

# **Harris Hill PTA**

## General Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021

7pm

Via Zoom

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Colin Merna at 7:02pm.

### Roll Call and Quorum

Present: Erin Roth, Colin Merna, Brittany Kenyon, Colin Merna, Heidi Campoli, Megan Bolt, Marc Nelson, Jen Piskorwoski, Emily Berwind, Ryan Henderson, Catherine Dean, Tasha Potter, Jeff Malik, Jen Malik, Jessie Pittinaro, Dana Sharp, Jill Manuel, Lynette & , Heather Munson, Ravi Mehta, Galaxy S9+, Jon Ottney, Jessica Piazza, Stephanie Vaisey, Eugene Rozen, Cara

Bintz, KW, Ghidiu, Harish Nayak, Colleen's iPad, Leann Lewis, Tony Cortina, Andrea Randt,  
Deanna Mitchell, Julia Ippolito

Absent: Hilary Pieroni

Quorum of 17.

## Approval of Minutes

Ali Parent moved to approve the minutes from [May 18, 2021](#) as written. Seconded by Megan Bolt. Approved.

## Vote to Approve Bylaws: Passed

## Principal's/Teachers' Report (Marc Nelson)

- We're off and running. I feel like we're getting closer to some normalcy; we're seeing some things inside of classrooms that make me so happy. Thanks to parents for patience and flexibility. Being able to have them in the classroom and out on the playground, still in masks and following all the distance rules, but so much more normal than it was. Continue to let people know to read their Mr. Nelson Notes and check Twitter so you know what's going on at Harris Hill. Thank you so much for breakfast--the staff so appreciates those little things that make our community so wonderful and supportive. The school year has started rather smoothly. We're taking things in stride. We're a little smaller than normal, with three sections in every grade except first grade. The kindergarteners are settling in and everyone is so happy to be back and together. The kids are adjusting so well. Thank you to Dr. Putnam and the Board, and we are so thankful that we were able to come back last spring because it made this fall transition so much easier. The kids are great at wearing masks. The enrichment process is a year behind, and we are working on that across the district to catch that process up. RTI is up and running and it feels good. We're starting the fifth grade hall of fame this week and we're getting

somewhere. We don't know what's going to happen going forward, but we adjust as needed. We have the second meeting of our DEI group coming up; it's a good group of parents and teachers and some of those parents are here. It's in its infancy stage, but we're starting to do great things. I think people are happy. Please continue to reach out to me; I want to be the first person to help you at Harris Hill. We are fully staffed--we hired our last TA today, which is great news! We're excited about the school year and teachers are excited for this year of partnership and flexibility. We want to work together to figure things out as they come. Thank you to Jen Piskorowski for advocating for HEPA filters in each classroom. Instead of hiring a replacement for Terry Cox, now each elementary school has the same amount of staffing. We are adjusting and figuring things out. Curriculum Nights are coming up this week; we are excited to have parents in the building.

## School Board Update (Catherine Dean)

- We had our first board meeting of the school year last Tuesday. It was a good meeting and we got a lot done, but I fear it will be boring to share. The BEST part was that we honored three graduates. Two were in attendance in cap and gown with families and received their diplomas. It was a great way to start out the first meeting of the school year. Capital projects at Harris Hill include replacement doors, windows, and windowsills, and the security vestibule is coming up. There is a public information meeting on October 5, and another meeting in November or December. Our accountants gave a presentation about the impact of the Capital Project. We acknowledged new directors. Following a May presentation by the Mosaics Clubs, we voted to change Columbus Day on our school calendar to include Indigenous People Day. We talked about air purifiers cycling the air at the schools, regular cleaning of high traffic areas, and best practice reminders. Dr. Putnam meets with Monroe County DOH, and the goal continues to be to keep students in school until June. Harris Hill was mentioned for their

excellent Kindergarten scavenger hunt. The legislative committee is doing a lot of work with our lawmakers; we met with Congressman Morelle about the bus driver shortage to try to lift the CDL requirement. In response to a question about the IT Department moving to where the bus garage is: that is part of the plan as it stands (currently the NOC Network Operations Center is inside classrooms at PHS), but it has to be approved by the voters.

