

**Hoover PTA Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jamie Freeman (President), Carol Rossetti (Vice President), Nicole Giehll (Second Vice Pres), Lauren Taylor (Treasurer), Nancy McKenna (Historian), Melissa Harman (Secretary), Tara Lavy, Olivia Frye, Cynthia Noll, Emily Byham, Kristy Brancolini, Heather Geisler, Emily Basalla, Julie Smith, Kassiani Callos, Sally John

Start time: 7:01 p.m.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Kristy Brancolini (1st); Heather Geisler (2nd)

Correspondence: Nothing this month

Executive Committee Reports

- a. Historian, Nancy McKenna: Nothing at this time.
- b. Treasurer, Lauren Taylor: Currently, we have \$8,328.74 in our account. If you have any expense reimbursement requests, please turn them in.
- c. 2nd Vice President, Nicci Giehll: Thank you to those who managed the Read-A-Thon and all of the students for reading so diligently, and parents thank you for helping. We read well over 200,000 minutes, which accounts to over 100 days straight of reading! It was a very fun week. Spooky Story Night was a great evening – thank you to our parents who helped. More than 65 pumpkins were entered into the decorating contest, and the kids loved voting on them. Halloween Parties, even with no food this year, were a huge hit. It is a district-wide move to remove the food from all parties; not just a Hoover change. A few parents did use food in their games and bags, and we hope to not have that during the next round of parties. Our Veteran's Day celebration was very special once again this year, and our invited Veterans truly enjoyed it. Right now, our Book Fair is open through about noon on Friday if you would like to stop by. Our Fifth Graders (both classes) were recently a part of a Rube Goldberg machine challenge where they made their own "machine" and submitted a video of as part of the challenge entry. One of our classes was chosen as a winner! Thus, all the fifth graders were able to go to the Children's Museum and be honored and enjoy a day at the Museum. We had a successful evacuation to Temple Emanuel a few weeks ago – the students, teachers, staff, police, fire and MRTSA went very well. Yesterday was World Kindness Day, and the kids had a great time learning, reading and working on projects about kindness. It was a great feel-good day – I think my best day yet at Hoover!
- d. Vice President , Carol Rossetti: Nothing at this time.
- e. President, Jamie Freeman: Just a reminder that I am due with a child at the end of November, so please reach out to me and Carol if you have any questions while I am on maternity leave through February.

## Committee Reports

- a. Odyssey of the Mind, Heather Geisler: The response was great for OOM – over 40 kids are interested here at Hoover! We are working on scheduling the teams for practice, but we really do need more coaches throughout the winter – must have clearances on file and be able to watch over the kids while they are meeting and guide them (not instruct them). Our Mt. Lebo community is very strong as far as OOM support is concerned, so definitely this is an opportunity to help and be present, but there isn't too much to actually do, as the kids must figure out the problem themselves and do all the work themselves.
- b. Holiday Shop, Carol Rossetti: Christina and I inventoried all the handmade items together, and we have more than we have ever had in the past! Thank you to everyone who helped – we do need helpers to assist the kids as they shop and check-out on Nov. 29 and 30. Starts around 8:45am in the morning and lasts through the end of those two days.
- c. Spirit Night, Jamie Freeman for Abby Chitester: Spirit Night at Chipotle was a success; thank you to everyone who stopped out.
- d. Winter Flower Sale, Olivia Frye: It is still open until this Friday, and all donations will go to the Tree of Life Synagogue.

Next, we held a Safety Discussion with officers from Mt. Lebanon Police Department. Chief Lauth and Deputy Chief Habermen presenting, with Ms. Giehl starting:

Infrastructure needs, mitigation of safety issues and prevention of security concerns are our top priorities. We do have security cameras, but we need to educate other to not hold doors open in the vestibule to let others in, ensuring our front desk personnel screens those entering the building. Building exterior doors are locked at all times, and we conduct regular door checks throughout the day. The doors can be locked from the inside by any teacher, blinds on windows and doors also help, as well as PA system that can be accessed by any phone and teachers are empowered to use it at any time. We hold evacuation drills using police assistance and ALICE drills; have two-way radios in every classroom for communication; teachers wear safety vests when outside during pickup, recess and dismissal; and have regular visits from the police department to normalize their presence.

Ongoing prevention includes: Crisis training; safety committee; regular lessons with students to practice safety, fire safety and bullying prevention; Review of shared common language among all teachers and students; Mrs. Gamble positioned as school counselor; School safety and mental health sessions with teachers and staff routinely. If there were any issues, communications would come from the district in some way, as soon as possible.

Discussion from Chief and Deputy Chief about safety in the district, with questions from those assembled, followed. There was also discussion of the process to try to get a crossing guard at the Driftwood/Rob Hollow/Sylvandell Intersection due to busy traffic.

Old Business – None at this time.

## New Business

- a. Nominating Committee – We will need someone to serve as the Nominating Chair for this Spring's election of a new Historian, Secretary and Treasurer.

Adjournment at 8:15 p.m. – Julie Smith (1<sup>st</sup>); Nancy McKenna (2<sup>nd</sup>)