

**RC Hinsdale PTA**  
**May 7, 2019**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** PTA President Jared Powers, Vice President of Membership Tiffany Strah, Treasurer Natalie Linstruth, Secretary Amie Wells, Amanda Ward Fundraising, and Dr. Castleman. Others in attendance; Jackie Schlotterbeck, Beth King, Emily Durstock, Jenny Bunnell, Aimee Brown. Todd Grimm, Sara Thompson, Mary Ball, Thelma Post, Beth Wise, Judd Strickley, Elisabeth Chiang, Stephanie Steinbrunner, Gina Powers, Beth Talbert, Nancy Jackson, Laura Puitz, and Alexis Bullock.

1. **Call to Order:** PTA President Jared Powers called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the library of R.C. Hinsdale Elementary School on May 7, 2019. He welcomed those in attendance, including those who attended the "Get to Know the PTA Night". Mr. Powers feels the event went well, and the PTA will plan to have another "Get to Know..." in September before the first PTA Meeting of the next school year.
  
2. **How do I stay informed/Next Meeting:** The next Meeting of the PTA will be held in September.
  - Facebook Page (RC Hinsdale PTA) - Like and share posts
  - Email blasts from Hinsdale
  - Twitter: @RCHPatriots
  - Join Remind 101: Text the following: @rchpta to 81010 for PTA Updates and information
  - Come to the PTA Meetings
  
3. **Scholarship Presentation:** Ms. Jackson, Scholarship Chair, gave background information on the scholarship that is presented each year to two R.C. Hinsdale Elementary School Alumni. The \$1,000 Principal's scholarship is presented to a Dixie Heights or Scott High School Senior. Ms. Jackson thanked the members of her committee, Ms. Brown, Ms. Messmer, Ms. Nichols, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Watkins. The committee reviewed ten applications. Ms. Jackson introduced Dixie Heights High School Senior Libby Blank. Ms. Jackson read an excerpt from Ms. Blank's 5th Grade year book where she states she would like to be a doctor or piano player. Ms. Blank will be attending the University of Kentucky in the fall and will study biology, with a Spanish minor, and pre-med. Ms. Blank has played the piano for 14 years and has a piano studio where she teaches four students weekly. Ms. Jackson introduced Scott High School Senior Sydney Vaught. Ms. Vaught's 5th grade year book states that she would like to do something that involves animals in the future. Ms. Vaught will be attending Miami University in the fall and will study zoology and plans to work in the animal field.

Mr. Powers offered congratulations to Ms. Blank and Ms. Vaught from the PTA. He thanked Ms. Jackson who will be stepping down as the Scholarship Chair for her efforts.
  
4. **Approval of the Minutes:** Upon motion of Elisabeth Chiang, second by Tiffany Strah that the Minutes of the April 9, 2019, Meeting be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Linstruth presented the Treasurer's Report and noted that after receiving suggestions the Treasurer's Report will have a different look next year. She went over the Treasurer's Report. Gift Cards is going to be renamed Scripps/Buddy Card Fundraising. The PTA is not allowed to issue gift cards and calling the line item by that name could imply that gift cards were issued by the PTA which has never been the case. Ms. Linstruth explained that money raised at the Art Fair is used for the Art Department, the same goes for the physical education department. The PTA has always approved the budget for next school year at the last PTA Meeting of the school year, but she wants to make sure that there is full discussion and review of the budget before it is presented. She will be reaching out to committee chairs over the summer for their input. As always Ms. Linstruth is available by phone or email. The PTA cannot spend money until the budget is approved and there are several expenses that occur in the summer. The PTA's fiscal year runs from July 1st - June 30th. **Upon Motion of Natalie Linstruth, second by Tiffany Strah that the PTA set aside \$6,000.00 for startup funds from July 1, 2019, until the budget is approved. Motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Puitz, asked about the balance on hand \$50,817.52. Ms. Linstruth stated that the money needs to be spent but the PTA needs to be mindful in its spending so that it will benefit everyone. She has been saying for years that there needs to be discussions regarding how to spend the funds, however, this year was a little different in that administration was focused with the construction of the secure entrance. Ms. Bullock asked if the teacher startup funds could be increased. Ms. Linstruth responded by saying that she would love nothing more than to give the teachers more startup funds, but that the teachers would need to turn in more receipts for items purchased and this would have to be monitored. Ms. Brown offered to help monitor receipts and Ms. King offered to send out a survey to teachers to identify their needs. Ms. Jackson asked when Kindergarten would be getting their smart boards. Ms. Linstruth advised that item would be discussed under Dr. Castleman's report. **Upon Motion of Sara Thompson, second by Gina Powers that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**
6. **Dr. Castleman's Corner:** Dr. Castleman apologized for missing the last PTA Meeting. She thanked the PTA for another amazing Staff Appreciation Week and loves the way the PTA supports the staff like no other. Dr. Castleman stated that she is grateful that all of the students are now receiving instruction in the building. The portable buildings are no longer in use for student instruction as a matter of keeping a secured building. To address Ms. Jackson's question about the smart boards, it was supposed to be a seamless transition and has taken a lot longer than anticipated to get Kindergarten their boards. It was thought that our technology team could install the boards but that was not the case. After receiving several quotes American Sound will do the install and needs two days to complete. Conveniently classes will not be in session on election day and the 22nd is field day so the install will take place on those two days. Dr. Castleman stated that Dr. O'Hara will be coming to a Site Based Council meeting to discuss Project Lead the Way and whether or not Hinsdale should commit to participating in the program. Dr. Castleman called for an open dialogue and welcomes questions. K-Prep testing will be Tuesday through Thursday of next week for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Dr. Castleman reported that a new cafeteria monitor has been hired and will work 10:30-1:30pm. The Site Based Council approved funding for this position. Funding was also approved for an additional interventionist along with Ms. Kuhlman. Ms. Schlotterbeck asked why there was one less teacher. Dr. Castleman explained that the Site Based Committee averages what the student numbers will be and how many teachers will be needed, along with the State's numbers and determines what will be