## Administration Guest: Tasha Potter

- [Introduction of Equity and Access Office](#) Harris Hill is an amazing place. I loved the signs looking for Clifford and the pig and the animals who were lost in the building--from the perspective of a principal, it was great to be amongst kids. I have a plan to be in the schools a few times a month, and it's great to see them thriving and growing. This is my 28th year in education. I started in RCSD, then I was in Gates Chili, and then I became an administrator. I'm super excited about the work. The core is equity--how can we ensure equity for all? We need to think about socioeconomic, access, gender, ability or disability, and making sure that all of those people are invited to the table. This office oversees Special Education and P Personal Services. We want everyone to have access and opportunities in our schools. We want to make the relationships with family and representations of family inclusive to all the families we serve. We want to make sure our kids are being challenged, they can risk and grow and use multiple perspectives. We want to make all of our learning experiences available to let everyone in. The priority of ongoing support with embedded professional

development and the cultural responsive framework. The webpage has lots of information and invitations to community conversations; make sure those dates get to your school committee. We have a DEI newsletter, including a list of terminology in the ways that we will be using this language in our district. We do have a core committee and six sub-committees who will meet five times a year. The core committee meets every month so that everything is cohesive and we are making equitable and fiscally responsible decisions. There is also a place for FAQs; we want to make sure there is some clarification and answers provided for people. All presentation documents are linked on the webpage for your reference and will be updated as meetings happen. We want to make sure that everyone in the district is updated as thoroughly as possible. I welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

- One question I received prior to the meeting is about the Buddy Olympics--what is the status of that program and will you have a need for volunteers? I had a conversation with Scott Dreschler: we are in the process of setting up Buddy Clubs at all of our schools. We have a meeting with Casey O'Connor and we are hoping to run Buddy Olympics this spring and utilize parent volunteers; we will have more information later in the school year.
- Question: After digesting the audit report, what is the best thing about Penfield and DEI? Our superintendent and administration have made a commitment to make this work. We are opening ourselves up as a district to make this work. I haven't been here long enough to identify a challenge, but I can say that everyone enters into this conversation at a

different point, and understanding that is important, and we need to be sure we are communicating regularly and consistently.

- Question: It is an incredibly daunting task to vet curriculum these days--does Penfield have a procedure already for selecting text and curriculum? As a new senior cabinet, all but one of us just started this year, so we are in the process of trying to develop those systems, structures, and policies. We will be creating a curriculum council to take a look at where we are, what we're auditing, etc. We are in the process of having conversations on how to include teachers, families, and students as collaborative partners. We are slowly trying to get our footing and bringing in our stakeholders.

## President's Report (Colin Merna)

- **Introduction of New Officers and PTA Board Members** Erin Roth, Secretary; Brittany Kenyon, Membership; Megan Bolt, Social; Heidi Campoli, Treasurer; Jen Piskorowki, Vice President; Ryan Henderson, Community Connections; Emily Berwind, Enrichment
- **PAB Report** Dr. Putnam and BOE Report (Harley/Elledge) DEI - Has had the 1st of 3 community meetings on equity and inclusion. Core DEI met 9/13 – students, staff, parents. There are 9 sub committees. Penfield does not use CRT; we teach to the NYS culturally responsive sustaining education framework. Hiring – We need bus drivers. Working with Morelle nationally and Bronson locally on making CDL easier to get for a variety of qualified people. Also need hall monitors, teachers' assistants, lunch monitors. Please all put in newsletters! Not all jobs are civil service. Capital project info session will be 10/5 at the High School. Will vote December 14th. New bus garage on plank and Jackson, Moving IT department to current bus garage, Turf fields – extending seasons, other building repairs. Covid testing mandate for all staff. Can opt out if they have proof of vaccine. We do not know if there is a certain number that needs to opt in. Districts have to offer testing to students if unvaccinated. Covid stats - Go to NYS dashboard, Penfield may publish their own results in the future. Building Access - Outside events are ok as well as before and after school limited. More news to come within one week from today. HEPA Units - are running anytime students are in class. Should run as much as possible at other times and windows open as often as possible. SEPTA Needs more members. Colin promised that he'd recruit at least one HH parent as a SEPTA member

this year. PAB DEI Committee - The district now has its own department addressing DEI issues as well as district wide committees. We also have a local HH DEI committee. There may still be value in a DEI group that is not district run, however as a PAB we don't have bylaws or a set of rules to govern a sub-committee. We agreed to dissolve the PAB DEI and potentially look at creating our own internal groups only locally at each PTA level.

