**Manoa PTO: January 2023 Meeting Agenda**

Attendees:

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| Kate Laepple Hertzog | Manal Sawayan |
| Tobie Stallings | Jamie Carroll |
| Liz Meischeid | Nicole Stahl |
| Lisa Barycki | Allyson Rosseel |
| Patti Callahan | Maggie Bieter |
| Melissa Carroll | Mandy Gunlefinger |
| Nicole Bumbaugh | Andrea Martin |
| Leah Hoffman | Erin Canuso |
| Elena Alma | Miriam Miller - Teacher Rep. |
| Elizabeth Marshaleck | Mr. Quinn |
| Dr. Mosser |  |

* Welcome and Introductions
  + Special Guests: Members of the School board, Superintendent, New Director of Safety and Security
* Dr. Muareen Reusche, Superintendent, introduced the new Director of Safety and Security, Joe McCunney. The position was created to coordinate safety security for all schools and facilities. Previously, Assistant Principals were managing this at their individual schools. This will alleviate that responsibility allowing them to focus on their other roles. The Director of Safety and Security is not an Assistant principal and will focus on policy and procedures across the district.
* Joe McCunney, **Director of Safety and Security**: I was a PA state trooper for 25+ years and a Havertown resident. For the past several years he has worked at the middle school as a security officer and hoped this position would be created. I have been in this role for roughly three months. This position will oversee all schools and facilities in the district focusing on safety. I will oversee incidents, training all staff and policies and procedures. At present we have two security officers at the high school and middle schools. We want to have security personnel at the elementary level as well in some capacity. I will be focusing on training all staff to handle emergency situations. I want your students to get comfortable seeing me and other Haverford security officers. We are not here for discipline purposes. Please email me directly is you have concerns or questions. In response to a parent question about social media threats, he stated that he would be handling those as well. Any reporting for social media threats should continue to go through Safe to Say, of which I am the coordinator.
* Bridget Wiedeman, Haverford School District Board President: I was recently elected as president of the nine (9) member board which oversees the district’s 6,600 students, 1000+ staff and a $138 million budget. I joined the Board when there was a vacancy six (6) years ago. As a board we are advocates for public education and hold two regular board meetings per month. Our recent projects include the Lynnewood Elementary school construction and the expansion at Haverford High School. The district will begin HVAC updates to Coopertown and Chatham Elementary schools. Currently, both buildings are without air conditioning. We are also conducting another feasibility study and purchasing new propane school busses.
* Dr. Reusche: I have a long connection with Havertown as my parents were residents for 50 years. My own children attended the Oakmont School when it was still functioning as an elementary school. This month we have attended other PTO meetings, and this is the best turnout we’ve had so far. So, thank you. We are happy to be here tonight to answer any questions.

QUESTION (Nicole Bumbaugh): We know that this building is one of the newer ones in the district, but we have grown to over 700 students since it’s construction. Are there any plans for redistricting or anything else to address the size of the school?

* Dr. Reusche: It may feel like it’s getting tight to some teachers who have been here and parents who have had older kids come though the building already. However, this building was constructed to handle this type of expected growth. A demographic study we conducted was thrown off by COVID specifically for our younger learners for various reasons. Manoa’s projections were the least affected by this and population is projected to flatten out. Lynnewood was built to have roughly 700 students. The high school hit 2,000 students for the first time and the middle school has topped 1,600.
* Ms. Wiedeman: This kind of growth is a symptom of the success of the school district.

QUESTION (Nicole Bumbaugh): For new playground equipment does the district budget for this or do you look to PTOs to fundraise for this? We have been getting this question since Lynnewood has a brand-new playground with the school and Coopertown had playground equipment replaced recently.

* Dr Reusche; We would look to repair before replacing and replace when equipment is irreparable or just before. There was a budget included in the construction of Lynnewood for a playground, but the PTO fundraised to enhance the playground further than that budget allowed. Coopertown’s playground upgrade was funded by PTO efforts as well. We greatly appreciate all our PTOs efforts.

QUESTION (Elizabeth Marshaleck): How is the district using the ESSR funds from the federal government to handle COVID learning loss? Since these funds are a one-time influx of money, what is the plan after the funds are depleted if the achievement gap hasn’t been closed.

* Dr. Reusche: Haverford was awarded 1.6 million dollars from ESSR. While this is a lot of money is still far less than other districts received. We are using those funds in several areas: MTSS, Interventionists tutoring and additional mental health counselors. Some of that money was used for professional development as well. Going forward after the funds are used, we will reevaluate and determine if/where we can maintain some of these positions.

QUESTION (Liz Meischied): Has the district considered moving to a full day Kindergarten?

* Bridget Wiedeman: We were focused on studying this prior to COVID. It’s a facilities issue with the additional classroom space that would be required. A study would be conducted, and any change would not be for several years, as it takes time.

QUESTION (Allie Rosseel): Going back to mental health and the ESSR funds. Are their resources for parents to help their students with mental health, particularly at the high school and middle school level?