needed. Dr. Castleman stated that a minority parent is still needed on the Council. Ms. Chiang asked what happens if a minority parent is not placed. Ms. King stated that we would keep trying to make every effort to fill the position. Dr. Castleman announced that Assistant Principal Alex Fangman has accepted a position as Principal at Grants Lick Elementary School in Campbell County. She added that she is sad for Hinsdale but wishes Mr. Fangman the best. The Assistant Principal position at Hinsdale will be posted in the next day or so.

## **7. Committee Reports:**

- **Special Events** Mr. Powers stated they are looking for a special events chair.
- **Restaurant Nights** Mr. Powers reported that Ms. Collins will continue as chair of Restaurant Nights. The final LaRosas night will be on Wednesday, May 15th.
- **Someone Special Dance** The dance will be held on May 10th and help is needed with decorating for the event. It was mentioned that the \$20 ticket price is a little high. Mr. Powers noted that the dance is not a money-making event. There needs to be a discussion at a future meeting with regards to ticket pricing for the event.
- **Morning with Mom** Ms. Proffitt reported that Morning with Mom went well and she thanked the many great volunteers. Emily Rose is considering taking over the event from Ms. Proffitt but would need at least one other person to work with her. Mr. Powers thanked Ms. Proffitt for her years as chair of the event.
- **5th Grade Promotion** Ms. Brown and Mr. Strickley were present to report on the 5th Grade Promotion ceremony. Ms. Brown is concerned for the budget. She is putting the event on from scratch because there is no binder or notes to guide her. Ms. Brown stated that she should have reviewed the budget closer when beginning her planning because there are several items that in the past were greatly discounted, and also the original budget of \$1,500 was for holding the event in Hinsdale's gym. The event is now held at Turkeyfoot Middle School where there is no limit on how many people can come to the event. Also, there are a lot of food allergies in the 5th grade class so food costs will be a little higher to accommodate this. **Upon Motion of Jackie Schlotterbeck, second by Mary Ball that the PTA give \$700.00 in additional funds to the 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Staff Appreciation** Mr. Powers reported that Staff Appreciation week went well and he thanks Ms. Bullock, and Ms. Puitz for always putting on a great week for the teachers. Ms. Bullock stated that they scaled back on decorations this year, they had a beach theme and provided City BBQ, and Chik Fil A just to name a few. She added that they have been doing this event for 6 years and donations are down as compared to years past. Ms. Puitz noted that they have funds leftover and will try to do an additional lunch or breakfast for the staff around the last week of school. Ms. Puitz and Ms. Bullock thanked Ms. Brown for her help the week of Staff Appreciation.

## **8. Old Business:**

**Get to Know the PTA Night** - Mr. Powers feels the Get to Know night went well and he thanked those who stayed for the meeting. The next Get to Know the PTA night will be in late August early September, and fliers will be distributed to Kindergarten and First Grade. Mr. Powers asked for suggestions. It was suggested that chairs have pictures taken with their kids to put a face with a name. Ms. Schlotterbeck suggested stations for the different chaired events so that people can put an event with the chair's name. Mr. Powers thanked everyone for the suggestions and the event came together quickly. Mr. Powers suggested that the event take place in the gym next year.

**PTA Organizational Chart** Mr. Powers distributed the first draft of the PTA Organizational chart. The look and flow of how the chair positions look have changed to make them look less intimidating and know that there is someone the chair can turn to for help or information, and making sure events are nicely spaced. Communications was added under the Vice President of Membership in hopes of making communications more consistent.

