**March 20, 2024**

**Manoa Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

* **Attendees:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Kathy Mignone | Maggie Fox | Partheev Shah | Elena Alma |
| Joe Mignone | Maggie Esteves | Nicole Bumbaugh | Kristen Osborne |
| Maggie Bieter | Allyson Kunkle | Elizabeth Marshaleck | Mrs. Mazzella |
| Nicole Stahl | Jenni Dziewit | Leah Hoffman | Mr. Fulton |
| Kate Laepple Hertzog | Todd Hall | Erin Canuso | Dr. Mosser |
| Jim Blumenstock | Antoinette Snodgrass | Dave Schwartz | Chris Shelton |

* **Welcome and Introductions**
* **Special Guests:** Jen Saksa – Assistant Superintendent; Members of the School Board: Antoinette Snodgrass - Vice President, Dave Schwartz, and Chris Shelton.
  + All guest introduced themselves and gave a brief of their role and tenure with the school district. Ms. Snodgrass began by introducing the 10 points for the school board with each member present taking a point as follows.
    - 10: We are a team of ten. We have a strong team made up of the school board members and Dr. Reusche. Dr. Reusche has a strong team of leaders, and we’ve recently renewed her contract for another five years.
    - 9: There are nine school board members. Bridget Wiedeman – President, Antoinette Snodgrass - Vice President, Dr. Latanya King, Dr. Kristin Larsen, LaTonia Lee, Dr. Kim McKay, Dave Schwartz, Chris Shelton, and Danielle Camaratta Vitale. We are members of this community with children currently enrolled in the district or who have graduated.
    - 8: Haverford High School is ranked **eight**eenth in the state according to U.S. News and World Report. Students have the opportunity to take many AP classes and we have great participation in the AP courses offered. We offer a wide variety of clubs and activities for our students, including our Best Buddies program.
    - 7: Our district has seven buildings. HHS, HMS, and our five elementary schools. Our buildings together are nine football fields of square footage. We’ve made many improvements recently to the high school with the new music wing and art center. Construction on Lynnewood was completed last year. Chatham Park and Coopertown just had new HVAC systems installed. They were our only schools without air conditioning. We recently purchased propane buses which are more efficient. Additionally, we have plans to expand the HMS cafeteria.
    - 6: The district has 6,567 students! This is an increase of roughly 1,000 students in the last five years.
    - 5: Five school board meetings. We have two school board meetings per month. Additionally, we have three committees that meet regularly as well. Policy, Finance and Facilities, and Curriculum and Pupil Services.
    - 4: We partner with four agencies. Delaware County Community College; Delaware County Intermediate Unit; Pennsylvania School Board Association and Legislative Council. Our liaisons work closing with these partners, attend meetings and report back to the board. Our board members also attend PTO meetings once a year and IDC meetings.
    - 3: The three goals of our District’s Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025.
      * Prepare Contemporary Citizens
      * Social/Emotional Wellness
      * Diversity and Inclusion
    - 2: Two Data Points. We have over 1,000 staff and a budget of 148 million. The budget is 80% funded by homeowners since we our township is densely populated with residential buildings. We don’t have big strip malls, etc. in our township. Just to give you an idea of how little of our budget comes from the state and the federal government. We are all homeowners here as well and take seriously our responsibility to manage the budget.
    - 1: One H-Pride. Every day is a good day to be a Ford! We feel very fortunate to be on the board representing everyone.
  + Nicole Bumbaugh opened it up for questions.
    - **Todd Hall: How does HMS and HHS compare with others in the state in terms of size and space?** 
      * Jen Saksa: We are the second largest district in the county. Upper Darby is the largest with, I believe, 12,000 students and then Haverford with a little over 6,500. Statewide we would be considered a medium sized school district.
    - **Elizabeth Marshaleck: Can you provide an update on the replacement program for before and aftercare since Elwyn announced that they are not returning. Additionally, will there be an early enrollment for families who are currently enrolled in Elwyn’s program?**
      * Antoinette Snodgrass: Yes, we have approved a replacement care provider. We bid this out and received bids from four companies. Our criteria in choosing a replacement were keeping current staff, similar price point, and priority enrollment for those currently enrolled. Ultimately, we chose Right at School. This was discussed at our March 7th school board meeting if you want to see the whole discussion it’s on our website. All school board meetings are recorded and shared on our website if anyone if interested.
