December 1, and Joanna will see if he will be our speaker for the January Meeting

The Next PTO Meeting will be held on Zoom and in person at the Center of Clayton, on January 8, 2025, Meeting Room C, from 12 to 1 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Kempf, Secretary