* Dr. Reusche: The ESSR funds can only be used for specific areas and cannot be used on parent education. The district has offered seminars, but engagement was low, specifically for a parent seminar offered on anxiety. Some parents offered feedback to Dr. Reusche about how to increase engagement which she said she would take that back to her team and consider changes in how they get the word out abut future parent seminars.
* Both Bridget Wiedeman and Dr. Reusche thanked the PTO for all the great work they do and the opportunity to attend the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes: November 2022 PTO Meeting**

1st: Kate Laepple Hertzog

2nd: Leah Hoffman

* **Faculty Reports: Dr. Mosser & Mrs. Miller**
  + Dr. Mosser: Thank you to the PTO for the staff breakfast before the holiday break. Additionally, thank you to parents for being so flexible with rescheduling the Winter partis. Winterfest was great! I loved the vendors! The chorus was impressive and did a great job. It was great event. Thank you for making the Book Fair a success. The kids loved it. We are going to be discussing our new STAR reward focus, goal setting this month. We are looking for volunteers to help with lunch and recess. Mr. Quinn created a sign-up genius which will be sent out for anyone who wants to volunteer. You must have clearances on file. Community matters and we are trying to open things back up safely. We appreciate all that you do.
  + Mrs. Miller: We love our PTO! We loved the parties. The kids had a great time. WE will be doing Reading Olympics again and as always appreciate everything you do!
* Book Fair – Tobie Stallings
  + We need a co-chair for this event next year. Enough money was raised to give each homeroom teacher $77 and $2,000 to the school’s library. 75 books were purchased by parents for the teachers’ classrooms. Patti Callahan gave the feedback that special education teachers may feel overlooked by not being included in receiving a portion of the book fair funds too. As a teacher herself, who is not assigned a homeroom she said she know it would be appreciated. general education and special education always receive equal funds up until about two years ago. This is great feedback that we will consider for next year.
* Treasurer’s Report – Elena Alma -
  + Currently we are at 299 members which is above our membership goal, but we’d love to have 300. WE made $3,300 at Winterfest this year which is great since this was the first year blending the music event with vendors.
* By-Laws Review and Vote – Ally Rosseel
  + Nicole: The proposed changes have been posted with a hard copy here if anyone would like to review before voting. We must vote on the two proposed changes and need more than 2/3 to pass the changes.
    - Change 1: Requirement to change committee meetings from four to two
      * VOTE: Unanimously approved.
    - Change 2: Create a separate board position for Recognition Secretary and Communication Secretary.
      * VOTE: Unanimously approved.
* Fundraising Update – Sarah Charlton
  + Ice skating this week on Wednesday. $22 per skater.
  + Wednesday 2/1 – Freddies from 4-8. 15% comes back to the PTO.
* Playground Project Update – Nicole Bumbaugh
  + There is a copy of our current fundraising efforts. It looks like it’s only 3,000 but we have raised more and anything over in the budget will go to playground fund. WE are in great shape to make this happen.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* Winter Fest - Mandy Gunlefinger
  + THANK YOU! Leah for inviting me to do this and this great community of over 20+ people that really helped! We had tons of donations from Acme, Giant, Cosco, Manoa families and more. It was a great experience for me as a new family to this school. We made our numbers, and everyone seemed to enjoy it! Thank you.
* Young Writer’s Day – Nicole Bumbaugh on behalf of Jenni Dziewit and Steph Murray
  + It was FABULOUS! This was thrown at us at the last minute but was a huge success. Each class has 2 writers (1st and 2nd only had one) come in and speak to them about their process and they did an activity. It went off without a hitch so thank you to all who helped make this a big success.
* MLK Day of Service – Melissa Carrol and Colleen Brooks
  + We did this differently this year with a hands-on project and the drive up for drop off items to donate. We had a great turn out of kids and grown-ups! We were able to give to many different organizations.

**CURRENT/NEW BUSINESS:**

* Yearbook – Melissa Carroll
  + Price increases at the end of the month. ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS: We need your child’s baby pictures. If necessary, maybe the homeroom parents can send an email to their classes regarding the pictures. We don’t have that many. Any pictures from MLK, Winterfest and other events please send to manoayearbook@gmai.com
* Manoa Clubs – Manal Alsowayan
  + We’ve had a great response so far. We have several getting ready to start in February, but most are for 4th and 5th grades. We’d love some for the younger grades too. They are first come, first served, and will be limited spaces. Overall, this has been a huge success so far.
* Designer Bag Bingo – Erin Canuso
  + We still have plenty of tickets left. It is an 80s theme so feel free to dress up but it’s certainly not a requirement. WE have many bags, prizes, and raffles. Hope to see you all there. We are still accepting sponsors so please let us know if you know someone who may be Interested.
* Manoa Family Dance Night – Nicole Bumbaugh
  + Friday February 10th 7-9 pm
    - We will have Pizza and snacks for sale. A Manoa parent will be selling specialty drinks for the kids as well. I need to request to increase the budget from $300 to 600.
      * 1st: Manal Alsowayan
      * 2nd: Maggie Bieter

**Announcements**:

* Upcoming Fundraiser:
  + Night on Ice Fundraiser: Tomorrow NIGHT!
    - Pay only if skating.
  + February 1 - Freddy’s
  + March – Moe’s in Pilgrim Gardens. More info to come.
* February PTO Meeting: February 21 @ 7pm
  + Faculty Rep: Ms. Henry and Dr. Mosser
* Starbucks Gift Card
  + WINNER: Mellissa Carrol! Congrats and thanks for coming!!