

Holmes PTO Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2023

➤ Principal Update

- Royle Elementary is bringing in a local artist from Greenwich to do an artist in residence program. Looking into possibility of doing something similar at Holmes.
- Instructional rounds will take place on March 29 with Holmes as the pilot school. Administrators, teachers, and dept chairs from grades K-12 will observe classes and provide feedback as part of a professional development activity. Holmes is the first school to have the visit. Miss Milicia and Principal Bleakley will participate in rounds to other DPS schools.
- Music shares will continue in each grade but will look a little different than years' past. For grades that do not do a holiday or Veteran's Day concert, parents will be invited in to see a music class in progress and then stay for a performance. Spring concerts will now take place at Holmes with staggered times – half hour performances with a half hour transition time in between.
- Phases for the Holmes School renovation will shift a bit to have construction of the music room and classroom wing happen simultaneously to allow for swing space during the project and limit impact on classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year. The portables are expected to be removed this summer.
- A second microwave and a new Keurig coffee maker have been requested for the Teacher's lounge and would be much appreciated!
- Voting for the Holmes Hawk mascot profile will take place on March 20th. Submissions are being collected and will be turned into five profiles that the students will vote on.

➤ Co-Chair Update

- CDSP has proposed raising the \$135 per student cap to \$175 per student with the goal to have equality across all classes and schools. The elementary schools are in favor of the increase. CDSP is also advising schools with reserves to spend it down and only keep 1 to 1.5 years' worth of operating costs in reserves.
- The PTO is in favor of purchasing Field Day t-shirts again this year. Pricing is being evaluated.
- Girls On The Run is going to be offered for girls in grades 3 through 5 after school. Would like to create a similar program for boys.
- BOE Budget update – the elementary building sub position will increase to 5 days a week (from 4 days) with an increased salary. A third building sub will not be added in elementary schools.
 - Eyes will be on the current 4th grade cohort for movement to see if it is possible to petition for a fourth section in 5th grade.

- The new Director of Security is meeting with co-chairs and Paula, and a meeting to the broader parent community will be scheduled. The DOS is meeting with final candidates to hire for each school, and those hires will be in place this school year.
 - At the beginning of school year, it has been proposed to provide the PTO with estimated costs for field trips for each grade level so that PTO can budget appropriately. Every grade is allotted at least two field trips. The PTO will suggest ideas for next year's field trips to provide fresh options.
- Vice-Chair Update
- The Teacher Gift policy distributed and room parents should be reaching out for year-end and Teacher Appreciation collections. All checks to the vice chairs should be submitted by 4/21.
 - The current PTO slate was sent out volunteers to see who will return for the 2023-2024 school year and what positions will need to be filled. Feedback is being gathered.
- Treasurer Update – fundraising wise we are in a very solid position.
- Fundraising Update
- Ninety tickets have been sold thus far for the Spring Gala on 3/31. The Fundraising Committee is still in need of donations. Discussed potentially setting up a QR code for direct appeal for parents who may feel compelled to donate during the event.
 - A Mom's Night Out social has been scheduled for May 11. More details to come.
 - The first 100 tickets for the upcoming Bridgeport Islanders have been sold and we are now working through a second block of tickets.
- DEI Update
- A family movie night is proposed for Thursday, May 4th (May 18 rain date) to view the film Wonder. Still in initial planning phase and debating hiring a food truck or selling popcorn and movie snacks. Potentially include popcorn in ticket price.
 - The second Foodies Lunch will take place at Kouzina on Sunday, March 3/19. So far 35 people have signed up and our event cap is 50.
 - The DEI committee attended the Hindley Heritage Night event to see how it is presented and will attend Tokeneke's Passport event and Ox Ridge's event in May.
- Enrichment Update
- The Weatherman is confirmed for Monday, April 3rd and will do a school-wide presentation

- Second grade will have in-class enrichment on Monday, May 22nd in the Holmes garden
- The Enrichment Committee will help provide feedback on the field trip discussion with CDSP