

Hearst Elementary School PTA Meeting

October 7, 2019

1. New Teacher and Staff Introductions

- a. Several new teachers and staff have joined the Hearst community. New staff include Melissa Moss (2nd grade teacher), Cassi Duvall (4th grade ELA teacher), Tamika Brown (5th grade Math teacher), Danielle Shea (CES teacher), Carolyn Diaz (CES teacher), Javairia Henry (1st grade partner teacher), Liz Dittamo (Art teacher), Cristina Show (Spanish teacher), Lawrence Stephenson (custodial foreman), and Mary Tello (occupational therapist).
- b. Ms. Moss, Ms. Shea, Ms. Dittamo, and Ms. Tello were present that the meeting and gave the audience a brief autobiography.
- c. Ms. Dittamo informed the audience of a Parent Maker Space, with a small introduction event on October 30 from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

2. LSAT Introduction

- a. LSAT is an advisory body of parents and teachers that advises Principal Geoffroy on school goals, PARCC and other testing results, school budget, and enrollment.
- b. Survey of parents and teachers will go out in December to help inform the LSAT decisions.
- c. Projections of future enrollment at Hearst are underestimated.
 - i. Do not take into account students that will be coming from the Fannie Mae and 4000 Wisconsin Ave developments.
- d. New for the LSAT this year is dedicated liaisons per grade.
- e. Next LSAT meeting is Wednesday, October 16 from 4:30-5:30 in the conference room

3. Enrichment

- a. Christine and Kerry have had several lengthy discussions with Coach V/Kaizen about current service issues.
- b. Kaizen must rebuild trust and communications with Hearst parents, teachers, and Innis.
- c. Service failures have included Signup Genius registration, WePay refunds, and onsite coordination.
- d. New onsite coordinators, Carla and Jakayarn, will be placed at the school this week to replace Tania Martinez.
 - i. Tania will train the new coordinators, Ms. Boyd and Mr. Ibrihim have been asked to assist. The PTA will fund this assistance.
 - ii. Coach V admitted mistakes on oversight of onsite staff.
 - iii. Communications must improve and updates must come through Kaizen
 - iv. Staff will wear Kaizen shirts to assist with transition with parents.
 - v. Kaizen will not take payment until issues have been straightened out.
- e. Innis and teachers finally received rosters for enrichment classes.
 - i. PTA is concerns about safety of children and knowing where the kids are at all times.
- f. Kaizen will be rolling-out Aphelia to replace Signup Genius and 6crickets.

- i. Kaizen will present the new system at the November PTA meeting.
 - ii. System will be used for class registrations, payment, and attendance tracking for Winter and Spring enrichment sessions.
 - iii. Invoicing will come from SquareUp, although it is not clear if there are fees associated with this platform.
 - g. An enrichment survey will be going out to parents to help gather data for the PTA.
 - i. Keri Sikich, the enrichment chair, will help to put the survey together.
 - ii. Parents will be asked which is more important to them: flexibility of types of classes/teachers involves vs. cookie cutter courses with less control by parent community.
 - h. If the PTA decided to hire a new enrichment management company, Kaizen will help the school transition to the new company.
 - i. The PTA is actively collecting names of other companies.
 - ii. Desired quality of enrichment management company is to allow for teach/parent-led enrichments.
 - iii. PTA will be mindful of companies and their partnerships with vendors.
 - i. For Winter/Spring sessions, PTA will edit the class descriptions and information before distributing to the Hearst community.
 - j. Enrichment Committee Meeting will be held Monday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tenleytown Library small conference room.
 - i. Input from parents on enrichment program wanted!
4. Owl Fund Contest
- a) Last year, the Owl Fund Contest netted \$75,000 for the PTA. So far this year, the contest has netted \$61,000 with 2 more weeks to go!
 - b) However, total participation for the contest is down this year. Last year there was 75% participation school-wide, so far there is not 37%.
 - c) The Owl Fund Committee would like the teachers and room parents to help promote the contest by submitting testimonials in their weekly communications with parents.
 - d) Most payments this year have been through PayPal. Promoting a QR code for Venmo was discussed.
 - e) The Owl Fund benefitted the teachers this year through purchase of new laptops.
 - a. Dell rebate from the laptop purchases will be used to purchase connectors for the Smartboards.
5. Events
- a) Screen of the Green – many thanks to Mary O’Neill for a wonderful evening!
 - b) October 20 – Hearst Day at GWU Women’s Soccer Game
 - c) October 28th - Community Dining Night at Silver in Cathedral Commons
 - d) Halloween – No costumes allowed at school. The kids will get to celebrate Fall Fun at a festival on November 1.
 - e) November 16th – The Hearst Annual E-cycle

PTA Meeting was followed by the Ward 3 Ed Net meeting.