

PTCO General Meeting Minutes - September 28, 2023, 8:30am - Homestead Elementary Cafeteria

In attendance: Chris Hardy, Geniella Lester, Jenna Klos, Kelly Tierney, Kayla Tibbals, Erica Jennings, Jennifer Young, Olivia Phillips, Holly Georgelos, Kelly Macfarlane, Lara Girtin, Molly Weiss, Amy Anderson, Kristin Martini, Kelly Kane, Kori Lawless, Leah Hein

Kelly Kane opens the meeting.

Speakers:

Chris Hardy, Homestead Elementary School principal

Chris will give a short highlight on what's happening at the school. Homestead has 340 kids this year, three classes per grade in K, 1st, 2nd and 4th, and two classes per grade in 3rd and 5th. TAs are taking groups in both 3rd and 5th grade to help the teachers with the extra numbers. October count will not affect whether additional teachers could be added to 3rd and 5th. Projections show the school won't get much smaller so hopefully no more cuts. Girls on the Run will do a short presentation at the next meeting.

The school uses the growth mindset (equity, whole wellbeing, engagement and relationships) with the teachers to gauge how the year is going. The theme for the year is "who is a Homestead kid? All kids are Homestead kids." We want the kids to know it is a diverse world and be ready for that when they leave here.

Safety protocols include boxes on the outsides of the schools. The boxes include thumb drives for the first responders to have maps of the entire school. There was a lockdown drill on Monday that went well. Red bags in every classroom include forms of communication for the teachers to be in contact with the first responders and lollipops to help the kids stay calm and quiet. There will be drills throughout the year.

Mental health protocols and support during the year. Chris Hardy covers suicide and threat assessments. The entire district is undergoing re-training on medical emergencies this year. Positive behavior (PBIS) posted throughout the school. Hawks champions are selected from each class each month to celebrate great behaviors and/or great improvement in behavior. The kids are taking social emotional health screeners this year (one in fall, one in spring). The staff uses the information to direct their teaching and/or interactions with the kids. When a student wants to speak with the mental health team, the team will let the parents/guardians know. All students in the district can use Hazel mental health, as well. If a space is needed for that support, Homestead can be used.

The weekly Hawk is going to be the primary source of information between the school and the parents/guardians. The server is being upgraded and the Hawk will be able to be translated into other languages in the next two weeks.

Inclusive experiences for the year to include Hispanic Heritage month, flag activity, Polynesian dance group, Italian American Heritage Month, cultural ceremony, where in the world is Mr. Hardy video, Arab American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. October 10th will be the first dance assembly.

CMAS results are in. Homestead was high achieving (will receive a John Irwin School of Excellence Award again). We will be working on school growth (measured by 4th and 5th grade scores). Star Assessments help the teachers know what to work on with the kids. They are given in the Fall, Winter and Spring. The teachers are still learning how to use the Star Assessments.

School board election in November 2023. The candidates will be speaking at public forums. You can also watch the candidate videos online (on the district website). Be informed before voting.

Olivia Phillips, DAC/SAC Liaison

District Accountability Committee (DAC); monthly meetings. School board members present at these monthly meetings and take questions. DAC offers their recommendations to the board members. Parents can get the ideas of what they want their kids to learn. Four subcommittees include charter schools, budget (student-based budgeting; school gets money based on what the needs of the students are), Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) (how to improve the student experience and achievement, where are we falling short, how to overcome challenges) and family and community engagement (how to get the parents interested and engaged with the school community). Attending these meetings can provide a lot more info about the school district and you have opportunities to have your voice heard and make suggestions for improvement.

School Accountability Committee (SAC); includes the principal, one teacher, three parents, one PTCO member and at least one community member. Share feedback and listen to others. SAC meets at least quarterly, reviews progress on Improvement Plan, budget and spending priorities, DAC report, recruitment/family engagement policy implementation, recommendation on READ, ICAP, truancy, priority improvement/turnaround, public hearing. This is the opportunity to make changes.

Reach out to Olivia Phillips to get more involved with either DAC or SAC.

*****End of general meeting portion*****

PTCO Board Meeting directly follows the general meeting.

President's update - Kelly K and Kori

Upcoming events - Fall festival coming up on Friday, October 6th, monthly staff snacks (wonderful wednesdays), next PTCO meeting October 12, fall break, book fair/lost and found/conferences, no school November 3rd).

Kelly Kane asks for a motion to vote to approve the general meeting minutes from April 27, 2023. Kelly Tierney motions. Amy Anderson seconds the motion. Kelly Kane calls for a vote to approve the general meeting minutes. All present vote to approve the minutes.

Vice President's update - Kristin and Jenna

Sponsorship banner will be going up. Fundraisers throughout the year will be Homestead Dash, 100% Homestead/auction, King Soopers and Spirit Nights. Dash was a great success.

Secretary's update - Blythe

Buzz book was sent to the printer earlier this week. We hope to have it on hand to sell extra copies at the Fall Festival. The book fair will take place during conference week from October 30th through November 2nd. School supplies packs were delivered. Jenny is looking to use a new company next year as the company used this year was not great at correspondence.

Treasurer's update - Lara and Holly

All fundraising proceeds are used to pay for TA salaries and school-wide enrichment opportunities. The 2023-2024 budget was reviewed before calling for a vote. Discussion regarding how to handle possible additional TA needs.

Kelly Kane asks for a motion to vote to approve the 2023-2024 budget. Kelly Macfarlane motions. Kelly Tierney seconds the motion. Kelly Kane calls for a vote to approve the budget. All present vote to approve the budget.

Communications' update - Kelly Kane reports for Jenny

Used a storefront to sell spirit wear, yearbooks and buzz books at the beginning of the year. She keeps updating the PTCO website and social media.

Volunteer Coordinator's update - Kelly T

Staff appreciation sign-up genius out in the last week Hawk. Matt Chin runs the garden and he has asked people to enjoy the garden before the freezes begin. Send anyone wanting to volunteer to Kelly Tierney.

Events' update - Kelly M

Dash close-out is happening. Cash and checks are very welcome as we don't lose out the service fee that the fundraising website charges. Volunteers are needed for the Fall Festival. New items at the fall festival are inflatable maze, live music, new games, amped up decor and a rain plan.

Community Outreach's update - Amy Anderson reports for Emily

Clothing drive in May 2023 was so successful our sister school asked for only snacks for the drive this year. We are also collecting socks for the 622 McKinnery-Vento students (homeless) in the district. Lost and found will be in October, Turkey Drive in November and Winter Wishes in December.

Diversity and Inclusion's update - Susie

PASS changed name to Diversity and Inclusion Committee/PASS to give people a better idea of what they do. Lots of cultural events coming up in 2023-2024. Trying to find a way to connect Homestead kids with kids at our sister school (i.e. pen pals).

Questions:

Fastbridge/Star assessment data and how to process. Implementation of universal free lunch. Preschool implementation and how to increase numbers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01am.