

# Holland Township PTO

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

### September 29, 2021

Location: Holland Township School Auditorium

**CALL TO ORDER:** Casey Bickhardt, Holland Township PTO President, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

#### OFFICERS REPORTS

**President's Report:** Casey Bickhardt thanks everyone for coming to the meeting and states it is wonderful that so many people joined us! Casey introduces herself and speaks about her vision for the PTO. She talks about how important involvement is to her. Casey reports that the PTO had been hoping for a 20 percent increase in membership from last school year and we increased by 63 percent, resulting in incredible success! Casey states we currently have 140 members. She goes on to encourage members to get involved with committees within the PTO and to reach out to other parent friends within our school community to join us! She comments that parent engagement is what helps to make the PTO a great organization. She reminds members that being involved could be as simple as volunteering to bake goods for an event, joining a committee or even helping to plan a fundraiser!

Casey then goes on to let members know that communications from the PTO will also be sent out through the school email system on Wednesday afternoons.

Casey gives an opportunity for questions. There were no questions at this time.

**Secretary's Report:** Casey opens the floor for a discussion of the Secretary's June 2021 Minutes. No discussion was had. Casey asked for a motion to approve the June 2021 minutes. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Casey opens the floor for discussion of the June 2021, July 2021 and August 2021 Financial Activity reports and the Performance to Budget reports. There was no discussion. Casey asks for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Casey opened the floor to discuss the proposed 2021-2022 Budget. Casey spoke about the meetings that were held over the summer to collect ideas from school staff, parents and students on what things the school community and specifically the kids, could benefit from. She stated a meeting was held in August, where the proposed budget was voted on. Casey talked

about the fundraising committee having a promising year ahead of them and encouraged member involvement.

Casey opened the floor to questions about the 2021-2022 budget.

Mrs Kephart and Mrs Conti spoke on behalf of Mrs Croasdale. They asked about field trips, speaking of a projected expense on the budget for \$6,750.00 for field trips. Casey answers, stating that the PTO is looking into bringing into the school and making them in house field trips. Casey asks that teachers email the PTO with any ideas for in house field trips that may go with their curriculum.

Mrs Kephart then asked about the sensory wall built into the budget. Casey explained that this was a project that was already completed.

Mrs Kephart then brought up a concern Mrs Croasdale had about the tetherballs not lasting very long, stating that there was a wear and tear issue. Discussions were had about replacing the tetherballs every 6 months to a year. There were a few other ideas brought up such as more basketball nets, a painting of the United States of America, for the children to be able to play with at recess time.

Mrs Croasdales last question was that she liked the idea of a pavilion but she would like more details. Casey reported that we aren't completely sure of what the cost of the pavilion would be but that we have a fundraising plan that she is certain will make this a reality. She then spoke about all the great reasons for the school to have a pavilion, such as, a space for outdoor PTO meetings, for families or teams to use during sporting events, and to have a covered space for the children to have fresh air time outdoors without overheating in the sun. The teachers present confirmed this would be beneficial for the students on sunny days.

Next, a member asked about the fundraiser on the 2021-2022 Budget that is estimated to cost \$47,549.09. Casey explains that we are planning on an amazing fundraiser event that will include food trucks, competitions and more to get the entire Holland community and surrounding communities to participate. Casey states she is open to meeting with anyone who would like to be involved with the planning of this event or has any ideas to contribute.

Christina Piluso (former Help from Home Chairperson) comments that in order for us to reach our budget goals, we need to promote Box Tops and Amazon Smile to our members.

Casey thanked everyone for their comments and asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2021-2022 budget. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Casey moved on to open the floor to discussion about the proposed By-Law change.

Casey explained there were a few things in the By-Laws that we would like to change. She stated the reasoning being that we have had a hard time getting volunteers to come to specific

meetings. Pre-covid we had more members and member involvement. She stated we have already had times we couldn't get members to come and that we want to be completely respectful of everyone's time.

Casey asked if there were any questions.

There were two questions asked by members. The first question was about a typo on the by-law change proposal. There seemed to be the number "37" on the proposal on page 6. (One of the numbers in red ink and one in black). Casey explained that the red ink indicates the change proposal so the number being looked at reads "3".

The second question was about the wording stated in the proposal "starting as early as January". It was questioned why it doesn't say "starting in January". Casey explained that this opens it up to the chairperson's discretion in case they aren't able to get volunteers to meet in January specifically.

Casey thanked everyone for their questions and asked for a motion to approve the By-Law change. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

**Vice Presidents Report:** Amy Gercie, Holland PTO Vice President reported on the PTO committees updates. There were no new updates on the following committees: Assemblies, Family Events, Hospitality, Staff Appreciation, Help from Home or 8th Grade Dance.

**Book Fair:** Amy reported in Melody Conn's absence that the Spring Book Fair would be held October 4th-17th, online only.

**Spirit Store:** Amy then reported in Jenn Randazzo-Makarick's absence that the Spirit Store is being planned to open but no update as of yet.

**Bulletin Board:** Amy reported that Misty Lapham and her put up a welcome back bulletin board the week before school started.

**New Business:** Casey then moved on to new business and closed the Audit Committee and the Budget Committee.

Casey let everyone know there are open chair positions for committees and encouraged members to sign up and get involved.

Casey then spoke about an idea to hold a Board of Education Candidate meet and greet.

**Public Comments:** A member asked if there was any way the PTO could check into where the middle school recess equipment, the PTO previously purchased is and if it can be used. Casey agreed to look into where it is and if it is being used.

A member commented that the middle school does not get enough recess time. Stephanie Snyder (Superintendent of HTS) explained that core class subjects in middle school have more content and that recess time is not mandated for the middle schoolers. She then explained that the middle schoolers do get time to go outside and socialize during their advisory period along with time after lunch for a limited amount of time.

A question was then raised about school lunch food waste. A discussion was had about ideas to cut down on food waste, however, it was reported by Stephanie Snyder, that there is nothing that can be changed due to federal regulations surrounding student lunches.

Mrs Kephart stated the following reminders:

- October 11th there will be No School
- October 15th is Picture Day
- October 22nd is an Early Dismissal

She also commented that discussions were still taking place as to if parent-teacher conferences would be held in person or virtually over Zoom.

Lastly, she thanked the PTO and the Staff Appreciation Committee for the Welcome Back Breakfast, which she reported the whole staff enjoyed.

Casey thanked everyone for their comments and for joining us for our meeting.

**Adjournment:** Casey closes the meeting at 8:03pm