

# PTO Council Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2022 6:30 p.m.

\*Recorded\*

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the PTO Council for the School District of Clayton was held, as scheduled, on February 10th at 6:30pm CST via Zoom.

**Present:** Jenny Abeles, Laura Pierson, Laura Seelbach, Jessica Graetz, Susan Kronemer, Tanya Hayden, Chris Tennill, Stacey Siwak, Nisha Patel, Karen Gulick, Allie Rossini, Lilly Scharff, Liz Florek, Allison Yee, and Kim Sherony, Bryan Lawrence.

**Introductions and Updates** per each school:

Meramec - Postponing pancake breakfast, upcoming plant sale, hoping to plan more when this COVID variant is less.

Glenridge - Having (modified) Valentine's parties, book fair postponed, excited about new Principal for next year, and thinking about ways to honor outgoing principal, hoping to be able to do Strawberry festival in spring.

Wydown - Teacher appreciation going on now, sad about assistant principal going to Glenridge next year.

Family Center - Oatmeal drive coming up next week to benefit Operation Food Search, annual fundraiser with Parker's Table around mother's day, teacher appreciation activities.

CHS - Short on budget because of some leftover expenses from prior years, but doing ok with plans moving forward. Starting to plan prom - going to be at Windows on Washington. Hoping to resume parent connections in the spring.

**District Update** - Dr. Nisha Patel

1. Thank all the parents and staff for celebrating Black History Month.
2. COVID update: things are going in the right direction. The positive rate is lower. Administration is hopeful that more events will be possible in the spring. Going to reevaluate COVID plans at the end of the month. In March, we can look at outdoor events. May go to mask recommended in March, and then look again after Spring Break.
3. It's official that Tarita Rhimes will be the new principal at Glenridge.
4. CHS swim team is conference champions.

**District Communications Update** - Chris Tennill

1. Meredith Reese is new in communications. She took over for Stephanie.
2. Email sent earlier about partnerships with Clementine's to do fundraiser nights. Contact Makayla directly. Her contact information is in the email. If you decide to do a fundraiser there, let Chris know what the experience was working with them.

3. Sneak Peek of the new website in response to feedback. New front pages to each school.

#### **Board of Education Update - Stacy Siwak**

1. There will not be an election this year. The seats are uncontested. Stacy is continuing for another term, but Joe Miller is not. Chris Win will take his place. Jason Growe will replace Steve Singer, who was in an interim position.
2. CHS library renovation is in the planning stage. The students have an opportunity to have input, which is going well.
3. Board is reviewing a calendar update, which will be finalized soon.
4. The standardized testing results are concerning in one sense, but the COVID challenges have had an influence. More discussion has taken place around the achievement gap, and how it is reflected in our standardized tests.
5. Board approved safety and security entrances to be finished in buildings that haven't already been updated.
6. There are several House bills up for discussion lately covering a wide range of topics affecting our public schools. If you're interested in getting involved, contact state rep Ian Mackey. We've had parents and students go to Jefferson City, which is impactful. Stacy can connect people with Ian Mackey.

#### **All In Coalition Update - Kim Sherony**

All In Mission is to keep Clayton safe from substances.

1. February 15th - 6-7pm Teen Talk Town Hall - virtual - gathers area teens to share experiences during COVID - mental health challenges. They also share what adults can do to support them. Three CHS students are going to participate.
2. Hidden in Plain View - done by Addiction is Real. They make a mock bedroom to show parents places that teens might hide substances. During P/T conferences on March 16th. We also discussed other times when the presentation could be set up for more parents to have the experience.
3. Partnered with Robin in Student Services for Head and Heart Series. March 29th 6-7pm - a parents guide to youth use of substances and conversation starters for parents and teens.

#### **Treasurer's Report and Update - Tanya Hayden**

1. Report was attached to agenda.
2. There have been more donations to the PTO Council than expected this year. Tanya will get those donations to the appropriate schools. We pay \$3000/year for QUickbooks. Tanya is looking into options that would allow us to save money.

#### **What's Working/How can we help?**

Members of the group asked for suggestions in areas of challenge. Please feel free to reach out PTO Council member for support, to bounce ideas, or think through challenges.

**New Business**

1. Bylaws - Jenny and Jessica made shortcut bylaws. All the school bylaws are similar to PTO Council bylaws and could be shortened as well, to have at meetings and as reference.
2. Next Year's Boards - Time to start thinking about boards for next year. Not going to have Jumpstart until school starts. Let the PTO Council know if you need some help with the process.

**Adjourn**