Huntington High School PTSA Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome- to all in attendance by President Laura Mills

Introduction of PTSA Executive Committee – Introductions of: Dr. Carmela Leonardi, HHS Principal, Brendan Cusack, Assistant Principal, Bonnie Guarino – PTSA Teacher Liaison and PTSA board members: President, Laura Mills, Vice Presidents-Terri Ehrman, Laurene Napurano, Recording Secretary-Anne Kopstein, Corresponding Secretary-Suzanne Muller, Treasurer-Nancy Di Giacomo, Council Delegate-Irma Nykolyn, Council Delegate-Lisa Curran

Mr. James Polansky - Superintendent of Schools- welcome back, very smooth opening at all buildings, may have to do with transportation routing changes, money saving, early start with homecoming-wants it to be a district-wide event, many different exciting and progressive ideas, parent engagement, blended experiences. Thank you to all building administrators for the great care taken at the buildings to start year well. Memorial on Thursday 9/11 at each building, age appropriate.

Christine Biernacki – PTA Council President- 1st council meeting Tues, 10/7, 9:45 AM in Heritage Room at HHS. Tom DiGiacomo will present interactive calendar, Outback manager wants to be more a part of the community and as an effort to do so will donate macaroni and cheese and chicken fingers free of charge to younger children at homecoming game.

President’s Report

- Need Donations of Water for Float Night - Friday, 9/19, 6:00-11:00 pm, leave at front security desk
- Homecoming Parade 12:00 pm (St. Patrick’s Church Parking Lot) Saturday, 9/20, please join us marching, come to football game after, Photobooth at game for $1 per strip with Blue Devils logo on it, raised funds for scholarships
- Community Service Credit for PTSA (Student Volunteers needed on Oct 2nd, Meet the Teacher, 7:00 pm), will sell refreshments and memberships, need students to help with service credit awarded
- Student Volunteers needed to represent HHS for District Allergy Awareness facilitated by Nancy Wilson – will require about 5 meetings throughout the academic year, eligible for Community Service Credit
- Alumni Association Volunteers needed to resurrect this association whose partial purpose is to administer scholarships. Funds are available but committee is needed execute this work. This is separate from a PTA committee.

Principal’s Report- Dr Leonardi reported that school opening was smooth. Discussed new development of interactive calendar pages, an app that is available for daily district
events. Announced effort to encourage increased student involvement on for school events such as open houses and parent academies. In hopes to improve homecoming dance attendance new time slated for Thursday night instead of weekend night. Looking forward pep rally on Friday where all sports teams will be represented. Meet the Teacher night 10/2. Parent Engagement committee-want to extend communication toward parents to further develop relationships in the community, questionnaires to parents from teachers, Parent Academy 10/9-“Parents in the Know”, parent panel so input comes from parents in addition to the teachers and administration.

Assistant Principal-Brendan Cusack celebrated 3rd year in district. He reported consolidation of bus routes, dismissed a few minutes early to work through new routes, bus drills today so that traffic was greater today but noted that more people seem to be driving to school, get word out for people to get to school earlier, less line. Scheduling went well, fewer class conflicts, able to create a 10th grade team where students will share teachers so that teachers may be able to look at group’s data. Hard to keep that team structure but are making it a priority for student benefit. Incorporating a data wise approach that Dr. Leonardi learned at Harvard University. Teachers continue to learn how to do it and are growing into the model. Core teachers are typically a team.

Treasurer's Report by Nancy Di Giacomo
- Presentation of 2014–2015 Proposed Budget
- Approval of Budget to be done at October meeting
- Please approach Treasurer, N. Di Giacomo with any PTA finance/budget questions. Inquired whether membership preferred treasurer’s report emailed versus many paper copies (to be resource/paper conscious)
- Every month a PTA board member will review books with N. Di Giacomo. This is a new initiative by national PTA.

