

# MINUTES

## UDHS Home & School Association

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*Date | time* Jan. 13, 2021 @7:05pm | *Meeting called to order by* Jamie Santora, President

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### In Attendance

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Jamie Santora, President; Allison McConnell, Vice President; Bill Caughlan, Secretary; Ed Troy, Treasurer; Kelley Simone, Principal; Jill Palladino, UDHS Assistant Principal; Stephanie Sitek, Assistant Principal Senior Class; David Neill, UD School Board representative; and 23 UDHS parents.

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### Approval of Minutes

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A motion to waive the reading of the meeting minutes from October 2020 was made, seconded and approved.

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### President's Message

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Jamie Santora welcomed everyone. He acknowledged and thanked the large number of parents attending. He understood that most were there to talk about the recent decision to cancel in-person graduation for a virtual one and asked that parents hold off questions/comments until the meeting gets to New Business. He also reiterated that three Home & School Board members will be stepping down at the end of this year and asked those in attendance to consider serving next year.

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### Principal's Update

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Ms. Simone presented her report. Highlights included:

- Changes to Act 158 will be affecting only those in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and under. Ms. Simone will be in contact with 10<sup>th</sup>-grade families soon regarding these changes and what will be required to graduate.
  - Finals start next week, beginning January 19, 2021. The schedule is posted online.
  - The Climate and Culture Committee will be hosting a virtual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The theme will be "What is Your Life's Blueprint." Attendees will be encouraged to find ways to serve their communities in socially distant ways.
  - Announcements will be sent home soon concerning the material return plan. Both return and material distribution for next month will be staggered over two days.
  - The UDHS Equity Team is currently planning Black History Month activities. Stay tuned.
  - There will be no relief for state testing. They are required to administer Keystone Tests. Look out for adjustments to schedules. Some will be virtual, some in-person. Same for advanced placement.
  - Class of 2021 events are in the planning stages. Members of the Senior Class are involved in the planning. They still plan on having all scholarship, and other awards ceremonies virtually, much like last year. Prom has been cancelled and for now, graduation will be virtual. Ms. Simone said she does not want to give anyone false hopes.
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### Budget

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Ed Troy stated that very little money has been coming in. Currently there is \$17,491.90 in the Home & School account.

Jamie Santora stated that this might sound like a lot of money, but \$6,000 of that money will be going to pay for scholarships. Home & School will also be contributing to whatever is planned for graduation, just like last year. Bill Caughlan shared that a letter has gone out to parents asking them to join Home & School. These parents joining will hopefully add to the fund.

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## Committee Reports

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### Committee reports

- Fundraising: Speaking of money, Jamie announced that over \$700 has been raised through sale of the online spirit wear store. The store will soon be selling Class of 2021 merchandise, including banners and signs. Stay tuned for a raffle for a Yeti cooler.

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## New Business

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Discussion of the cancelation of in-person graduation and plans for a virtual graduation began. Jamie Santora reminded attendees that the Home & School Association had nothing to do with the decision. We are just here to serve as a platform for discussion.

Ms. Simone reported that a committee for graduation has formed. If anyone would like to join they are welcome, just contact her and she will include you in the Zoom meeting list.

In answer to the question, if this was a final decision, Ms. Simone said yes. She does not want to give false hopes. She explained that there is no way they can pivot at the last minute. Temple University needs to be able to plan ahead for their venue. As things stand there is no way to properly socially distance at the Temple venue. The number of graduates (847) and family members that would attend is well over COVID-19 restriction capacity. They are hoping the Graduation Committee can come up with creative ideas.

Ms. Simone said that diplomas, diploma covers have been ordered. They are looking into getting caps and gowns. She shared that there will be a District-wide Home & School meeting tomorrow and this will be covered by Dr. McGarry as well.

In answer to the question about having graduation over a week or two at the UDHS football field, Ms. Simone said that they can look at that, but it would be difficult. She said to have in-person graduation the positivity rate needs to be at 5%, right now it's 11%.

One parent asked if there was a drop-dead date that graduation plans need to be decided. Ms. Simone said end of February. One parent who works for the Philadelphia School District shared that this was a very generous date, Philadelphia School's date was in the fall. He also shared that he has seen time and again at school events in the city, people asked to socially distant in group activities, but as soon as things get started, folks are getting too close, people are hugging, and masks are not properly worn.

No more questions were asked. Ms. Simone ended by saying that all ideas can be discussed and considered, but she wanted to be clear that the school is planning for a virtual graduation. She does not want anyone at the meeting to think that because she's willing to look at other ideas that this means she's changed her mind. She has not. Graduation will be virtual.

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## Next Meeting

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February 10, 2021, Via Zoom and/or You Tube. A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.