



**HHIHSPTSO Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024
Conference Room, Hilton Head Island High School**

Welcome, Sign In, and Call to Order - 12:33pm

Members present: Sally DesNoyers, Lindsay Miller, Katelin Chapman, Steve Schidrich, Jan Davis-Vater, Leslie Shaw, Tina Rohr, Dawn Washington, Natalie Burnside, Krista Dunton, Jessica Howard, Elizabeth Ott, Lissy Rawl, Kelly Ruckno, Ellen Simmons, Courtney Worl, Lynn Gorrell, Brody Kenneweg

President's Report, Jessica Howard

1. Introduction of Executive Board: Jessica Howard, president; Elizabeth Ott, secretary; Courtney Worl, VP; Kelly Ruckno, VP; treasurer - open
2. Volunteers: Thank you to all of our volunteers for assisting at back to school registration and freshman orientation, especially since the back to school registration day had to be cut short due to Tropical Storm Debby. Teachers enjoyed a meal from Fiesta Fresh on the first day of school since the original date during pre-planning was canceled due to TS Debby. Volunteers are vital to our organization and are always needed for events such as back to school registration days, help at the school store, hospitality, December's cookie exchange for teachers, Seahawk Support Circle holiday bags, teacher appreciation week in May, graduation signs for seniors. Throughout the year the PTSO provides awards for students who qualify for honor roll and principal's honor roll and monthly pizza lunches (monetary) for teachers/staff.
3. PTSO Projects: Ideas are welcomed from parents, students, teachers/staff re: ways and projects to support the entire student body/school as a whole.
4. Bylaw Updates: At the PTSO meeting in June the original bylaws were amended to reflect current and updated terms and verbiage, and also to provide flexibility concerning dates and deadlines. Jan Davis-Vater stated that she helped create the original bylaws in 2012, with the help of the Beaufort County BOE and BCSD attorneys, as part of becoming a 501(c)3 organization. Jan also encouraged the PTSO to earmark some of the PTSO funds for benches, greenery, etc., at the new HHIHS. A motion was made by

Kelly Ruckno to approve the amended bylaws, and this motion was seconded by Lissy Rawl. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

5. HHIHS PTSO Treasurer Vacancy: The PTSO had originally elected Tammy Novak as treasurer, but she no longer has a student attending HHIHS due to an athletic opportunity, and the vacancy needs to be filled. Kelly Ruckno nominated Ellen Simmons to serve as treasurer for the PTSO, and the nomination was seconded by Krista Dunton. All members present voted to approve the nomination.
6. Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Elizabeth Ott made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June. Kelly Ruckno seconded the motion. All members present approved the motion.

Principal's Report, Steve Schidrich

Mr. Schidrich expressed gratitude to the PTSO for providing volunteers during freshman orientation and back to school registration, as well as for providing lunch to teachers/staff on the first day of school.

1. Staffing Update: Current staff vacancies are down to 4 open positions from 5, including a media specialist, a strings/orchestra teacher, a Spanish teacher and an ESOL/ML teacher. It is quite possible that HHIHS will go the entire school year without a media specialist. That position was vacated late in the summer, and it is difficult to fill positions in late summer, as most teachers have already found employment with other schools. Filling the position for a Spanish teacher hasn't been problematic this semester because initially HHIHS was supposed to have one less teacher, so an extra Spanish class wasn't part of the schedule, and no students were enrolled in that class. Applicants for the other two open positions have not been plentiful. We are competing with 2 other large high schools in the area (Bluffton High and May River High), which affects how many teachers we are able to attract to HHIHS. 60% of our teachers come from Bluffton, so it's challenging to persuade prospective hires to commute to the island everyday.
2. Weather Make Up Days: Since school was cancelled on Wednesday (8/7/24) and Thursday (8/8/24) due to Tropical Storm Debby. These days must be made up since virtual school was not an option at that time (many students had not been issued laptops). Dr. Rodriguez is working with the Board of Education to determine when the days will be made up. It has been indicated that one of the days will be Dec. 23 since it's already on the schedule as a make up day. An additional day may be during the Fall Break in October. Lindsay Miller asked if these dates had to be made up in person or if they could be made up virtually. Mr. Schidrich did not have a firm answer to this inquiry.
3. Traffic Flow/Car Rider Lines in AM: The first couple days of school have gone smoothly. The car rider plan is problematic when students/parents do not follow the proper flow of traffic. Dr. Hunter and Mr. Schidrich have been out in the morning directing traffic, but this is not an ideal long term solution.

