

**Hoover PTA Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

**Agenda**

Attendees: Jennifer Boal (President), Megan Criswell (VP), Ashley Hauck (Secretary), Heather Geisler (Treasurer), Marie Knupp (Historian), Tara Lavy, Chelsea Farrell, Stephanie Pentland, Carissa Monaco, Jamie Purpati, Shayna Bodie, Matt Jamieson, Angela Nelson, Andrea Adams, Myla Ruiz, Trivani, Mary Marmura, Tony Pizzuni, Kimberly Gamble, Becky Campanaro, Someswara, Violetta Pivtoraiko

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance *Jennifer Boal*

II. Approval of Minutes *Jennifer Boal motioned; Tara Lavy and Marie Knupp approved*

III. Correspondence *Heather Geisler – reimbursements being processed, 5K expenses pending*

IV. Executive Committee Reports

A. President *Jennifer Boal*

**October 31 - Halloween Parties** – 5 parents per classroom. Holiday and Valentines Day parties are forthcoming.

**November 7-18th - Adopt-a-School** - Kristy Brancolini collected for Beechview Elementary. They opened a “free store” where their families can shop.

**November 8th - Election Day Bake Sale** – raised over \$500 and people were very excited to have it back. Sold out of goods. Next year we will bring coffee.

**November 11th** - Veterans Day Celebration. Annual event where we celebrate veterans in the community and of our families. Kids sang songs, poems, drew pictures for the veterans.

**Ongoing – Plant Sale** – gift cards instead of plants this year because the plants are a lot of work to organize.

**December 8-9** - Hoover Holiday Shop

**December 22/23** - Holiday Parties. HR reps will be reaching out for participation.

**Next PTA Meeting** - January 25, 6:30pm (Nominations). Historian and Treasurer are needed. Marie will stay on unless someone else wants to run. 2-year terms before reelection

B. 2nd Vice President *Dr. Nicci Giehl* – Kimberly Gamble filling in for Dr. Giehl since

she's out of town this week.

- C. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President *Megan Criswell* – no updates
- D. Treasurer *Heather Geisler* – staff is using resource funds we've set aside for them. AT beginning of the year each teacher received \$100 in funds to spend. Support received \$50 each. Myla asked what this fund is for – teacher fund is used for art supplies, books, pencils, headphones etc. Our nurse needed sweatpants, underwear, socks, toiletries and she was able to use the funds to purchase. First time this year we also provided supply bins per grade that are in the teachers lounge. Tara Lavy restocks as needed. Mrs. Gamble has loved the extra resources and said that support staff doesn't have as big of a budget and the supply bins and the teacher funds have been wonderful – she's very grateful. Jenn said next year we are planning to do supply kits through a company that prepackages and sends all materials needed. It's more economical because we are buying in bulk. PTA can also provide extra kits and we can support families in need. Tissue boxes are included.
- E. Secretary *Ashley Hauck* – no updates
- F. Historian *Marie Knupp* - During Covid we lost paper binders. She has started a Google Drive to store all new documents where people can save and update information. Easy access for all. Will save by year.
- G. Follow ups from last meeting – Gaga Ball Pit Update – waiting on final approval but everyone is excited about it. Garden Project Proposal Update – Shayna Bodie updated the proposal and is here to present her new ideas. Campus Beautification committee (Shayna and Mary) felt that the garden project fit into this committee's scope of work. Prior we were going to place a large gardening structure on the blacktop but it was cost prohibitive, so they are now hoping for raised garden beds which are less expensive and efficient to be placed on the blacktop outside of cafeteria. \$5,625 instead of \$6,500. If there are extra funds maybe add outdoor seating. Jefferson has powder coated metal seating and it would look great and be functional here. It would be an additional cost of \$1,000 per seating unit. If teachers want to get classroom indoor sewing kits to start seeds in the winter for planting in the bed in the spring they have that option. Money was already voted on and approved but we need to revote on the new plan tonight – Jenn asked everyone in attendance if anyone is opposed and no one is. So, motion approved. Dr. Giehl said in the past that she wanted us to look into seating. Shayna proposing to start in the spring time so she'd like to have approval by the January meeting so that we can have the beds by mid-March. Jenn will put it in the PTA newsletter and as long as no one opposes it will go through in 30 days. Marie asked if there was a hose out there and suggested rain barrels as an alternative if needed. We do have a hose available. Myla asked about kids playing outside during recess and if that will impact the beds. Mary said the bed should be integral to the space and that they will be thoughtful about what they plant. Hardy plants will be planted that won't be easily destroyed. Myla also asked if there will be a problem losing more playground space. Mary said it's a pretty small place that they are utilizing and it's also an area not really used by the kids. Megan thinks it will be a nice space for kids that aren't super active and who just want to sit and read and relax during recess time. Shayna would also like to have a lunch club focused on gardening with the idea of giving kids buy in to the project. Any vegetables grown will be shared within the community. Shayna also is hoping to have programming around the gardens. High school kids are hoping to partner with the younger kids to make this a success.

