**April 17, 2024**

**Manoa Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

* **Attendees:**

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| Nicole Stahl | Sarah Charlton | Lorie DiPaul |
| Craig Hilliard | Joe Mignone | Elizabeth Marshaleck |
| Maggie Fox | Melissa Carroll | Erin Canuso |
| Kim Cherwinski | Kimberly DiBiasi | Nicole Bumbaugh |
| Hayley Pechin | Kate Laepple Hertzog | Elena Alma |
| Leah Hoffman | Kristen Osborne | Mr. Dan Horan |
| Anthony DeVice | Dr. Renee Mosser | |

* **Welcome and Introductions**
* **Special Guests:**
  + Anthony DeVice – Haverford HS BLAST
    - Thank you for your previous donations to the Haverford HS BLAST. Just a brief history, approximately 30 years ago there was a bad accident involving students after the prom. Out of that tragedy the BLAST was started as a post prom party as a safe alternative for students. It runs from 12am to 4am and is fully funded by donations from parents and businesses. Each year is a different theme which is a secret until the night of the prom. A group of parent volunteers transforms the high school for BLAST with different rooms. We have a coffee house, café, casino, the gym has bounce houses, and a heavily chaperoned, “crash” room. There are prizes and raffles the kids can win with Air pods, TVs, dorm room stuff and more. We start calling the raffles at 3am so most of the kids are gone by 4am. This entire event is fully volunteer driven. We will be having another community walk through the night of the prom from 8-10pm. Last year we had about 150 people walk through. Spread the word about fundraising! We have a social at the Yard Pub on 5/3 from 7pm – 9pm, open bar. This event will also have raffles like, handyman services, Sweets on Darby donation for grad or communion cake and more. There is a signup genius for volunteers to chaperone that night and for donations for our student raffles. Cash donations can be sent via Venmo, or items purchased directly from Amazon wish list. Last year we had 450 students attend! They do not have to attend the prom to come to the BLAST. We look forward to all your help and seeing you at the walk thru. At this time Manoa PTO presented Mr., DeVice with a donation.
  + Mr. Dan Horan – Haverford Middle School Principal
    - A little bit about me, I live in the Chatham Park area of Havertown and have raised my children in the district. I started my career with Upper Darby School District before becoming the principal at Manoa then ultimately at HMS. First off, 6th grade is very similar to 5th grade. The staff and teachers at HMS are just as kind and considerate as those at Manoa. Honestly, the bigger adjustment and jump for the students is from 6th to 7th grade. When I first came to HMS there was a two-week orientation period for 6th graders. After that first year it was apparent that the kids don’t need that long! Trust me when I tell you that by day three most of the kids have adjusted. The first two days of school we have a modified schedule, so the kids get acclimated. By day three they are going through the normal schedule.
    - SCHEDULES:
      * We begin working on your students schedules right after PSSAs. We have all their data from the year and start to map out where were think they should be. Then we meet with the 5th grade teams at all the elementary schools to make sure that we have placed them where they think they have been placed. The 5th grade teams make recommendations for changes if need be but most of the time we are pretty good at placing your students.
      * By mid-July schedules are released and we have open house dates for students and parents to tour the building. There are two dates and some families come more than once to get comfortable. We have admin and secretarial staff in the hallways ready to answer any questions and help navigating the building. If none of those dates work for you or you feel your student needs another visit, any time you see our cars out front, come in and ask for a tour. You, as parents, are more nervous than your students most of the time. [Parent Tip for reading your student’s schedule: Specials rotate by quarter (Spanish, art, health, info tech). If walking through whole schedule in order, just go to the Q1 special. By the time they get to Q2, they know the building. You will see the quarter assigned on the schedule that comes out in July.]
    - TEACHING TEAMS:
      * 6th grade is separated into groups or “houses” which sounds a bit like Hogwarts. The students are split evenly into four teaching teams for their core classes. These teams/groups have an even distribution of students across all education levels. We have approximately 560 kids coming in next year and each teaching team will have roughly 100 students. Our teachers teach for five periods a day and have one period where they meet as a team to discuss the kids in their group. Specials classes will have students from other teaching groups. Kids will meet new students from other schools.
    - LUNCH:
      * 6th grade eats lunch early as a group. They will be able to see their friends from other teaching groups at lunch. They have two weeks to decide where to sit and then tables are assigned (based on where they are sitting in the first two weeks of school). They do have the ability to request a change throughout the year.
