

Minutes—CW Henry PTA
May 12th, 2020

Welcome from President (Leah Corsover)

- PTA activity has essentially been frozen but we have continued to hold virtual board meetings to finish up this year's business.
- Per state PTA guidelines, we cannot conduct virtual votes, so any items requiring a vote (such as budget items and PTA officer elections) must be postponed until we can meet again. Current PTA officers will remain in place until new officers can be elected.

Principal's Message (Ms. Davis)

- Key points are summarized here but refer to Principal's Report for full details: [Principal's Report 5-12-20](#)
- We have met 2019-20 goals for suspensions and attendance. Remote learning "attendance" (which is essentially participation tracking) will not be included in attendance numbers.
- Parents are encouraged to visit the CW Henry website for information about distance learning. Teachers' office hours are also posted there and are regularly updated.
- The staff know that every family has different needs right now and they are trying to meet those needs in the most flexible way possible. That is why there is no schoolwide schedule—teachers are encouraged to figure out what works best for their students. We do not want any family to feel pushed to their breaking point or (even to their frustration point), so please reach out with any questions or concerns.
- Refer to Recommended Student Workload (link in attached Principal's report) for how much time children should be spending on assignments. If you find that your child is exceeding those amounts, then they can absolutely stop—there is no pressure to complete every assignment right now. Nothing that happens during this time will affect your child's grades negatively.
- If you have any questions about how grading is working this year, please reach out to your child's teacher or to Ms. Davis directly. If something is not working for you or your child, please reach out. Flexibility is key.
- Ms. Davis will be sending out a Title I presentation to families tomorrow. Feedback is welcome. The two documents that are reviewed annually are on the school website (under "Families" tab/then "Title I"). These are available in addition to the video presentation that will be sent out.
- Ms. Davis got some really good feedback and questions regarding the budget. No decisions have been made yet, and families will get responses to their questions before any decisions take place.
- Our playground installation has been delayed due to statewide work restrictions, but it is scheduled to break ground this month. It should be completed within 10 days. Only the lower school yard will be closed during the construction.
- Kindergarten registration is still open online for in-catchment families. If you have a sibling at Henry and have been approved by Ms. Davis, unfortunately the online registration system won't work for you but you will be able to register in-person in August (around August 10th).
- Launchpad update—construction has been halted (all construction districtwide has been halted except for emergencies). We will let you know when it is allowed to resume.
- School district family survey has been extended to June 5th and if you have not yet completed it yet, please do. The feedback is used in planning for next year. So far 20% of families have responded and we hope to get more.
- Budget--Ms. Davis is waiting to find out if/how we can use remaining funds for this year that were not spent due to closure.
- Hiring for next year has been partially completed but is still in process.
- Due to projected enrollment, there will be three 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 4th grade classes next year.

Projects and Events (Meghan Medlock)

- All spring events were cancelled or on hold. We are talking about possibly throwing some type of virtual celebration for the last day of school but this is still in the idea stage.

Fundraising (Natasha Broadwater)

- Considering holding an online flea market, depending on interest.

- Board decided to not solicit donations this spring (as had been planned) due to sensitivity to the current economic situation, but donations are always welcome, especially since we had to cancel spring fundraisers.
- Virtual Book Fair made just slightly over \$90 and Amy Ignatow has the books until they can be handed out.

Garden (Meredith Jacoby)

- Garden work has continued. Some plants and mulch have been delivered. Looked into scheduling small work days in summer, but can't do more than one family at a time and no kids allowed per district safety guidelines. Committee members will continue to do the work that needs to be done in a safe and socially-distanced manner.
- Meredith is thinking about trying to do some virtual garden lessons for the kids (just for fun!)

Upper School (Kim Smith)

- A virtual graduation is being planned. We are trying to hold on to as many of our Henry traditions as possible. T-shirts and yearbooks were mailed to students' homes.

Finance (Mark Graham)

- Right now we have a little over \$28,000 in the bank account due to a surplus carried over from previous years. We did not meet our goal of earning enough this year to cover this year's expenditures (due to Spring fundraisers being cancelled) but the shortfall is only a few thousand dollars--not bad considering the circumstances. We won't make any decisions about how to cover that shortfall until next year when we can meet in person.
- We plan to continue with Playworks but can't finalize that decision without an in-person vote.

Additional Questions

- *My child is having trouble with Google Slides—What should I do?* Reach out to the classroom teacher and if that doesn't resolve it then the parent can also reach out to Ms. Davis and she will try to help. Google Slides do come from the district but they are heavily edited by the teachers and some teachers create their own content (based on age and grade level). No child will be penalized for any assignment based on a tech problem, and there are work-arounds for most problems.
- *Is there a plan for families to pick up their children's belongings?* No, this is still unknown. Even staff are not allowed in the building at this time. If the stay-at-home order is lifted in June then hopefully this can occur but there has been no guidance yet.
- *Is there a plan for re-opening school in the fall?* Hopefully, but it all depends on state guidance.
- *PSSAs have been cancelled for this year—will that change anything for next year?* There has not been any information given on what standardized testing will look like next year, or if there will be any attempt to "make-up" testing in the fall. For 7th graders or children applying to magnet schools this should not cause stress--every child across the city is in the same boat and alternative data points will have to be used.
- *Considering Henry—obviously tours can't be done right now but possibly some virtual meet-ups can be planned.*
- *Can the PTA help individual families who are struggling during this time?* According to our bylaws we can't use our funds this way, but we can certainly use our voice to support any outside fundraising efforts or to publicize needs.
- Congratulations to Ms. Davis on being selected as a Neubauer fellow! Congratulations to Ms. Schecter on being chosen for a Lindback award!

Visit the PTA website www.cwhenrypta.org for information on events, fundraisers, meeting minutes, volunteer opportunities, community news and to **join and donate to the PTA!**

Contact us: Cwhenrypta@gmail.com