

Holmes PTO Exec Board Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2023

Principal Update

- The presentation with Dr. Dadd on Friday, November 17 for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents was well-attended. The first of four presentations by Dr. Dadd focusing on student mental health will take place on Monday, November 20 in the Common Room.
- Lice cases at Holmes – school is following best practices. Director of Nursing Services Emily Merritt has reached out to other districts and medical professionals for their feedback/input on handling lice cases. The PTO will put together a communication on lice prevention and tips for parents.

Co-Chair Update

- Fall events have been successful with 600 tickets sold for the Back to School Picnic, 80 tickets sold for Moms' Night Out and 35 tickets sold for Dads' Night Out.
  - Would be helpful to clarify for parents that PTO community events such as these are not fundraising events and the cost of tickets cover the cost of the event itself and funds do not go back to the PTO. Discussion included adding transparency to the PTO website around which events are community events and which are fundraising efforts and what donations go towards. Perhaps send an e-blast and room parent communications with information.
- Evaluating the frequency of Dr. Addley's presentation as attendance was lower than anticipated. Dr. Addley's time is valued, and the PTO will try to encourage/boost attendance for future events, potential move them to every other year depending on topics to discuss.
- On Election Day, students voted on a song to incorporate into Holmer the Hawk's birthday celebration on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The song that won was "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley. Discussion continued around Holmer the Hawk and the need to upgrade the mascot costume. Board considered including information in the direct appeal plea, or perhaps make this an out of cap cost as cap is tight for this year.
- Support is needed to encourage attendance for Dr. Dadd's workshop on November 20. Donations are needed for the Teacher's Lounge – working to figure out how to best to draw more attention and have more parents help provided needed items.
- There is a Holmes shopping event at Everything is Rosey on November 29 where a percentage of sales will be donated back to Holmes.
- CDSP: Need more PTO board members to BOE meetings. Budget season is going to be a tough one – co-chairs are paying attention to what is going to be cut from budgets. A concern for Holmes in particular is the need for building subs.

Vice Chair Update

- Email going out to room parents this week with a reminder of the Holmes gift policy. Email communications from room parents will focus on PTO initiatives and will not include outside info.

### Treasurer Update

- Field trips: bus expenses have increased drastically and have to be in cap

### Special Education Update

- Special Education Day will be celebrated on November 30 – a catered breakfast will be brought in for staff, and flowers and cards will be given to all special education teachers and paras. Books will be donated to the library for each grade level. Room Parents will send out card templates to classes to encourage students to make cards.
- Special education supplies – teachers and paras have discretionary funds to use for what's needed.

### Fundraising Update

- The annual appeal push will include yard signs, e-blast (to go out November 27) and info from room parents with explanation of where funds are allotted to. Flyers will go home on November 27.
- As mentioned by the co-chairs, a fundraising shopping event at Everything is Rosey shopping will take place on November 29 with a portion of sales going back to Holmes.
- Spring gala save the dates have gone out. The committee is working on the fundraising component and looking for items at different price points and also considering another wine pull as it was successful in year's past.

### Enrichment Update

- Feedback on the Whalemobile was very positive overall. The committee will consider bringing the Whalemobile back every few years.
- Upcoming grade specific programming:
  - December 3: Stamford Nature Center visit for 4<sup>th</sup> grade
  - December 8: High Touch, High Tech for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
  - February: Dance China
  - Earth Day: Bash the Trash – whole school

### DEI Update

- International Cookie Exchange will take place on December 15
- Heritage Night save the date was sent out in H2H. Will need help beyond the DEI Committee to encourage participation and attendance at the event. Information on booths will go out in the next H2H to encourage sign ups. The event will take place in the gym which can hold approximately 30 tables/different booths.