

**Hall High School  
PTO Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2017**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Amy Cabbage. Introductions of Board members and others in attendance were made. Anna Webersen made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2016 meeting and Lisa Greene seconded the motion. All in attendance approved.

Those in attendance were Karen Hoopes, Jill Hutensky, Ryan Carlson, Shelley Solomon, Suzanne Tripp, Patti Hoppin, Sarah Townswick, Laurie Brown, Lisa Greene, Brenda Bellucci, Sharon McHale, Lexy Davidoff, Andrea DeSimone-Rafferty, Amy Cabbage, Anna Webersen, Monty Henderson, Michelle Sullivan and Brenda Barrows.

2. **Administrative Business** – Anna Webersen updated the group about Autobeacon, a software program used to monitor new drivers. The company was started by two Hall graduates. They are offering a free trial to obtain parent feedback. Anna has the contact information.

3. **Programs** – Patti Hoppin, Karen Tiernan and Sarah Townswick

- a) A LGBTQ program was presented in November and moderated by a representative from True Colors. Four students were on the panel and in attendance were Hall and Conard SRO officers, YMCA representatives, parents, students and PTO members. Ms. Solomon informed the group that there is an Equity and Diversity Council at Hall and that LGBTQ issues have been discussed at Wednesday teacher meetings.
- b) Walking Zombies, a program about the sleep needs of teenagers, was presented in December and led by a physician from UConn.
- c) On January 26<sup>th</sup> Amanda Aronson, Director of Marketing and Communications from the Bridge Family Center in West Hartford, will present a program about services offered by the Bridge. The meeting will be at Hall in Room E131 at 7:00 p.m.
- d) On February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Chris Herren, a former NBA player, is scheduled to speak to all Hall students about drug abuse. Mr. Herren will speak to Conard students in the morning on the 14<sup>th</sup>; both Hall and Conard parents are welcome to attend a live stream of the program at 9:00 a.m. in the Conard auditorium.
- e) A program about building character in conjunction with Yellowbrick.me is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> at Conard.
- f) Karen Stahl, a local author of the book The Option, is scheduled to speak on April 6<sup>th</sup> at Hall. The book is about the suicide of her daughter, a Kingswood Oxford graduate and teacher.

- g) Hall will coordinate a screening of the documentary "Screenagers" at the end of April. Screenagers is about growing up in the digital age. The cost of the program is \$650. Other area schools will be invited and two shows might be shown simultaneously. Location of the screening is not yet determined.
- h) The Programs committee is considering working with John Mancini, a local counselor, on a program about porn called "Fight the New Drug". Fight the New Drug is a nonprofit started in 2009 and focused on educating youth about the harmful effects of porn. This program is tentative and might be pushed back to the fall.

**4. Treasurer's Report – Jane Robinson and Lara Harker**

- a) Donations and other income were \$12,763 as of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, above projected income of \$8,500 and last year's income of \$10,066.
- b) Concession stand net income significantly increased to \$6,932 aided by the home Hall/Conard game and the good weather for most home games.
- c) Total income for the period ended January 9, 2017 was \$19,794 as compared to budgeted income of \$11,500 and prior year income of \$11,009.
- d) The Hall PTO has available cash balances of \$30,554 as of January 9, 2017 resulting from the addition of \$16,103 net cash generated this year to the \$14,451 cash balance from last year. Expenses have not been significant year to date so we are in a great position.

**5. Membership – Andrea DeSimone-Rafferty and Randi O'Brien – Nothing to report.**

**6. Communications – Lisa Greene and Nancy Hunt**

- a) Lisa and Nancy are meeting their goal of sending out the Hall PTO eblast on the second school day of each week.
- b) There are approximately 700 names on the email distribution list and only three bounces.
- c) Help is needed at the January 25, 2017 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation meeting for incoming Hall parents. The PTO will set up a table to collect email addresses and sell Hall items.

**7. Corresponding Secretary – Brenda Bellucci and Lena Tan**

- a) A thank you note from the family of Gerald Lavery was passed around.
- b) The new Hall note cards were presented; they are available for all PTO members to use.
- c) Thank you notes were sent to Big Y, Hall's Market and the Crown for supplying food for the recent Hall student funeral luncheon.

- d) Please let Brenda and Lena know if you hear of any Hall families in need of support.

8. **Fundraising** – Anne Donovan and Suzanne Vide – Nothing to report.

9. **Safe Grad** – Lexy Davidoff

- a) A theme is picked and progress is being made for the June Safe Grad party.
- b) Fundraising has started .
- c) The raffle committee is in the process of getting prizes.
- d) An email will be send to parents of seniors this week about the event.
- e) More help is still needed.
- f) The next Safe Grad meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup>.

10. **Hospitality** – Karen Hoopes and Suzanne Tripp

- a) The teacher's dinner at conference night was successful but too much pizza was ordered.
- b) The Principal's Coffee in the fall to introduce Kim Ambroise, the new Assistant Principal, was not well attended.
- c) Another Principal's Coffee is to be scheduled to feature Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. A proposed discussion topic is the addition of more honors courses to the curriculum.

11. **Concessions** – Monte Henderson and Roni Rodman

- a) Concessions had a great group of volunteers this season.
- b) Bigger profit margin items were the sales focus.
- c) Going forward Concessions might request funds to purchase a popcorn machine.
- d) Setting up concessions at Hall basketball games is not under consideration; attendance is not as high and food can't be taken into the gym.

12. **PT Council** – Laurie Brown and Jill Hutensky

- a) The PT Council discussed the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools at their recent meeting. This is a nonprofit set up in 1997 to provide financial support for educational projects, programs and initiatives that enhance the classroom experience. Teachers can apply for up to \$3,000 in grants; five Hall teachers received grants in 2016-2017. The group's annual fundraiser, "West Hartford's Cookin'" will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Help for the fundraiser is needed.
- b) Dr. Gretchen Nelson, the new Pupil Services Director, presented information about transition services for students aged 18-21 at the recent PT Council meeting.

- c) School safety measures were also discussed at the recent PT Council meeting. All classroom doors now have interior locks and all schools will soon have safe entrances like the new entrance at Hall.

**13. Principal's Report – Shelley Solomon**

- a) The school year is going well.
- b) Midterms begin on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Link Crew members will offer study sessions for freshman.
- c) There is a meeting to welcome next year's new freshman parents on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Ms. Solomon thanked the PTO for the new interactive screen.
- e) Ms. Solomon outlined several ideas for the annual PTO donation to the school including a PA system in the cafeteria or a donation to the fitness center.

**14. Other Business – Amy Cabbage**

- a) Amy reported that the staff lounge needs updating and requested help in forming a small committee to make suggestions for this project. Amy will check with Dan about what teachers/staff would like to see and what the options might be for improvements.
- b) Ms. Solomon discussed Hall's Do Something Day scheduled for the end of February. On this day the student body completes various projects to help and support the community including making sandwiches, making pillows, making cards and putting together donations of socks and toiletries. A motion was made by Lisa Greene for the Hall PTO to contribute \$500 to Do Something Day, the motion was seconded by Jane Robinson and approved by the members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Brenda Barrows and Val Michaels.

The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Room E119.