



Clayton High School PTO

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL PTO**  
**Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 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:

President Joanna Dinsmore, President Jena Schaumburg, Communications Director Priya Bazzani and Secretary Amber Kempf.

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  
Amy Wilson – Staff Appreciation Committee  
Jenny Abeles – Homecoming Committee and Freshman Parent Connections  
Bridget McAndrew – Faculty Special Projects Awards  
Suzy Ogé – Faculty Special Projects Awards  
Chellie McLellan – Clayton All In Coalition  
Melissa Rideout

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

Emily Milchanowski  
Emily Zou – Junior Parent Connections  
Michelle Cissna

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Jena Schaumburg and Joanna Dinsmore
- **Presidents' Report**
  - o Previous Months' Minutes
    - A motion was made and seconded for the Meeting Minutes from the February 2025 PTO Meeting to be approved. A vote was held, and the meeting minutes were approved by the majority.
  - o Funds for Excellence update
    - Based upon the Treasurer's Income and Expense Report to date \$14,676.00 has been raised. Our Budget for the 2024-25 School Year is

\$27,500. We currently have a \$12,824.00 shortfall for this year. There are surplus funds in the account that could be used to cover this shortfall, but a vote of the PTO would be held before doing that. It was proposed that a final fundraising push be done before the next meeting to see if additional parents want to donate. The Board will make one last push to encourage the community to donate to the PTO so that all surplus funds can be spent on a project to improve the CHS Building and benefit the students.

o Upcoming Openings

- The Presidents are working to check in with all Board and Committee members to determine who is interested in staying in their roll for the 2025-26 School Year. Many are returning, but there will be opportunities return or take a new role if folks are interested in volunteering. Please reach out to Jena or Johanna know if you are interested in serving on the PTO or know folks the Board should reach out to and see if they would like to take on a position.

• **Treasurer's Report:** John Holmes was not present. More discussion was held regarding meeting the budget shortfall as discussed previously.

o Budget review

- The Board is happy to report all Parent Connection Events have been within budget and the Parent Connection leaders have found new places in Clayton to host such events expanding options for future events.
- More discussion was had about having another push to encourage the community to donate to Funds for Excellence to meet our budget shortfall. There will be opportunities set up for parents attending in person Parent Teacher Conferences to donate with QR Codes set up in the Commons. The Board is considering options for next year to increase donations at the beginning of the year during student onboarding events. Some possible options include soliciting donations through My School Bucks and setting up a PTO Table at the Open House Events to catch families while they are in the building for that.
- A question was asked if it was possible for parents to make donations somehow for children who are unable to afford to go off campus for lunch with friends to have access to funds to do that on occasion. This would be something that would best be addressed by the Social Worker for CHS Lauren Stoelting to see of any financial needs for students that folks could help with. The Board will check in as well to see if any of the Clayton Cares funds are needed for the financial support of students in need.

• **Principal's Update:** Dr. Gutchewsky

- The District does have one Snow Day left. If needed CHS has a virtual learning plan in place. It will be asynchronous learning if virtual learning is used. The students will receive assignments to complete but there will not be set direct learning time via Zoom. Teachers will be available if assistance is needed by students.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are next week. Wednesday is the in-person conference day. Monday and Tuesday are virtual.
- Team 4500 The Clayton Robohounds Robotics Team left for the Regional Championship in Arkansas. It will be a challenging competition for the students with many of the best teams in the US attending.
- The Long-Range Planning Process is continuing. Paragon presented all of the possible options to the Clayton Board of Education at Its last meeting. The Board is now considering the options and will make a final decision. There are exciting options on the table. Some of the options that could impact CHS include:
  - a designated space for the Robotics Team to build and practice
  - Additional classrooms for English classes to move to
  - A dedicated Student Services Suite containing the School Nurse, Counselling, Wellness Center, School Resource Officer, and SSD Classrooms together and locate them in a better place. Currently if Emergency Services are needed it requires EMS workers to transvers the commons area both ways which is disruptive and also raises concerns of student privacy.
  - The Black Box Area could be renovated and used for a large classroom that would accommodate up to 100 students.
  - An option is being considered to move Gay Field closer to the CHS Building.
  - Space for the Catalyst Program which is current renting space in Brentwood to accommodate the program.
  - Every school is being considered for upgrades.
  - Each Building has three levels of proposals being made from least to most expensive.
- CHS is in the hiring process for new staff for next year. There are some staff retiring after years of service to the students. CHS is currently looking for a new Part Time Chinese Teacher and a New Physics Teacher.
- Spring Sports are starting.