    - POWER SCHOOL:
      * It’s a great idea to dedicate some time once a week or so to review Power School with your student and set expectations. Grades are loaded regularly, so you can review with your student in real time. Your students will make mistakes in middle school. You WANT them to make mistakes in middle school when the stakes aren’t that high. Teaching them how to cope and manage their mistakes is an important lesson that will help them in the long run.
    - CELL PHONES:
      * Cell phones and ear buds stay in the lockers. Honestly, we don’t have that big of a problem with cell phones at HMS during school hours. Our social media issues are from outside of school. Our biggest problem with cell phones, is parents texting their students during the day, believe it or not. Nine times out of ten when I catch a student openly texting during the school day, it’s their parent. We aren’t frisking students to make sure they don’t carry them in their pockets but if it’s out in the classroom it gets taken away. First time, the student can pick it up in the office. The second time, the parent must pick it up in the office.
    - BACKPACKS:
      * Backpacks are left in the lockers all day. Your student has time in the morning, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day to go to their locker. Please make sure you get a lock for your locker and practice with your student over the summer. The amount of times I have seen a locker with no lock with a cell phone and ear bids and cash just sitting in it is mind boggling.
    - SNACK:
      * I was asked to mention that we do not have snack time in the middle school. This would seem fairly obvious but keep that in mind since the 6th grade does eat early in the day. There is no dedicated time for the students to eat a snack.
    - BYOD:
      * Each Friday students have BYOD, bring your own device day, at lunch. I’ve heard parents complain that they aren’t interacting with one another when we let them have their devices. I can tell you this is not what I see when I go into the lunchroom on Fridays. Most of the time kids are huddled around a phone or device and laughing, talking.
    - We have two security guards at our school. They are very nice. We have a great faculty and staff and plenty of after school activities for your students to choose from. Questions?
    - **NICOLE BUMBAUGH: Do students meet with the Guidance Counselors regularly?** 
      * **Answer**: We have a counselor suite with a secretary that kids can drop into at any time. Parents can request a meeting with the counselors as well. The older kids feel more comfortable to go in on their own, but any student can do it, at any time.
    - **SARAH CARLTON: Are their grade level counselors?** 
      * **Answer:** Yes, each grade level has a counselor assigned to them that follows them throughout their HMS career. The counselors each day are at drop-off in our court yards just observing and getting a vibe for the day. Even though they are assigned a grade level, each help out if needed.
    - **NICOLE BUMBAUGH: Do you do meetings with parents of students with a 504 or IEP?**
      * **Answer**: We have been meeting and sharing data with the elementary schools for about two months, After the PSSAs we will meet with the fifth-grade teacher teams and principals and discuss where to place students. That’s then shared with parents over the summer. We have a strong team handling 504s and IEPs. We have many resources and developmental activity time with them. The special education team is great.
    - **Nicole Stahl: Is there a directory to connect with other families if our students want to connect outside of school?** 
      * **Answer:** There is no directory. Generally, middle school students do not want parents arranging their social life. This is not to be offensive; it is completely developmentally appropriate for them. Please feel free to join our PTO and connect with families that way.
    - There were no more questions and Nicole Bumbaugh thanked him for coming to our meeting. Mr. Horan said to feel free to contact him with any questions. He is very accessible. You can email, call at office, call his cell or pop into school if you see their cars outside.
* **Approval of Minutes: March Meeting**
  + 1st: Elena Alma
  + 2nd: Melissa Carroll
* **Faculty Reports:**
  + Dr. Mosser: PSSAs are coming up. We are ready! Please tell your students to do your best but don’t stress out! This is no pressure, just shows the state what they know. If they are stressed about the PSSAs, let us know. They can talk to one of the counselors. They should go to bed early to get a good night’s rest, have a good breakfast. Melissa Trempe assembly was great! She talked about perseverance. Just a reminder there is NO SCHOOL on April 23rd. Field Day is May 28th. We will need volunteers that day. The students and teachers loved field day last year and we’re looking forward to it this year. Rain date is May 31st. Fir our fifth-grade parents, Unity Day is May 30th. Thank you, thank you for the “going Bananas” faculty room takeover. We loved it. The Mustang Mile is coming up! May 15th is our instrumental concert. The week of 6/3 to 6/7 we will be having a Kindergarten “signing day.” We’d like to have the PTO’s help.
