



Hilton Head Island High School
HHI Seahawks PTSO, Inc.
October 10, 2023

Call to Order, Welcome & Sign In- 12:31pm

Attendance: Kelly Ruckno, Tina Rohr, Angie Greenfield, Lissy Rawl, Rebecca Mastrorocco, Krista Dunton, Elizabeth Ott, Audrey Clayton, Lynn Gorrell, Ellen Simmons, Jessica Howard, Joe Monmonier

Approval of September Minutes: Motion made by Rebecca, seconded by Audrey. Minutes approved.

President's Report –*Kelly Ruckno*

Thank You's: Thanks go out to our School Store volunteers. We have a new parent who would like to volunteer on Fridays, allowing us to expand our availability. Still working on the schedule, whether it would be for one or two hours. Rebecca will finalize it soon. Volunteers need to submit a background check through the BCSD link found on the school website. The company they are using now has gone back to Sterling. Until a volunteer has received clearance, they may use a license to enter the school.

Teacher support

- a. Feeding the teachers on 10/17 for Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- b. Continuing to fund Friday Pizza Lunch with the Principal for teachers.

Student support

- a. The previously approved \$500 donation to help with the ESOL Dept's trip to Washington, DC, has been cancelled due to not enough student participants for the trip.
- b. Principal's Honor Roll program is being restarted. The high school will recognize students who made all As or all As/Bs per quarter. Those students will get ice cream sandwiches at lunch one day. Admin is asking if we will allow them to have a 10% discount in the School Store for one entire purchase. They will make and print the coupon cards. Rebecca will add a button for the discount in the Square app.
- c. The Band teacher has asked the PTSO to purchase a bassoon because we have a new student who plays it. A used one costs >\$3600. After discussion, the PTSO decided not to purchase such an expensive instrument that would be used by only one student. We suggest that the student consider renting one or changing/learning a new, but similar, instrument. We would consider donating a smaller sum toward that goal.
- d. Haunted Homecoming: Mrs Britt has asked for donations of food and waters, which Tina will purchase at Sam's. She also has decorative items in an Amazon wish list, which Kelly will share in her weekly newsletter.

New Officers- Kelly thanked our newly elected officers again for their commitment for this coming year: Rebecca Mastrorocco and Jessica Howard.

Discount Cards: We agreed last month to allow athletic teams and clubs to sell our Discount Cards for their own fundraiser. The policy will be as follows:

- Minimum of at least 25 cards must be purchased
- Team/Club must purchase the cards for \$3 each and must sell them for the standard \$10 each
- Cards are not available until after 9/15, so as to give the PTSOs a chance to sell first.

Dress Code: The school is still in need of gently-used school clothes donations.

Grocery Partners: Please continue to remember HHIHS when grocery shopping. Link your shopper account to the school.

Seahawk Support Circle (SSC) Report- *Audrey Clayton*

Holiday Survival Bags: For the third year in a row, All Saints Church has chosen to partner with SSC for the Holiday Bags. They have approved donations for up to 130 students in need. We have asked for new backpacks, large jars of peanut butter, large boxes of crackers, large boxes of cereal, laundry pods, and \$25 Walmart gift cards. The PTSO will have a SignUp page for school parents to help with other donation items, and we will purchase anything missing. We have already purchased the blankets using the funds from the Bargain Box Grant.

Rebecca will meet with Congregation Beth Yam tomorrow to see if they are going to be able to contribute again this year.

School Store- *Rebecca Mastrorocco*

The Store is doing great. We are predicting to make ~\$3000/month, of which 1/3 is profit.

Treasurer's Report- *Ellen Simmons*

Bank Balance: Ellen circulated the balance sheet. The items that were outstanding last month have been resolved (finalized the transfer of monies to/from the school from Back to School Day and paid the vendor bill). Now the balance is a more accurate representation of our true balance.

Math Scholarship: No one has requested the funds that were set aside for the Math Department Scholarship for the 2022-23 graduating class. Since Dr Fletcher retired, no Math teacher has taken the reigns on this, so no scholarships were awarded last year.

Tammy Videla Scholarship: The Guidance Department has not mentioned anything about this honorary scholarship. Kelly will ask about the status to see if we need to help at all this year.

Miscellaneous

Rebecca asked what is the goal for the bank balance for us. Ellen explained that it fluctuates, e.g. we need it high at the start of school. Sometimes we get requests for funding, but the District or another entity will step in and we are no longer needed. We like to choose programs that benefit the whole school, or at least a considerable number of people. In years past, we have tried to make the courtyards more aesthetic with picnic tables and benches. These are hard to maintain with wear and tear from sun, rain, and students. Manicuring of the courtyards is also difficult.

There was discussion about whether we could give a stipend to teachers or reimburse them for classroom expenses. The District gives them [\$450] at the beginning of the school year for this reason, but sometimes it runs out. It was suggested that we consider giving a \$100/teacher reimbursement for expenses during the 2nd semester. However, if every teacher took advantage of this, that could potentially cost \$9000. Kelly will discuss with Mr Schidrich and consider soliciting input from the teachers, as well. If we were to proceed, we would need to design a form to be used for submissions, with a clear deadline. Elizabeth has used such a form before, so she will share a copy. Reimbursements would only be done at specified times, so as to minimize the disruption to the Treasurer. Another suggestion for our funds was to help pay for a "gift" to the school from the graduating class. This may not be practical if the Referendum passes.

Principal's Report- *Joe Monmonier (Mr Schidrich was delayed)*

School Report Card: Our recent Report Card score was 87, correlating to a rating of Good. We were only 3 points away from achieving Excellent.

Referendum: Dr Rodriguez and other representatives from the District came to the Town Hall last month. They presented information about the Referendum on the upcoming ballot. Most importantly, there would be no net increase in taxes because the millage rate will decrease in order to balance it out. It should be considered a good investment for property owners.

There are still a few things not yet completed from the 2019 Referendum: changing out the ticket booth to the stadium, finish renovating the old Field House, make repairs to the A/C and roof. These should be completed before spring sports begin. There is some sort of hold-up at the Town level with building the new baseball/softball stands. Audio-visual updates in the school are being done.

If the referendum passes in November, the Aux Gym entrance will be the temporary main entrance to the school once construction begins. We do have new bleachers in the main gym, but still waiting to get the sound system hooked up.

Sewer Problems: We've been having trouble with the sewer backing up again. It is being dealt with.

Homecoming: Homecoming is around the corner. The schedule is being finalized. Senior Nights have been going well in all sports.

Coach Monmonier suggested that rather than approving a stipend for teachers for school supplies, consider giving them Seahawk gear instead. Teachers love it and it would help raise school spirit. The PTSO has been asked to provide gift card prizes for the door decorating contest, which Kelly will buy.

Hospitality on the horizon: Cookie Exchange in December. Need to pick a date. Tina will buy the cookie boxes.

Calendar:

Next SIC meeting: Thursday, October 19th, 5:30 p.m.

Next PTSO meeting: Tuesday, November 14th, 12:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Audrey, seconded by Kelly. Meeting adjourned 1:42pm.

CHR