Report of District Committees:

HFEE (Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education)-Laurene Napurano-referred meeting attendees to web site announcements
- HFEE Gala on 2/6/15, at Harbor Club-Prime, tickets $125. Will honor Cathy Cain from school and Chris Mitchell, owner of Marsh’s, from the community, meeting monthly, seeking “big” sponsors such as corporations. Sponsor designations: Friend- $500, Leadership- $1000, Honors- $2500. Working toward making HFEE a true foundation. Seeking high value items for auction such as tickets to pro sports events etc.
- November restaurant fundraiser
- Marching in homecoming parade

Booster Club-working on generating greater membership packages for the community, family and merchant packages, can get membership form on school web site.
- Huntington Crescent Club fundraiser this fall 10/17 honoring Linda Roth and retired coach Steve Davis

Board of Education-Tom Di Giacomo reported new policies discussed at last night’s BOE meeting such as: legal standards with the state; electronic devices; privacy etc. BOE requesting ideas to honor recently deceased BOE member, Adam Spector. BOE goals were determined and are posted on the web site.
SEPTA-1st board meeting to occur soon

Effort to increase Student Participation in PTSA-Joe Saginaw, President of student government announced upcoming events including: Homecoming in 2 weeks; Jeopardy night in the fall; March-“Stuff the Bus”, entire school bus stuffed with food for food pantry; and Playfest in the spring.

Clubs-
- Robotics-this Monday holding an interest meeting, Mr. Reynolds is club advisor, making woodshop improvements

Project Excel/Huntington Youth Bureau-Geri Castillo announced programs including:
- College trips to NYU, & other local colleges. Students brought to colleges for guided tours by van on Fridays. Recorded by HHS as an excused absence.
- Free ACT, SAT prep classes, near town hall and at TriCYA
- Writers’ workshop, teen sessions, free of charge
- Mural project group-involvement in this counts for community service
- Employment workshops, group or individual, resumes, have a bank of stores that are hiring

School Committees
- Membership - Nancy Shivers, wants to surpass 138 members this year from last year’s totals
- Shared Decision Making - Dr. Leonardi, getting support from community organizations for students with emotional needs, trying to create community links and more linkages for parents to parents
- PTSA Fundraising
  - Brick Program funds PTSA Scholarships-great graduation or birthday gift-order forms available at PTA/PTSA meetings and also on website under forms and files link

Other events:
- Photo Booth at Homecoming - photobooth owner will donate booth for float night and homecoming game. Proceeds from game photos, $1 per strip, donated directly to PTA
- Refreshments sales at events
- Spring Fundraiser with Finley - Wednesday, April 15th—very successful last year, mostly likely to occur at Porto Vivo again
- Value Drugs-mention name of school, Value Drugs also taking Bed Bath and Beyond coupons, Living Huntington-before checking out pick charity to contribute, Stop and Shop, (code DLLH), Target-use credit card to donate to HHS PTSA

Important Dates to Remember
- Senior/Parent Guidance Night 9/17, 7:00 pm
- SEPTA meeting at Jack Abrams STEM 9/18, 10:00 am
- Homecoming Dance 9/18, 6:00-9:00 pm
- Float Night 9/19, 6:00-11:00 pm
• Homecoming 9/20 (12:00 pm Parade line up at St. Patrick's Church Parking lot)...Football Game at 2:00 pm
• Board of Education Meeting 9/29, 7:30 pm
• School Pictures Grades 9-11, 10/2
• HHS Meet the Teacher Night 10/2, 7:00 pm
• Junior/Parent Guidance Night 10/6, 7:00 pm
• PTA Council Meeting 10/7, 9:45 am in the Heritage Room HHS
• HHS Band Parent Meeting 10/9, 7:30 pm
• Freshmen/Parent Guidance Night 10/16, 7:00 pm
• Jeopardy Night, 11/12, 8-9:30pm, admission is $2 plus a can of food
• Huntington Booster Club Dinner/Fundraiser 11/17, 7:00 pm Huntington Crescent Club
• Sophomore Parents Guidance Night November,19

Other dates FYI:

40th reunion of HHS at Bay Club 10/10-Bonnie Guarino will supply information about restart of Alumni Club for reunion attendees

Class of ’94 having their reunion on Homecoming weekend-will will supply information about restart of Alumni Club for these reunion attendees also

Other business:

Scholarship thank you note from Samantha Guzman read to meeting attendees

Next PTSA Meeting is Wednesday, 10/15 at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Kopstein