    - **Partheev Shah: You’ve talked about some of the investments in our facilities, what are some non-facility investments the district has made?**
      * Chris Shelton, Antoinette Snodgrass, and Dave Schwartz: We’ve purchased 10-12 new busses to replace some in our fleet. Additionally, we replaced the snow scraper, for lack of a better word, used to clear snow off the top of the bus. I don’t know what the actual name of the device is but it’s an important tool and cool to see it in action. We replaced the track a number of years ago as well as new textbooks. This is living process; we are constantly looking at areas of need and where to focus. Staff and pensions are our biggest budget expenditures with a very small chunk for discretionary budget items.
    - **Partheev Shah: You mentioned that the district grew by 1,000 kids in the last five years. Did that influx of students also increase the budget?** 
      * Chris Shelton, Antoinette Snodgrass, and Dave Schwartz: We have not had new residential home developments built in that same time frame, expanding the tax base in doing so. We conduct studies that analyze data for birth rates, among other things, to project growth. Chatham and Coopertown have shown some of their growth to be leveling off. That growth for the district as a whole, is mainly from students already living in our district switching to HTSD from private schools. School Boards are limited in how much they are able to increase school board taxes. Last year we were able to increase them up to 4.1% but only increase by 3%.
      * Jen Saksa: When I started with the district, we had a budget of $131 million dollars and now it’s 148 million in nine years. We’ve added some staff. Coopertown and Chatham are utilizing modular classrooms. We have some “bubbles” of large grades moving though the district. Manoa has one or two moving through its building right now. We have not had to explode class sizes by making adjustments like adding a classroom to one grade level and then the next year making an adjustment again. This has allowed us to keep our classroom numbers smaller while managing these “bubbles”.
      * Antoinette Snodgrass: We talk a lot about equity in our buildings and also between schools as well. Chatham has been utilizing the modular classrooms for about 10 years. It will be updated to move those classrooms into the building by adding a wing or a 2nd floor.
    - **Kristen Osborne: You mentioned Coopertown and Chatham with their space issues. In terms of Manoa, what would that threshold be and what does that look like? Is it modular classrooms or expanding the building?** 
      * Chris Shelton, Antoinette Snodgrass, and Dave Schwartz: We are not looking at expanding Manoa right now. We can only do so much at one time and practice a phased approach. We look at trends, such as birth rate. To project about five years out. For example, Chestnutwald looked like they would have a need, but it’s flattened out. Manoa is probably our most consistent building and it’s as predicted currently.
    - **Jenni Dziewit: When reviewing data for growth projections, are you also reviewing the aging population in addition to birth rates? Those houses will turnover as the aging population retires and moves out.**
      * Dave Schwartz: Yes, we do look at housing turnover as well. The studies are very detailed and granular, but projections are less precise. The schools are good which triggers growth.
    - **Elizabeth Marshaleck: I have a question about MTSS. It’s my understanding, this was paid for by funds from the federal government specifically for COVID learning loss through ESSER. This was a one-time award not to be renewed, as a result, MTSS would potentially end after this school year. Will MTSS continue after this school year? I think it’s been very beneficial for students.**
      * Antoinette Snodgrass: I’m going to let Jen Saksa answer because while I love MTSS, she REALLY loves it.
      * Jen Saksa: Yes, it was funded via COVID relief funds, and it has been a big success. Last year we created two permanent positions for MTSS in the district, one here at Manoa and the other at Lynnewood. We’ve seen so much growth in our students through this program. We will be proposing to add 3 more permanent MTSS positions at the three other elementary schools. We are excited to continue this program.
    - Kathy Mignone: You mentioned that the Strategic Plan for district was for 2020-2025. When do you start working on the next vision for the district and how does that work?
      * Antoinette Snodgrass: When Dave and I joined the board in 2019, they were finishing up putting together the Strategic Plan. We are excited to see the process from start to finish this time. We work together with the community to put together the next plan. There will be focus groups and surveys as we start reaching out to all the stake holders in the district: staff, students, and parents, for ideas, it’s a very comprehensive approach and we are really excited to work on it.
