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# HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING MINUTES

HPS Cafeteria • September 13, 2016

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## Call to Order

Rachel Kaiser, 6:35 PM

## Attendees

GiGi Adduci, Kim Churchill, May Corn, Jessica Cronin, Sadique Danquah, Frances Diaz, Jorge Diaz, Heather Doucette, Danielle Dumont, Stephanie Duvall, Jolie Frechette, Jeannette Hill, Susan Jacobsen, Rachel Kaiser, Jessica Mauldin, Meghan McDowell-Vyse, Jill Morey, Elissa Nagle, Tracy Patterson, Kelly Pierce, Liliana Polley, Brigitte Witkowski, Jackie Wood, Linda Yamamoto

## Agenda

1. Introduction of Board Members
2. Meeting Norms
  - On task (time keeper)
  - Focused agenda
  - Safe and respectful
  - Parking lot: questions, tabled items, concerns to be addressed later
  - Stay positive
3. Mission: Community involvement, networking, fostering educational relationships
4. PTA membership:
  - Membership can include anyone invested in children's education, not just those with children attending the school (*i.e.*, grandparents, aunts/uncles, friends, neighbors)
  - \$10 per person; join by the September 30<sup>th</sup> to be entered into a raffle for a Highland Park Market gift card
  - Membership funds are divided three ways, one third each going to the national PTA, Connecticut PTA, and HPS directly
5. Communication with/from PTA:
  - *Highland Park Families* Facebook board: Closed group to protect photos of kids; open to Highland Park families with students currently attending the school, please encourage eligible people to join
  - [PTAHighlandPark2016@gmail.com](mailto:PTAHighlandPark2016@gmail.com): The PTA does not have direct access to the school parent email distribution list, so any feedback/questions are welcomed here
6. Financial Update: Broke roughly even for last year, -\$536 overall, about \$4000 in checking account; fundraisers important for maintaining solvency
7. Jill Morey, Family Resource Center Coordinator:
  - Here for parents/families/children to bridge the gap between home and school;

- resource for financial help, housing, counseling
  - Lunch bunch groups (grades K-3): Literacy activities for parents and kids meeting once a month starting in October
  - Lunch groups (grades 4-5): Just for kids; focus on social skills, self esteem, citizenship, leadership; meets once a week for 6-8 weeks
  - Play groups (birth-5): Thursday mornings at the old fire station at 153 Spruce Street; Senior Center volunteers involved to help out
  - Welcome any feedback at [jmorey@mpspride.org](mailto:jmorey@mpspride.org)
8. Icebreaker
  9. Susan Jacobsen, Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA):
    - Not just for kids with IEPs/504s
    - Learn about kids with needs, how they're getting involved in the community
    - First meeting: 9/21/2016, 6:30 PM; light dinner, pizza
  10. Elementary schools invited to the MHS homecoming parade; Dr. Seuss theme, asking for volunteers to put something together (October)
  11. Suggestion of Facebook Messenger as a communication tool

### Upcoming Events/Fundraisers

1. Woodland Gardens mum fundraiser: \$5 for small/\$7 for large
2. Box Tops: Free money, please turn them in at any time -- give to kids' teachers; school gets 10¢ per box top
3. Open House: Thursday, September 15, 5:30-7:30 PM
4. Back to School Picnic: Tuesday, September 20, 5-7 PM; free cupcakes for students, \$2 each additionally
5. Running Club:
  - Projected start date of September 27, runs for 6 weeks on Tuesdays
  - Meets in the gym after school
  - Pickup for parents is 4:30 PM, else kids go to MELC
  - Always in need of volunteers for kid check in/out and logging miles – no running experience necessary!
  - Leads up to the Cross Country Challenge

### Adjournment

Stephanie Duvall, 7:18 pm