

Hoover PTA Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
MINUTES

PRESENT: Cristina Battaglia (President), Nicole Giehll (Second Vice President), Nancy McKenna (Historian), Lauren Taylor (Treasurer), Melissa Harman (Secretary), Mary Kay Davis, Courtney Brouse, Kirsten Bruder, Shannon Harpst, Stacey Conner, Kristy Brancolini, Jessica Horgan, Kelley Johnson, Sara Vogt, Anshu Rathor, Laura Signorelli, Lori Unice

Start time: 7:05 p.m.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Kirsten Bruder (1st) Nancy McKenna (2nd)

Correspondence: There is none at this time.

Executive Committee Reports

- a. Historian, Nancy McKenna: Nancy will send emails to those who are committee chairs and manage each event as a reminder they need to send reports immediately following the occurrence of each event so Nancy can place the report on the website.
- b. Treasurer, Lauren Taylor: The current balance is \$6,681.21 in our checking account. We had to update our budget for 2017-2018 to adjust for our checking account carry-over (about \$2,500) from the 2016-2017 school year. We are in a good position for upcoming events. The end-of-year overage is due to the 5K at the very end of the year, a week before school is out. Thus, we had to make amendments due to that carry-over. (Print-outs of the 2017-2018 budget were handed out for review.)
- c. 2nd Vice President, Nicci Giehll: Thank you to everyone for a terrific start to the new school year. Kindergarten Coffee & Kleenex went well for those with little ones to start their first year of school and help new families - We appreciate the PTA's support at the event. Fall Family Night turnout was tremendous, and we heard nothing but positive feedback from new and veteran families alike. Thank you, Jessica, for all of your hard work to make the night a success. Thank you also to our picture day helpers and their vital support on that busy day. We look

forward to the Read-a-Thon kickoff this coming Friday, Oct. 13 – we have yet to beat Foster the past few years. We will have spooky story night again this year so the kids can earn extra minutes. I will continue my challenge of 100% participation here at Hoover. Regarding families and social media accounts – parents and PTA members please refrain from posting pictures of students online while at school events. We realize there is no malicious intent involved in such postings, but we ask that photos are not posted due to those families who wish their images not to be posted. At class parties, we ask that photos are not taken and posted, please. First class parties are coming up – Halloween – meaning we need to review our snack policy at room parties, which includes: water, one common sweet treat and one healthy snack. We need to heed all allergy restrictions, please. (Many comments were brought up about allergies and how do we allow the children with allergies to 1) not be at risk during parties and 2) perhaps have a completely allergen-free option for them.) We need to have a more detailed conversation about allergies and food at parties, so we will table that for a near-future time to establish how we go about providing total allergy-free treats to all students or at least those who need it. Please know, for confidentiality, the school cannot provide information about other families and children at any time, nor about specific allergies of any students.

- d. Vice President, Ann Werzyn: Not present. No report.
- e. President, Cristina Battaglia: We are still on the lookout for a few chairs: Still needed are Reflections, Odyssey of the Mind, Cultural Arts & Education (Jessica Quinn-Horgan volunteered during the meeting), and a few others. Some require just a bit of time; some are more involved. If anyone is interested in serving, please let me know! For Odyssey of the Mind, we can have Hoover students join another school's team only if they have room on their team. The problem is we cannot currently find coaches that can meet with the kids each week. Students work on group problems and then regionally present and are judged and can move on to state-level competition.

Committee Reports

- f. Audit, Cristina Battaglia: Through the summer we had to have our books audited. Christina presented/read the exact audit report out-loud to the room. Approval: Kirsten Bruder (1st) Mary Kay Davis (2nd)
- g. Picture retakes, Kirsten Bruder: Photos are in and have been distributed to students. Picture retake is Oct. 19th, first thing in the morning, for those who request them. Please send an email to TSS Photography, and also let the teacher know your child will have the retake.
- h. Fall Family Night, Jessica Quin-Horgan: (Jessica handed the budget of the event to Christina.) We had a fantastic event with just a \$1,000 budget, which will be more difficult to control in coming years. It was a very well-attended event, with a record crowd. There is a \$178 surplus for next year. I am willing to chair again

next year. (Amazing reaction from entire crowd at the meeting; everyone loved the event, as did the students.)

- i. Bake Sale, Cristina Battaglia for Kara Trant/Sharyn McGill: The bake sale will happen Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7. If you are interested, please bake and take treats to Kara's home – do not package yourself; we will do that for you. Deliver to her home Monday night on Sandrae. Please label it if it has nuts or is anything special, such as gluten-free.
- j. Read-a-thon, Cristina Battaglia for Jen Vaughn: Read-a-thon kicks-off on Friday, Oct. 13. Families are asked to pledge money to however many minutes they read for the two weeks, from family and friends. Kids are asked to wear super-hero attire to Friday's assembly in the afternoon. This is the only fundraiser where the PTA gets 100% of the money. Papers will be sent home on Friday to explain how to record minutes, incentives, timelines and schedules. There will be daily prizes and a raffle at the end of the event for those with the most-read minutes. Once again, we will be in competition with Foster to record the most minutes.
- k. Mrs. Wetzel Memorial, Cristina Battaglia for Maria Fabyonic: Hoover's front desk secretary passed away this past summer. As she was a pivotal person here at Hoover for so many years, everyone really wants to do something special for her: ideas include a bench in the office, planting a tree, creating a mural in the office, or something else that will serve as a memorial for her for years to come. Maria is seeking a co-chair to create the memorial.
- l. Holiday Shopper, Cristina Battaglia for Carol Rosetti: This year, we will sell a lot more hand-made items from parents and students here at Hoover. If you have something you can make that we can then sell at the shop, please let Carol know. She is seeking items by the end of October if possible. We also will sell the regular items from the Penguin Shop during the time of the shop in December. If we see we do well in this first year with hand-made items, we might add more into the budget for reimbursing crafters for their materials in coming years, and/or setting up more crafting circles among parents to make items.
- m. Kids of Steel, Shannon Harpst: Last year we had about 70 kids each week for Kids of Steel training in the gym and outside, between 8am-8:30am on Friday mornings. Had a nutritionist in last year, and ran different conditioning workouts at the morning gatherings. Also hold family workouts on Sundays in the spring leading up to the race. The kids log their training time and nutrition for the duration of the program. At the end of the program, the kids can choose to run in the 1 mile kids/family run downtown the day before the Pittsburgh marathon, with an adult. Parent help is needed throughout the duration of the program from 8-8:30am on Fridays.

Old Business

None at this time

New Business

- n. 2017-2018 Budget Amendments: Lauren spoke to the changes since last spring. The greatest change was adjustment for carry-over. We adjusted the expenses side and increased office supplies/copies; added line item for sympathy cards/flowers; increased room parties up to 275 students; increased teacher resource fund; rest went into special programs/reserve fund to sustain the beginning of the next school year. We are thinking about a few new programs to bring to the school this year, and we will bring those ideas up to everyone soon. Motion to approve new budget: Kirsten Bruder (1st) Kelley Johnson (2nd).

Adjournment at 8:23 p.m. – Kirsten Bruder (1st) McKenna (2nd)

Next PTA meeting - Wednesday, November 15, 9 AM, Hoover Cafeteria