## V. Committee Reports

- A. Library Committee (Amanda Benedict) – Spooky Story night with Mrs. Macosko. Next year the PTA will own the event instead of having it be school sponsored so that we are able to provide a snack to everyone. Kids were starving this year. Parent will sign an approval for snack time before the event.
- B. Read-a-thon (Becki Campanero) – We raised \$7,312 and the money is sent in three installments to Heather. We made \$9,700 total but the website takes a cut and the funds (25%) but it's worth it for the service that is provided. Kids were able to select prizes this year based on cost and how much they raised. Becki asked if kids wanted the prizes and parents said yes. Gifts should be coming. Becki thinks we should scrap the gifts and keep the \$500. Top readers in K-2 and 3-5 will receive a kindle. Prizes for top earners are gift cards to Barnes and Noble. Everyone gets a book mark. The money raised will go towards sun shades for the playground. Jenn said school budgets on fiscal year and the cost will be in the new budget and the school will pay for some so that they are the true owners and the PTA is just supplementing the rest. Becki shared an update from Dr. Irvin on updating playground equipment overall. Some schools have very old equipment that needs replaced. The funds are more than the PTA's can afford on their own. There is now a district wide fund for it to address the inequities between the playgrounds. Each year a different school will get to use it.
- C. Holiday Shop (Cristina Battaglia & Tara Lavy) – Still room for volunteers and it's really fun to do. Monday all volunteers will be cleared by Ms. Brown. As of now, Tara and Cristina do independent shopping of gifts. Kids bring money and shop. Price range is \$1-\$10 for items. Most things \$1-\$6. A lot of kids come with a blank check. Paperwork will go home tomorrow with a list of approved people to shop for and what the budget is. At the end there is often leftover money and they want to buy something for themselves. Parents should be as specific as possible about who they are allowed to buy for. Myla asked what is available to buy – candles, back scratcher, board game, mugs, jewelry, glasses. Clearance items from everywhere. It's a casual clearance because teachers around and it's supervised by faculty. You will have your ID scanned in the office before the event.
- D. Lunch Clubs (Jenn Boal) – Time where parents come in during the lunch hour. 10-12 kids and you can do any activity you'd like to do. Book, lego, pokemon, boardgame, building, dancing yoga, coloring etc. 3 weeks each during 2 sessions. During the winter kids can't go outside because of weather and this is something fun that they really look forward to. Registration closes on Monday. Survey goes out to kids for selection. 9 clubs already set up for the year. We haven't had them for the last two year. The more clubs we have the better. Currently knee hockey, pokemon, dancing, science. It's one day a week from 12-1 and you have a room in the building. It's only about 20 minutes long. Lowe's donated building kits for lunch clubs and Tara offered the supplies up to someone. Shayna asked if the Makers Space is open for lunch clubs. Jenn said there was a club there last time, Dr. Giehl assigns the rooms. You need full clearances.
- E. Plant Sale (Shayna Bodi) - Supposed to end of the 29th but it's a soft date so Shayna extending for a few more days. They've raised around \$600 so far.
- F. Talent Show (Heather Geisler) – February 7th is rehearsal and February 9th is the performance in auditorium at JMS. Nate Ivey and Tony Puzzini. Live streamed in addition to in person. Split into two 45 minutes shows to break up the event. Younger kids go first. We limited guests who can attend to 2 people per performer. Dress rehearsal is the Tuesday before. Sign up hasn't started yet but more information is

coming soon. Any act you can think of has been performed. 2-minute time limit per performer. Emcee runs the show and is usually a 5th grader.

- G. 5th Grade Activities (Stacy Brett Davern) – yearbook, tshirts, pool party
- H. Hoover 5K (Shannon Harpst) – volunteers needed soon. Don't need to be a runner to volunteer.
- I. Relay for Life (Shannon Harpst) – Hoover collects donations in support of cancer.
- J. Kids of Steel (Shannon Harpst) – Hoover has a group at the Pittsburgh Marathon. She does training sessions before school to get them ready to run.
- K. Corporate Funding (Anthony Puzzeni)
- L. International Night – Bri Ivey and Megan Criswell. People host tables and it's back after a 2-year hiatus. Booths in cafeteria for different countries. Foods, clothing, artwork etc. Music and dance performances. Irish and Indian dancers participated last year. Email from Megan after the new year.
- M. Spelling Bee – coming up in January for 4th and 5th grade students. Held on January 31st with a February 2nd weather date. Lists of words sent home to practice over winter break. Participation not mandatory. This is part of Scripps program. Winners compete against other schools and our kids take it as far as they can go through the Scripps competition.

VI. Open Topics for Discussion – Jenn said she wants everyone to know that they are welcome to participate on any committee. We can use everyone's time and talent. Get involved if you can!! We want your help! Tara asked about Ms. Kay leaving and who is taking her place. A substitute is already lined up while they pursue a permanent replacement. Mrs. Gamble has an intern who is leaving her soon. It's a male and the kids have enjoyed his presence and are very sad he is leaving.

VII. Adjournment – Jenn motioned to adjourn, and Megan seconded.