  + Ms. Pechin: We are grateful for all that you do! We love the monthly takeovers. Thank you for Family Bongo Night. It was so fun and great to see all the students and families come out. The author visit was great. Her message was wonderful. Nicole asked Ms. Pechin to let the staff know that teachers can purchase the book for their classrooms. Melissa Trempe wanted to make them available for teachers at cost, $12. Erin Canuso asked her to ask teachers for grade level or class challenges for the mustang mile. We presented Ms. Pechin with an umbrella for attending the meeting. Dr. Mosser apologized to any parents with a 2nd grader that came home wet today! They were surprised with a rain shower during their recess. The kids LOVED it, but we brought them inside right away. My Manoa umbrella came in handy.
* **Treasurer’s Report & Budget Approval** – Elena Alma
  + Family Bingo night we raised almost $700. From the book assembly we raised $260 which will cover the increase in cost to assemblies this year.
* **Old Business:**
  + **Family Bingo Night,** Friday April 12 – Leah Hoffman
    - I hope everyone had fun. We didn’t have as many people attend as last year probably due to spring sports. We want to move this event back to March to avoid that. The kids seemed to have a great time! As always, let me know if you have any suggestions.
* **Updates:**
  + **Fundraising –** Nicole Bumbaugh forSarah Charlton
    - Wednesday 4/24 at Honeygrow in Broomall from 10am to 10pm. This runs all day and 20% goes back to the school. Our last fundraiser is Wednesday 5/1 at the Rita’s on West Chester Pike from 4-8 pm. We are just waiting on flyer to present.
  + **Nominations –** Melissa Carroll
    - Voting is going out on Sunday. Everyone will have a week to vote, and the new board will be announced at the next meeting.
  + **Assemblies –** Lorie DiPaul
    - Our next assembly will be on May 28th, field day. We will have an AM assembly with K, 2nd, and 3rd grades. This will be Grace the Pirate. Mid-morning will be 4th and 5th grade with One-Room Schoolhouse. I thought they would like this because they are all visiting the Federal School. Our third assembly will be in the afternoon for PM K, and 1st grade. This will be Grace the Pirate again.
  + **IDC** – Kate Hertzog and Nicole Stahl
    - This week’s meeting was about transportation. It was so interesting! Transportation has about 100 employees with 70 being drivers. They are encouraging parents to download Stop Finder app. The district has 5,187 eligible riders in the district. Some of the points they mentioned were that we are lower than what the state requires for walking distance from home to school. There are 129 programs that students are bussed to at radius of 10 miles from the edge of the district. TSA does trainings with our bus drivers and all busses are equipped with a button on the back to make sure kids are off the bus. Honesty, I think this would make a great field trip for first grade. The snow clearing arm presentation alone was so cool! This was one of the mist interesting topics so far. Our next topic is Food Services for May Meeting.
  + **Yearbooks –** Melissa Carroll
    - The yearbook has been submitted. All 72 pages filled with your children’s smiling faces and Dr. Mosser’s letter. Reminder that all fifth-grade students get a yearbook. Sales will be closing out at the end of the month.
  + **5th Grade Events –** Nicole Bumbaugh
    - Lawn Signs email went out this week. The big news from the committee meeting is that we will not be getting pint glasses for the students this year. We are taking suggestions. Everything else will come out as things are confirmed.
* **New Business:**
  + **Mustang Mile,** Saturday May 11 **–** Erin Canuso
    - This will be at Old Manoa field, same location as last year. The goal is to raise $20,000 for a gaga pit for the playground. Registration is free and there are some prizes that students can win without fundraising like classroom parties, etc. We have exciting new prizes this year for $20, $50, $100, $200, $300, $500, and $1000 raised. The class with the most registrations will win a prize.
  + **Field Day, Tuesday, May 28 –** Nicole Bumbaugh
    - There will be a sign up for volunteers and a lunch provided for volunteers. More to come in the coming weeks.
* **Announcements**:
  + **Next PTO Meeting**: Wednesday, May 15 @ 7pm with Dr. Mosser, Mr. Fulton and Mrs. Miller.
    - Final Meeting of the school year
    - Introduction of the new PTO Board
  + **Fundraising Event:** 
    - **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.