

PTSA Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023

Attendees: Principal Helena Thomas, Tracy Wesley, Patti Martzloff, Carolina Avary, Tess Wesley, Emily Nicholson, Lynn Hirsh, Andrea Tanner (PTA Council President), Nevaeh' Hodge, Tara Oliver

Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM.

Introductions - All members introduced themselves to Andrea Tanner, President of the PTA Council, who was a guest at our meeting.

Candidate Forum: Andrea Tanner shared that there would be a candidate forum for the school board on Monday, October 16, 2023 from 7-9pm at the Chapel Hill Town Hall. There are 14 candidates for 4 vacant seats. The forum will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters, NAACP, the CHC Association of Educators and the PTA Council. The forum will be advertised in the CHS PTSA newsletter.

Principals Update: Dr Thomas thanked the PTSA for hosting the plant adoption in September. Dr Thomas outlined three goals for this school year.

1. Student learning
 2. Student and staff health and well being
 3. Improving CHS score from "B" school to an "A" school
 - a. Current grade is 82 = B, would like to improve at least to score of 85 to be an "A" school
- Currently there are two staff positions unfilled at CHS - associate principal and certified EC teacher.
 - Upcoming dates:
 - Oct. 11 - underclassmen pictures - to be taken by a new vendor - Cady. Cady should be able to take 800 student photographs in 90 minutes with multiple stations.
 - Oct. 12 - Hispanic Heritage Event held at CHS. There will be a potluck dinner and cultural activities.
 - PTA member asked Dr Thomas how the district would be providing support for the bilingual students/families in the district. Dr Thomas explained some of the measures currently being implemented to support bilingual families
 1. Translators for school events can be provided by Lincoln Center when these services are requested in advance.
 2. The school has purchased the app "Talking Points" which will be rolled out in the next couple weeks. It will mainly be used by teachers in classrooms to communicate with students. Will allow 2 way communication.
 - The associate principal who will be hired will work closely with the Newcomers School at CHS. Bilingualism is not required for this position but will be an important quality for candidates to have. There are numerous staff at CHS that can speak Spanish. The front desk staff is bilingual. Spanish immersion students are peer tutoring new comers.

- Newcomers School - students new to the country, district and school. For most, English is a second language. Students have a range of 1-2-3 of control of the English language. There has been a significant increase in numbers of students at CHS who are newcomers. Currently there are 153 newcomer students. There is no additional funding from the district for these students. The staff, and particularly the school social worker, Ms. Oliver is invested in supporting these students through this transition. Graduation rates for newcomers is low. This is an area in need of improvement. The staff and administration are having many conversations about how to improve and strengthen the program. One idea is grant money to have in person Spanish language lessons for teachers.
- A PTSA member brought to the attention of the principal that at the recent PSF meeting one high school student pointed out that CHCCS had not provided support for students following the two recent lockdowns caused by violence at UNC.

Treasurer Report: Tess Wesley

- Since the last meeting the PTSA has accepted \$9156 in membership donations and \$843.76 in hospitality donations and earned \$100 in fundraising money from selling pizza at Open House.
- Some expenses included PTA council dues, dinner for teachers during Open House, Pelican Ice Truck during Open House, DJ for upcoming Homecoming event.

President's Update: Tracy Wesley

- The PTSA helped to host Open House in September. We sold pizza and provided about 300 ice drinks for students and families. The PTSA was grateful to have a staff member and students working alongside them selling pizza and encouraging membership.
- The PTSA provided dinner for the staff and teachers prior to the Open House.
- The PTSA hospitality team hosted a Plant Adoption event for the teachers. Parents contributed plant based food donations and monetary donations for plants. Teachers had the opportunity for fellowship while enjoying the food.
- The PTSA hospitality team will host sweet treats for the teachers and staff on October 25th in the work room.
- The Secret Pal program for teachers/staff and parents will begin soon. Parents will volunteer to provide a gift valued at \$10 once a month to a secret teacher or staff member. Surveys will be sent to staff from the hospitality team and shared with parents to help identify gifts.
- The hospitality team will provide giveaways for teachers at the October 11th staff meeting raffle style. The prizes will be a Walmart gift card, Amazon gift card, a week's worth of lunches, and a home cooked and delivered family meal.
- Please submit any grant requests through the portal on the PTSA website. Mr Klackovich was awarded a grant for the community garden. He provided pictures and detailed explanation of how funds would be used(seeds, tools, composting, chicken bins). These pictures were posted in the PTSA newsletter.

- Currently we have about 100 PTSA members. We continue to look for ways to increase membership.
- Dr Thomas made the suggestion to highlight teachers and staff who have joined the PTSA with a sticker "I Support the PTSA"
- CHS Homecoming will be Friday, October 6th. The PTSA is providing support to the Booster Club by paying for the DJ and promoting volunteering. Jen Hunt, the organizer, is looking for help stuffing cotton candy and popcorn into bags.
- There are several open volunteer positions on the PTSA. These include PTA Council Rep and The Reflections Art Rep

Black and Brown Student Coalition - Nevaeh' Hodge, President

- The President and Media Coordinator of the Black and Brown Student Coalition presented a powerpoint presentation outlining the clubs goals. They requested funds to help hold events and purchase t-shirts.
- There are about 15 students in the club and they would open events to all students in the community to share their culture.
- Lunch and Jag Block were discussed as good times for school wide events.

Social Worker - Tara Oliver

There is an immediate need by students for composition books, mechanical pencils, pens, bookbags, highlighters, and replacement lead. The group brainstormed how to ask for the funds/donations to meet this need. Possibly through an Amazon link shared with school families and placing a bin at the front office for donations.

Every month PTSA will meet at 4:30 pm on the first Monday of the month!

Adjourned at 5:45 PM.