**Open Positions** Mr. Powers reported that an email to the chairs was sent last week and there are a number of open positions. Contact Mr. Powers if interested. Ms. Chiang asked what positions are available. Mr. Powers stated that the following positions are available and are looking for a new chair; Carnival help, Mornings with Mom, Scripps/Buddy Card, 5th Grade Promotion, Special Events, Reflections, and Art Fair Coordinator.

9. **New Business: VP of Fundraising Election (2yr term)** - Mr. Powers thanked Ms. Ward, and Ms. Barkie for their service the last couple of years. **Upon Motion of Aimee Brown, second by Gina Powers that Sara Thompson be approved as the VP of Fundraising. Motion carried unanimously.**

Secretary Election (2yr. Term) - Mr. Powers stated that Ms. Wells is stepping back from the Secretary position, he thanked her for serving as Secretary for the past couple of years.

**Upon Motion of Ms. Chiang, second by Ms. Brown, that Jenny Bunnell serve as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Powers stated that the Bylaws of the PTA are due to be reviewed and sent to the State PTA. This should occur every 5 years. Ms. Schlotterbeck stated that the Bylaws should be open to be viewed by anyone who wishes to view them. Ms. Chiang agreed to be Bylaw Coordinator.

Ms. Ball stated that currently Candy Cane Corner does not have a store location in the building. She noted that there is a lot of planning that goes into running the store for 5 days in December and she would feel more comfortable knowing where the store will be. Dr. Castleman responded by saying that there could be vacancy in the building and we are not out of options. Ms. Ball reiterated that she would like to be able to plan for the space of the store.

**KY PTA** - Mr. Powers brought to the attention of those present at the PTA Meeting that a few parents contacted the Kentucky State PTA Board. Mr. Powers spent an hour talking with a member of the State PTA Board while at work answering their questions. The State PTA Board has indicated that Hinsdale's PTA has done nothing wrong. Mr. Powers stated that when he came on board as PTA President he was told that a lot of members did not feel comfortable with the PTA because of clickiness and during his tenure he has fought hard to be open and welcoming. Over the past week Mr. Powers has thought hard about stepping down as President. He would have liked if there were questions from parents if they would have come to him with questions before contacting the State Board. Mr. Powers continued by saying that he is not going to step down as President because he has done nothing wrong. He feels the PTA should work together as a united front for the school and the children and if there are questions please feel free to direct them to him, or Dr. Castleman, or the members of the Executive Board.

Ms. Schlotterbeck stated that she was one of the parents that contacted the KY State PTA Board. Her call was based on questions about who is involved in PTA decision making that

she did not feel was answered at the April PTA Meeting, and she has had a number of parents asking her personally. After the April Meeting where her question was not answered she did not feel comfortable seeking further clarification from Mr. Powers. Ms. Schlotterbeck noted that she was seeking clarification only, and contacting the State PTA should not be seen as an attack.

Ms. Strah stressed that there are many proper channels that can be used to get information from our PTA as a collective group.

Ms. Brown stated that as a PTA we are here to do what is best for the kids and feels that Ms. Schlotterbeck did nothing wrong.

Dr. Castleman stated that unfortunately there was a gap in communication that happened and she doesn't want anyone to be upset or have unresolved feelings in any situation. She apologized because had she been at the last meeting she could have spoken to all of those things and the situation could have been avoided.

Beth Wise stated that hopefully something positive can come from this situation as the PTA moves forward together. The PTA has bylaws, the information is available to everyone, they will be reviewed and hopefully if there are things we didn't know or aren't fully doing we can learn and move forward together.

Ms. Linstruth stated that she is a professional accountant and when you receive a call from the KY State PTA Board and have done nothing wrong you cannot help but feel that your character is being questioned. The PTA needs to read and review the bylaws, continue to be an open book, and if there are things that we can do better we should do that moving forward. She noted that Ms. Schlotterbeck does a great job and works hard as well as all the volunteers at Hinsdale.

Dr. Castleman stated that this has been an awkward and difficult situation for all of those involved but hopefully the PTA can move forward together and take away the positives from such a discussion.

Ms. Proffitt stated that people should attend the PTA Meeting each month and if there is a problem or question members should feel free to come to the meetings and voice their opinions. She suggested posting the Agenda before the PTA meeting so people know what is being discussed.

As Treasurer Ms. Linstruth stated that she has always been an open book and sees herself as very approachable. She doesn't blame someone for calling to get clarification, or more information, but the State PTA Board took the call as a formal complaint and that is hard not to take personally.

Ms. Ball asked if there are ever other meetings held where the full PTA is not present. Dr. Castleman answered by saying that occasionally the PTA Executive Board meets about items that need to be brought to the PTA for a full vote. She stressed that decisions are not made in isolation.

**10. Adjournment: Upon motion of Ms. Chiang, second by Ms. Beth King that the PTA meeting be adjourned.**