    - Since there were no other questions, Ms. Saksa thanked parents for coming tonight and sharing with her and the school board members. Thank you for everyone who responded to the ELA survey. We had over 4,000 responses which is great. We appreciate people who share and lend their voices.
  + Nicole Bumbaugh thanked them for attending our meeting.
* **Haverford Education Foundation – Partheev Shah and Jim Blumenstock**
  + - Partheev Shah: I am a board member of the Haverford Township School District Education Foundation and a Manoa parent. We are here to talk to you about the Education Foundation and the Twilight Run.
    - Jim Blumenstock: The Twilight Run is the annual fundraising event for the Haverford Township School District Education Foundation. The HTSDEF funds innovative opportunities in the district through mini grants or larger, Empowerment grants. We have been able to raise $400,000 which gets put back into the district via approved grants. Grants are approved on a rolling basis and funded primarily though our fundraising efforts. The Twilight run is held every Spring at 5pm each year for 14 years running. This year it will be on April 27 with a 5k or 1 mile run. We have roughly 400-500 runners participate. The elementary school that registers the highest percentage of their total student total will win a school wide water ice party. To qualify as part of the challenge students must be registered by 4/13.
    - Partheev Shah: It’s a fun family event with music, and games. You can register up to the day of the event. Every runner gets a bid with “Party on the Town” discounts for after the race. Please visit <https://haverfordedfoundation.org/twilight-run/> to register.
* **Approval of Minutes: February Meeting**
  + 1st: Leah Hoffman
  + 2nd: Jenni Dziewit
* **Faculty Reports:**
  + Dr. Mosser: I will try to be brief tonight. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for the Variety Show, the faculty take over, Brownie Day, and Scholastic dollars! I am already working on plans for Field Day, and we will need parent volunteers this year. End of year picnics and field trips are also being planned. The PSSAs for 3rd through 5th grades begin on April 24-26th. The first week is ELA, second week is math, and the third week is science for 4th grade only. Please make sure your students get a good night sleep. It is a long testing day for them. When they get home hopefully, they will have an opportunity to run, play and relax. Dress like a teacher day is Friday. We appreciate the PTO and our families. You spend countless nights and days here. Thank you. Spring break is coming up. hopefully you have fun and unplug from school related work.
  + Mr. Fulton: We are currently voting on our school song. So far, the students have voted and chose Firework by Late Perry over Shining Star. Next, they will vote on Firework or Diamonds. This song will be our chosen theme song. So far, we have raised $5,000 for the American heart Association. Reminder, Tuesdays, and Fridays the students can win prizes.
  + Mrs. Mazzella: Thank you from the faculty for the t-shirts for field day, books from Scholastic and the parties throughout the year. The Variety show, faculty room takeovers and all your support throughout the year.
* **Treasurer’s Report & Budget Approval** – Elena Alma
  + Not much to update except Quizzo and the Variety Show. Quizzo: We were hoping to raise $1,5000 and we raised $2,100! The Variety Show is generally an event that we don’t raise any money. This year the committee decided to sell flowers to offset some of the costs and we made $47 after what we spent. The flowers were a big hit.
* **Old Business:**
  + **Quizzo Night** @ the CREC, RESCHEDULED: FEBRUARY 23 - Erin Canuso
    - It was a great night! Tickets sold out quickly so we will consider moving to a bigger venue next year.
  + **Manoa Variety Show,** Friday, March 8 – Kate Hertzog
    - We had 112 Manoa students participate. Thank you to the teachers and Dr. Mosser who participated. Also, thank you to the teachers who showed up to watch the students. It means a lot to them. Leah Hoffman had the suggestion of madding adding a 5th grade only act for next year. Kate Hertzog mentioned that they used to do this and will look into it. A few second-grade parents and Kate Mummy have offered to help next year. This is great since last year I will have a fifth grader and will officially retire after.
* **Updates:**
  + **Fundraising –** Nicole Bumbaugh forSarah Charlton
    - April Fundraiser: Homegrown in Broomall 10:30am to 10pm! Get lunch or dinner or BOTH!