- **Building Access and Volunteers** Dr. Putnam still doesn't know for sure and is waiting for info from the county and the state. Outside and before/after school are okay, but not in classrooms or on field trips. He says we will have an update by next week.

## Vice President's Report and Finances/Fundraising Committee

(Jen Piskorowski)

- **Fundraising (Can Kings, Chick Magnet, WAC)** Dropping off cans and bottles to the Can Kings in Fairport yields us six cents per can--as of mid-August, we had 11,000 cans dropped off and I am working on a new total. We are hoping to receive a check for \$1000. It has been a great partnership so far. We had our Chick Magnet fundraiser on 9/15 and received \$450; the owner said that it was a very lucrative day for them. The Write a Check Fundraiser is coming up; if you don't have time to donate, you're able to just write a check. We are always so proud of our community for donating.
- **Plant Sale** This is in its infancy, but we are looking at a plant sale/community building event in May. We're coming up to fall cleanup when people might be splitting their plants. We thought we could ask the community to set aside their extra plants to use for our plant sale in May. You just sign up via a QR code for what plants you can donate in the spring. We're just finalizing the flyer and it will be shared soon.
- **Square One Art** This will operate the same way it usually does, with Mr. Robison organizing and a flyer will come home in late October with an order deadline of late November to get free shipping and delivery before the holidays. Mr. Nelson wants fifth graders to add their names to their tiles.
- **Picture Day (Dana Sharp)** This year we are using Clix for our school photos and we're very excited to be using them; they're a local company and we actually get to talk to the owner. If you order online, you don't need to send in a form. The schedule is all set and we have parent volunteers ready if we are able to use them. We are continuing to offer a yearbook and we will be putting that together through Clix. Picture day is 9/28. If there are classroom parents this year, we would love to have them involved with getting candid photos of each kid for the yearbook, as we want to make sure each student is included in the yearbook. Photo make up day is November 1.

## Treasurer's Report (Heidi Campoli)

- **2020-2021 Audit Results** In July, the PTA Audit Committee audited the financial records. Everything was found to be correct. Our only issue was a significant number of outstanding checks. We reached out to our bank about the 180 day limit on checks and what the protocol was. The bank assured us that they will flag those checks after six months, but we will hang on to the information to keep our books straight.
- **Canandaigua National Bank Overdraft and Check Limits** Because of low fundraising, we were concerned about overdraft protection. Canandaigua National Bank set us up with overdraft protection on our account.
- **Lanyards** Last year we gave lanyards to kids--do we have the budget to do those again this year? We did not host the Back to School Bash last year and used that budget to buy lanyards. There should be a box of extras in the main office at HH. Mr. Nelson and Colin Merna will look into this.

## Committee Reports and Recent/Upcoming Event Discussions

- **Membership (Brittany Kenyon)**
  - **Membership Campaign Progress** We are doing good on membership. We have 20 more members than we did at this time last year. We will have a table at curriculum night. She will also have the membership gifts there.
  - **Bulletin Boards** An email when home with information--What Are You Most Excited For? Please send in those drawings if you'd like.
  - **Box Tops** Fifty bonus Box Tops if you buy five Box Tops items at Target, and Lysol Wipes get you an extra 10 Box Tops!
- **Social (Megan Bolt)**
  - **Spooktacular Planning** Meg Daum is spearheading Spooktacular this year. It will be Friday, October 22 somewhere between 5:30-8pm. It'll incorporate some Trunk or Treat, games, etc. It's typically a well-attended event and we always need help.
- **Enrichment (Emily Berwind)**
  - **HH Academy** We are trying to reinvigorate this--please let me know if you're interested!
- **Community Connections (Ryan Henderson)**



- **Appreciation Day Subcommittee** Thanks to Sarah Kim, Erin Roth, Megan Bolt, and Alyssa Deckman for the Teacher Breakfast.
- **Make a Difference Day** Hoping to continue to partner with School #7. It's important to make a difference, but it's also important to make a difference in relationships. We traditionally partner with the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf. Tony Cortina is interested in helping.
- **Supply Drive Summary** Huge thanks to Julia Ippolito and Jill Manuel for organizing this.

## Questions/Concerns

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

## Next Meeting

November 16