

Meeting Minutes
HFE General PTO Meeting
August 18, 2015 5:30 p.m.

Attendance: Kristi Cummings, Tijuana Gilchrist, Lauren Moser, Deirdre Smith Gilmer, Laura Telford, Jodi Rhoden, Angel Howell, Katie Blanton, Laurie Paner, Robin Payne, Lindsey Altsheler, Alejandra Pantoja, Susan Dockey, Chris Glover Bickhart, Elizabeth Onkka-Holstein, Thomas Priester, Felicia Searles, Rebekah Leah Shalene, Terra Marshall, Bryan Marshall, Felicia Searles, Misty Miller, Yetta Williams, Dr. Gordon Grant (sign in attached)

Pre-Meeting: group did a "meet your neighbor" interview. Jodi will be the timekeeper of the meeting.

Opening: Thomas welcomed everyone and read the mission statement. He discussed PTO goals and accessibility as a place for everyone to have a voice and support one another. He attended the "Call to Action" meeting at UNCA on 8-17-15, and discussed the topics covered during the event concerning City schools.

- Thomas introduced 2015-2016 Board Members: Co-Presidents are Thomas Priester and Angel Howell; Co-Vice Presidents are Jodi Rhoden and Candace Colon, Co-Secretaries are Kristi Cummings and Lauren Moser; Treasurer is John Payne; Communications Coordinator is Chris McNabb; Co-Community Engagement Coordinators are Zach Eden and Yvette Brearley; At Large Community Officers are Tijuana Gilchrist, Marquis McGee, Lavette McDaniel, and sharing a position are Susan Dockey (Spanish Speaking) and Marvin Smith; President Emeritus is Deirdre Smith Gilmer.
- Dr. Grant presented a draft handout on parking lot safety (attached) with discussion. He reminded everyone about teacher-parent conferences on 8/21/15. Discussed the current school-side student assessments are taking place, and that a video will be available to families attending the conferences to better explain the testing processes. Wants to transition future conferences to be student lead. He reminded everyone that there is not a title one meeting 8/20/15.
- Jodi asked everyone to thank the donors of tonight's meal (Bonfire BBQ, 12 Bones, and King Daddy's).

Committee Reports:

- TREASURER: John discussed the financials (balance sheet attached) and the proposed budget (attached). Vote on proposed budget passed by unanimous vote.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Chris discussed changes to the by-laws to add two additional committees; FEAST and Wellness (sheet attached). A vote to amend the bylaws to add the FEAST and Wellness committee passed unanimously. Also discussed Standing Committees need for chairs in these committees, especially Fall Festival and Room Parent. Room parent request letter will be sent out next week to all families.

- **RACIAL EQUITY:** Thomas discussed receiving a grant. There will be a meeting on 8/26/2015 with Dr. McAllister for more insight concerning discipline policies. On 9/12/2015 there will be a three hour training session with consultant Greg White concerning community involvement. Dr. Grant and Yetta Williams are Co-Chairs for this committee. Additional discussion about adding three more members this year, and discussed the interview process. Thomas ended by reading the mission statement of the HFE Racial Equity Committee
- **FEAST:** Jodi lead discussion on the local non-profit FEAST at HFE, and how they are teaching cooking classes for low income families and help support the gardener position at HFE. At HFE the students are being instructed on gardening and cooking. Stipulation of receiving support is that the PTO must have a FEAST committee and be responsible for fund raising. Robin suggested looking into creating an entrepreneurial group for HFE students in partnership between FEAST and Junior Achievement. First committee meeting will be 8/19/2015 at 6:30 p.m. for all those interested.
- **FUNDRAISING:** Robin discussed the success of Slide the Fletch. She is requesting written feedback concerning the event. She is making plans for next year. Robin also need for volunteers for Junior Achievement in a Day event on 10/15/2015 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Also looking for volunteers for Grandparents Day date TBA. Robin also discussed need for a volunteer to chair the yearbook committee, and to contact her if interested in any volunteer items listed.
- **MUSIC WOKS:** Bryan announced that he is working on the application for HFE parents to volunteer at the Cellular Center concession stands during the symphony to raise money for Music Works, especially for the need of risers. Stressed importance of raising money before the Spring Concert that will feature a group performance from Savannah, GA. This has been a fundraising event in the past for HFE. Misty will work with Bryan to help schedule volunteers for these events.
- **PRESIDENT:** Angel thanked everyone for coming, and reminded everyone that childcare is provided during the meetings, which is lead by teachers. She discussed calendar events, especially the need to form committee for the Fall Festival. Angel will chair committee, but needs several volunteers for this event. Please contact her if interested in volunteering, and the date will be decided by 9/15/2015 meeting. She stressed this is more of a community building event rather than a fundraiser. Discussed naming it Fall Fletcher. Further discussion to combine this event with a new event called Camp the Fletch, which families would camp the evening in the school field after the festival.
- **NEW ADDITIONS:** Angel mentioned the PTO box at the sign in table, and to please fill out the cards with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or possible event or fundraising ideas. Please include contact information on the cards. These items will be discussed the the 9/15/2015 General PTO meeting. Angel then discussed Popcorn Friday's, and the different flavor options. Discussion about healthier options, including using HFE garden herbs to tie into FEAST. Yvette requested volunteers to help on Fridays starting at 8:30 a.m., and to get in touch with her to volunteer.

- OPEN MIC: Chris discussed a proposal of Leisure Olympics as a Spring fundraising event. He explained teams would pre-register with a fee, and that there would be carnival type games free to everyone, with food trucks. Misty discussed combining Leisure Olympics with the Fletcher Haul 5K event. Chris agreed to chair the event, and he and Misty will discuss with Robin to start to organize.
- Misty discussed creating a community event fund raiser with a 20's era prohibition party, speakeasy theme. The Mill Room would be available as a venue on a Wednesday night for \$400.00. We would provide food and sell tickets. She will look for November 2015 dates. Discussion of having a silent auction at the event. Misty would chair event, but she would need several volunteers, especially for marketing and PR. It was mentioned that we obtain the services of "Community Fitness Events" to help with the organization, and they would get a portion of the ticket sales. Possible dates mentioned were 11-4-15 or 11-11-15.
- Shalene discussed "Crossfit Asheville" which is a non-profit group that supports 12-14 year old girls with an "iron girls" program for schools. It was proposed that this event could be done during the Fall Festival or through the Wellness Committee. Misty and Shalene volunteered to chair this event.
- Tijuana discussed concern about after school security, as the door remain unlocked due to all the community groups that use the school. Dr Grant discussed issues concerning staffing or volunteers that would be needed from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Closing Statement: Angel reminded everyone who has committed to volunteer to let someone know if their needs change and they need a replacement, so projects and events will still be completed. Thomas discussed the new Open Mic opportunity during all general PTO meetings to hear everyone's voice. Next general PTO meeting will be 9-15-2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Cummings and Lauren Moser