    - May Fundraiser: Rita’s Water Ice on West Chester Pike. This will be the last one for the year.
  + **IDC** – Kate Hertzog and Nicole Stahl
    - Nicole Stahl: Thank you for the feedback on the Manoa technology survey. The consensus is that technology is an excellent tool when used properly. This was echoed by the other schools’ responses. The district has contracted with the Chester County IU to conduct a review. Be on the lookout for a survey for families, and staff on the instructional use of technology. The younger grades have already pulled back o devices. 1st and 3rd grade use in school with a ratio of one to one. For higher grades, they have a device for use in school and home. If you have specific concerns, please talk to your teacher first. Additionally. The recommendation from the district was that you can limit access to things you don’t like via your home internet provider. This is best way to lock down their home and school devices from things that may otherwise be needed for school. (screen time limits, etc.) April’s meeting will be about transportation.
  + **Assemblies** – Nicole Bumbaugh for Lori DiPaul
    - **Field Day 5/28 we will have an assembly**.
    - **4/16** we will have an additional assembly with a local author, Melissa Trempe. She will be selling signed copies for her book to be purchased prior to the assembly. They will be distributed on the day of the assembly.
  + **Yearbooks –** Melissa Carroll
    - Currently we have 2000 sold and will continue to sell until the end of April. We are wrapping up pictures and events. If you have any pictures from school events, please send to us. We are also looking for pictures of the Variety Show and Mustang Mile from last year.
  + **Nominations –** Nicole Bumbaugh for Melissa Carroll and Andrea Martin
    - This will be sent out after Spring Break. All nominees will be contacted by the committee.
  + **5th Grade Events:**
    - Unity Day – changes are being made to the format. Students will be led in an activity by Mr. Fulton on the track then go to their respective groups.
    - Graduation Planning Committee to meet at Busted Saddle after Spring Break.
* **New Business:**
  + **Publishing –** Nicole Bumbaugh
    - **2nd and 5th grades**
      * Both 5th and 2nd grades do a published book each year. Student Treasures company prints the book for 5th grade. They will no longer communicate with volunteers. Kiley Cappello is assisting the teachers with this, but they must communicate directly to a teacher.
      * All students in those grades will get a book either by parent purchase or if there is a hardship, one will be purchased for them.
  + **Family Bingo Night,** Friday April 12 – Leah Hoffman
    - It’s going to be AWESOME! Arts and Candy is the theme. We have tons for prizes for the kids and adults. Kids can win art projects and candy. Parents can win gift cards to Color me Mine, Busy Bee’s, and Michael’s. Volunteers will be needed for set up and ticket sales at the door.
  + **Mustang Mile,** Saturday May 11 **–** Erin Canuso
    - This is the annual fun run in May, the Saturday before Mother’s Day. We will be using the same company as last year, Boosterthon, to help us raise money for the Gaga pit in the playground. Communication will start to ramp up after Spring Break. We have exciting new prizes.
  + **Field Day, Tuesday, May 28 – Nicole Bumbaugh**
    - There will be an obstacle course this year that the kindergarten students will be able to use. Last year, they were not able to use the blow up at field day. Most likely, we will have yoga again. We will need volunteers to help with mystery reads and crafts for each class.
    - **Field Day T-Shirts – Maggie Bieter**
      * Responses for sizes are coming in. Mr. Davidson made teams already, so we are hoping to the order in by 4/5. This will give us a few weeks before field day to work out any issues and separate t-shirts for distribution. Erin Canuso was able to get a discount on Field Day and Mustang Mile t-shirts through Brothers.
* **Announcements**:
  + **Next PTO Meeting**: Wednesday, April 17 @ 7pm
    - Faculty Reports: Dr. Mosser, Mr. Fulton and Mrs. Pechin.
    - Special Guests: Principal Dan Horan – Haverford Middle School
  + **April Fundraising Event:** Wednesday, April 24: **Honeygrow** in Broomall; 10:30 am – 10pm.
  + **May Fundraising Event:** Wednesday May 1st: **Rita’s Water Ice** on West Chester Pike in Havertown.