• **Activities Update:** Ms. T'shon Young

- Spring Sports began this week.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Senior Day of Service for Seniors to provide service to their community. There are 12 organizations for students to choose from to support. Seniors will be choosing their specific service project next week.
- Prom information has gone out via e-mail.
  - The Prom will be held at The Reverie.

- The theme is the Roaring 20's.
- Tickets go on sale 4/1. Students must not have any detentions or fines in order to buy tickets. Tickets will be on sale for 9 days.
- The CHS Trivia Night fundraiser went well. The students raised almost 5K. Additional donations are always welcome.
- You must fill out a packet of forms to have a guest attend who is not a CHS student.

#### • **Committee Chair Updates**

- o Staff Appreciation: Amy Wilson
  - Teachers and Staff are being provided a meal for Wednesday night in person conferences. The meal is from Dewey's.
- o Parent Connections: Robin Leonard; grade-level liaisons
  - Freshman Parent Connections, Jenny Abeles
    - On May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm in the CHS library there will be a College Q & A session with Carolyn Blair
  - Junior Class Parent Connections
    - On April 2 from 5-7 pm at the Ivy Café (14 N. Meramec) there will be a Junior Class Parent Connections Social Event.
  - Sophomore Class Parent Connection
    - On 3/26 from 6-7 pm in the CHS library there will be a College Q & A session with Carolyn Blair
- o Faculty Special Projects Awards. The following Awards have been made:
  - Providing money to the Globe to pay for an issue so the Seniors can each leave CHS with a copy of the special Senior Issue.
  - Chris Holms has provided funds to take 48 students for a Core Campout to practice navigation in the woods. This will be held in Creve Coeur the St. Louis Orienteering Club is also assisting with the overnight campout. It will be scheduled in the Spring.
  - Brad Buck has been provided funds to support the Science Olympiad Team which has been doing very well and is continuing to compete.
  - Each group that receives an award will be giving the PTO feedback about how the funds were used so that the PTO can report back to the community about how the funds benefitted our students.

#### • **Questions and any other business**

- Suzy Oge' reported she was gathering information for one possible use of any PTO surplus funds once the 2024-25 Budget is met for the year. This would be a proposed project to enhance the Quad for students. It was proposed student

involvement be obtained to choose a final project no matter what it is. The PTO has not determined the final budget for any project using any of the PTO's surplus funds. The available budget will need to be determined before any ideas can be proposed, considered or voted upon. Once a budget is determined, project proposals will be considered, and a full PTO vote will be held to consider any proposed projects brought to the PTO. The Board asked to be looped in on any communications involving information gathering for any proposed projects for the surplus funds so they know what is going on.

- Clayton All In Coalition Update - Chellie McLellan
  - o On 4/7 there will be a parent event - In the Weeds. This will share facts about the difference between cannabis and hemp. Hemp products can be sold outside of dispensaries.
  - o On 3.26-27, 6<sup>th</sup> Clayton Youth will go to Jeff City to speak to legislators about better regulation of cannabis and hemp products.
  - o On 3/28 there will be a live Town Hall Teen Talk. This event is run by Clayton Youth. It will provide information and resources about mental health and addiction.
  - o In the Fall there will be a program offering information about Sports Gambling Addiction. More information will be forthcoming.

The Next PTO Meeting will be held on Zoom and in person at the Center of Clayton, on April 2, 2025, Meeting Room C, from 12 to 1 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Kempf, Secretary