

Hereford Middle School PTA Meeting

9/6/2023

Online via Microsoft Teams

Jennifer Dickerson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

There were approximately 34 in attendance

I. Welcome & Introductions

Jennifer Dickerson introduced herself as the Hereford Middle PTA President and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the school year.

II. President's Report (Jennifer Dickerson)

- a). Jennifer **welcomed the new HMS parents** who joined the meeting.
- b). **Introduced PTA board members** – Alex Castillo, Vice President. Melissa Hanlon, Treasure. Andrea Otis, Communications Secretary, Julie Ortil, Financial Secretary. Apryl Clark, Recording Secretary. Please contact Jennifer if you are interested in serving with the board or on committees.
- c). **New platform for PTA meetings, “Microsoft Teams”** - Switched due to privacy concerns.
- d). **Event planning is in full swing** - On August 23rd held the “Welcome back Teacher luncheon.” There is an album of photos on facebook. We held an ice cream social to thank your bus drivers for taking our kids to and from school. They were very appreciative. Many people attended the back to school night and donated directly and joined the PTA. We have HMS magnets for your car for those that make a direct donation in any amount. The magnet will get to you via your child delivered to their homeroom 1A teacher. Save the date for Fall Fest, September 29th. Last year’s fall fest had over 600 (out of 900) students attend. We had a DJ, lights, photo booth, crafts, pizza, snacks, etc. Normally, tickets are sold a day before at lunch. Tickets are \$5 for entrance and food. A sign up genius will be going out soon for volunteers and donations of snacks and food. We are looking for a clothing donation truck to come to the school one afternoon on a weekend to collect donations. The

PTA will be paid by the pound. As of yet, Jennifer has not heard back from the organization. Getting ready for an ice / snowball party at the end of the year. We are interested in obtaining quotes from other organizations since the organization we used doubled their fees. If anyone knows of any other "snowball or italian ice" please email Jennifer.

II. Vice President's Report – (Alex Castillo)

- a. This year we are planning during 5 different spirit nights to fund activities for the kids and teachers. The first is on September 16th Tuti Frutti in Timonium. Tuti Frutti will donate funds to our school whenever you visit and write HMS on your receipt and turn in to them. We will have Chick Fila's spirit night on October 24th from 4-7. On November 4th, there will be a Chipotle spirit night from 3-7 p.m. In February, there will be a spirit night at Wood Fire and in May, there will be a spirit night at Rita's. Stay tuned for more information.

IV. Teacher's Report (Mrs. Lilly Richardson on behalf of Ms. Blevins PTA Teacher Representative)

- a. A great start to the year. Early entry day was great. We had approximately 230 out of 260 come for early entry day. First day of school was smooth. Back to school night was incredible. It was well attended. Check schoology for updated grading policies and for each of your student's syllabus. Would like to thank the PTA for helping to get up and running. The teachers were very appreciative of the luncheon. BCPS handbook talk is happening right now through reading classes and world language. Please make sure your student brings back their signed form. If your student is participating in a fall sport at HMS they will need to download and submit their paperwork to formrelief.com by September 8th. Fall sports are cross country, allied soccer and badminton. School pictures will be taken September 7th and 8th. These pictures will be in the yearbook. Club sign up will begin the week of September 11th. Yearbook information will be coming out soon.

V. Principal/Administration Report - (Julie Dellone)

- a. Thank you to the parents, happy to see so many new people join the meeting. Encouraging parents/guardians to join or make a direct donation to the PTA.
- b. Thanked the PTA again. Mrs. Dellone thanked PTA members for their time and commitment to this volunteer position.
- c. 6th grade students have now received devices if they did not have one. All devices have been swiped for new ones if there were IT tickets. Device bags are coming for 6th graders. Shipping has been delayed. The device bags are no longer covered by BCPS. HMS purchased and my neighbors foundation paid for half of the cost. 6th graders will

get the new bags (Maroon and do say HMS) and the 8th graders will keep their current bags. If desired, parents can purchase a new device bag. This is a cost that the school has not had to cover in the past. We do fundraisers as a school. The picture money is fundraiser money that gets spent back on students. We will have a wrapping paper fundraiser. It is something easy to facilitate for the school. We do not need a ton of money but do need some funds to keep things going. We are saving for a new school sign. The sign is damaged and a new sign is very expensive. The risers for the chorus are really old and will get them inspected for safety. New risers are \$30,000. The library has the original chairs from 1984. We need repairs for our greenhouse. The school received a renovation in the late 80s and the D-hall way was added along with the agriculture and greenhouse. The school is always trying to update. We don't get fundings that some schools get. We are not a title 1 school. Everything we get is usually from the help of the community and or my neighbors fundraiser. PTA support has been requested by Mrs. Dellone. A good school environment is important to us for our children. Back to school night had the largest attendance ever, she said. The line was out the door! Thank you to everyone! Magnet school applications are open. The deadline approaches quickly. Hereford High School is a great school. Explore HMS. HMS is in the top 5 in our school system. Clubs are a wonderful thing. Have your student join at least one club. You will receive content messages again this year from team leaders. To enable parents to understand what their children are learning ahead of time, is the intent. To stay up-to-date on what is going on and to find out about deadlines, please watch the video announcements.

VI. **Treasurer's Report (Melissa Hanlon)**—Financial Update & Budget Vote

Melissa Hanlon is new on the PTA Board.

Went over the budget to get it approved.

- Everything is the same as last year except a line was added for Fall Fest and Spring Fling. Those events are not fundraisers, they are taking in under student enrichment.
- We have a minimum budget of \$10,000 every year. That is what is needed to operate.
- The budget was approved by 13 votes.

VII. **Financial Secretary's Report (Julie Ortel)** Update on required tax documents/submissions

- a). Will be doing an annual audit in October. A request of volunteers for a subset committee to assist will be announced soon.

VIII. Hospitality Report (Meredith Heyl & Shannon Hershfield)

- a). Very busy so far this fall. This is a busy hospitality season.
- b). Thank you to all that have donated thus far. We can't provide anything we do without donations.
- c). Teachers Luncheon - provided lunch for all teachers from Wegmans
- d). Back to school night table with cake and snacks
- e). Bus Driver ice cream social
- f). Halloween stock the teacher lounge event will be held in October. An Amazon wish list will be sent out.
- g). Please reach out if you are interested in partnering and helping with the hospitality committee.

IX. Other Business

- a). Always looking for ideas for fundraising! Feel free to reach out if you have any ideas.
- b). Keep your calendars open for Tuti Frutti's spirit night on 9/16 and Fall Fest on 9/29
- c). Please complete the volunteer application if you are interested in volunteering at the school. The paperwork needs to be sent to each individual school if you have children in more than one Baltimore county school. The volunteer process is very simple.