4. HHIHS Open House: The Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, 8/21/24 at 5:00pm. We will be following the same procedure for the Open House that we used last year, where teachers will be stationed throughout the building to meet parents. This method allows parents and guardians with more than one student at HHIHS to meet with teachers in a timely and effective manner. There will be a meeting for parents of Seniors in The Seahawk Cultural Center following the Open House at 6:00pm with Senior Class sponsor, Michelle Hartman. The PTSO will be providing dinner for teachers at the Open House as well.
5. School Renewal Plan: The HHIHS School Renewal Plan for 2024-25 was explained by Mr. Schidrich. He provided documentation that outlines the overarching vision and priorities for HHIHS, as well as interim goals (2024-25) and 5 year goals (2024-29) for student achievement. One of the long term goals that was discussed in detail is that by the end of the 2028-29 school year, HHIHS will increase its on time graduation rate from 88.8% to 92%. This is formulated using older data. 51-52% of our student population is Hispanic, compared to 2014 when the student population was 24% Hispanic, and many of these students do not complete high school in order to enter the workforce to support their families. One of the interim goals that was discussed in detail was College and Career Readiness (CCR). By the end of the 2024-25 school year, HHIHS will have 87% of graduating students be college or career ready. This past year, 77% of students met this goal at HHIHS. For further information on the school renewal plan, please refer to the summary sheet provided by Mr. Schidrich.
6. Construction Update of New HHIHS: Construction of the new HHIHS has come with challenges, but progress is being made. Over the summer, a burglary occurred at the school due to Hargray accidentally cutting service to the alarm system without the knowledge of administration. All stolen items were recovered, however, and the thieves were identified using video footage from the school's cameras. The new high school's foundation is getting ready to be poured despite some obstacles that were encountered during the demolition of the parking lot. The new high school includes plans for the school store to be located between the current cafeteria and C Hall. The concept is an open layout, which will make the school store easily accessible. The new field house is almost complete. The concession stand next to the main gym, which has been used as extra storage space, is currently being cleaned and prepped, and should be ready for use in time for the first home volleyball game.
7. HHIHS Student Population: Student count is at approximately 1,295 students as of today. We anticipated 1,315. Mr. Schidrich provided documentation on absolute numbers for students enrolled with a breakdown by class size after the meeting adjourned.

Committee Reports

1. School Store, Courtney Worl - 86 teachers/staff used the gift cards for Gildan tee shirts last spring. The store made \$9,192.40 at freshman orientation, which is down

approximately \$1,000 from freshman orientation in 2023. The store made \$8,869.40 at back to school registration, which is down approximately \$15,000 compared to back to school registration in 2023. The decrease in profit from 2023 to 2024 is mostly due to back to school registration being cut back 3.5 hours from weather related to TS Debby. Currently, there are approximately 2,000 items in stock. Flared pants have been presented to Mr. Schidrich as a new option in the store. Mr. Schidrich is concerned that they will look like yoga pants, so we are getting a physical sample from Charlotte to show him before proceeding with an order. Once approval is obtained, the flared pants will cost \$30, since they have a higher price point (\$23.50) compared to the other pants the store carries. We are eliminating the line item for "gift certificates" in Square, because it is no longer used. It was created for a specific situation that has not come up again in several years. Courtney asked if it was necessary to get PTSO board approval for price increases on store merchandise. Jessica said that approval wasn't necessary, but that it would be good for the board and general membership to be aware of any price increases before they take effect.

2. Finance, Ellen Simmons The PTSO made \$9,064 at back to school registration and \$8,724 at freshman orientation; however, we do not have numbers broken out to determine how much should be designated to SSC from Discount Card sales, and we do not have an invoice from Charlotte Sanford for spirit wear. All of this ties into the budget, which we are working to formalize before the next general PTSO meeting.
3. Seahawk Support Circle (SSC): Audrey Clayton is the lead for SSC this year, but was unable to attend today's meeting. Tina Rohr filled in for Audrey to explain the purpose of SSC. All sales from the PTSO Discount Cards go toward SSC. This organization helps students and their families who are in need due to various circumstances, i.e. house fire, disruption due to parent/ guardian's employment etc. The SSC provides basic necessities beyond school supplies such as laundry detergent, jackets, snacks, and toiletries. Ms. Lopez keeps the list of those students that would benefit from SSC; the PTSO does not have access to the names of those students. Grace Community Church donated 25 backpacks to SSC already this year. The Bargain Box provides a grant each year to help with holiday bags. All Saints Episcopal Church and Beth Yam Temple also support this endeavor. A brochure exists explaining SSC, but could use an update so that parents and students could be educated on exactly what the Seahawk Support Circle does.
4. Hospitality, Lissy Rawl/Leslie Shaw: Tina Rohr has provided immense guidance and has outlined events throughout the school year for which PTSO provides meals/snacks to teachers and staff. Snacks were provided for volunteers at freshman orientation, and breakfast and lunch were provided for volunteers at back to school registration. Food boxes from Publix have been ordered and will be given to teachers at the Open House on Wednesday, 8/21/24. Jessica invited members that owned business or that know business owners interested in donating food/supplies to reach out to the PTSO. The PTSO has already received \$500 from Giuseppe's for supplies.

The next HHIHS PTSO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10 @ 12:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:44pm.

EHO