

Holmes PTO Exec Board Meeting Agenda January 19, 2024

1. Principal Update

- Heritage Night was very well done and well attended.
- A letter went out to parents regarding 5th to 6th grade transition and course selection. The form must be completed by March 1st.
- Last Links testing – multilingual learners have testing three times a year. This testing takes place in January.
- Heather Reed has been hired as the school's new literacy specialist.
- Casey Correa has been hired as the long-term art teacher sub through the end of year. She is a Bowdoin College graduate who worked in graphic design for a music management company and has made a career change.
- Mr. Eddie moved to a middle school custodial position. Holmes students did a celebration send off with cards and the staff held a party. The PTO is planning to give a gift.
- Valentine's Day guidelines/reminders – Paula sent out a reminder for no food and to make sure there are valentines for every student in a class. Room parents have been asked to send reminder to send in valentines for every child in class.
- Holmer's birthday guessing game – Mrs. Soisson's and Mrs. Costanza's classes won the jars full of gummy worms. Holmer will visit Mrs. Soisson's class and Mrs. Constanza's class will have extra recess.
- Proposed budget - budget is really tight this year. One reason is that the teacher's union and administrators bargained a fairly significant increase in their contracts, and health insurance costs went up. Proposed budget includes numerous cuts to all areas and school levels. Most relevant to the Elementary Schools are proposed cuts of instructional aides, specials teachers, the curriculum director, the K-12 special education coordinator, and changes to the ELP program. Communications surrounding the budget have been sent to parents in H2H and also posted on social media. Encouraging parents to speak up during public comment.
- Dr. Dadd presentations – information will be added to Holmes PTO website.

2. Co-Chair Update

- CDSP Updates – Budget (Relevant BOE Meetings - 1/23 at 7:30pm, 1/30 at 7pm)
 - Parents who are not comfortable with public comment are urged to send feedback to PTO co-chairs to be included in CDSP speeches, or email BOE.
- Recaps: Dr. Dadd Presentation; Parent Coffee Re: Food Services; Heritage Night

- Good attendance at the second presentation with Dr. Dadd. Would like to ask her to prepare a presentation on use of social media, and collaborate with other elementary schools on holding a districtwide meeting on the topic.
- Parent Coffee with food services representative was not super well attended, but timing around the holiday weekend may have impacted that.
- Co-chairs encouraged Holmes parent attendance at upcoming BOE meetings (2/27 and 4/23).

3. Vice Chair Update

- An email to room parents on end of year collections will go out after February break.

4. Treasurer Update

- Review of the budget – incorporating spring fling numbers will help reach this year's goal.

5. DEI Update

- Heritage Night was a success!
- Considering how to move forward with the Movie Night and Heritage Night events and the option of holding every other year.

6. Fundraising Update

- Annual Appeal progress and plan – will relaunch towards end of January and set a deadline for donations and highlight monetary goal.
- Spring Party planning continues. Committee is brainstorming ideas for fundraising aspect (wine pull, silent auction) and is working on a fun wearable.

7. Special Education Update

- The budget is not favorable for special ed and really need parents to advocate. There is concern around ELP and the elimination of Kristen O'Reilly's position.
- Special Ed reps plan to speak up during public comment during the BOE meetings and highlight how the restructuring and scheduling impacts the program.
- Committee will draft bullets to highlight issues and concerns to share on social media.