

MINUTES

UDHS Home & School Association

Date | time Oct. 14, 2020 @7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Jamie Santora, President

In Attendance

Jamie Santora, President; Bill Caughlan, Secretary, Kelley Simone, Principal; David Neill, School Board Representation; Betsy McGuire, parent; Muhammad Abdul-Mubdi; Jamar Alston, parent. There were about 9 other parents there, but they did not sign in.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to waive the reading of the meeting minutes from March 2020, our last meeting before the COVID-19 lockdown, was made, seconded and approved.

President's Message

Jamie welcomed all the new parents in attendance and introduced the members of the Board, Allison McConnell and Ed Troy were unable to attend. He recognized that we had not had a meeting since March due to the pandemic and expressed hope that we could continue from here on using Zoom and/or You Tube platforms. Principal Simone was introduced as well as Mr. Neill. Ms. Simone was then given the floor for her monthly update. We updated the group on where we were as an organization. Not much has gone on over the past eight months due to the pandemic. We have had no meetings since March. Jamie went over all we do as an organization. It was stated that we definitely not be having a fall flea market. We hope to be able to have a spring flea market and host After Prom, but that it looks like we are going to have to play this by ear. If we do end up having any of these we will need volunteers. We hope will be possible. A motion to elect Kim was made by Tony Wang and seconded by David Jaffe. All present voted in favor, and Kim Abercrombie was confirmed as the new Secretary.

Principal's Update

Principal Simone presented her report

- PSATs had been administered that day as well as MAP testing. She stated that PSATs for 10th grade will be held in the spring.
- The School Board approved the new UDHS graduation venue, The Liacouras Center at Temple University. Planning is in the works. Families will be able to obtain 4-5 tickets now instead of 2.
- School plan highlights were shared, these will all be presented at a meeting on October 27 at 6pm. Go to UDHS website for details
- UDHS was approved to be a Targeted Support Improvement school, TSI. The school will be using this to help improve their ability to help students with disabilities.
- There will be no Keystone tests in the spring
- Keystone data from last year shows that the school is improving greatly and though they have not reached the state benchmarks, they have improved from 54 to 85 in career benchmarks. President

Santora recognized that this was a tremendous improvement and that the state should recognize schools that have improved so much.

- The reading program: they found 471 needed reading intervention last year. They able to help 180 reach grade level by the end of the school year and another 70 since then.
- They continue to work on graduation rates

Parent Questions

- What are the chances of having Prom? Answer: Ms. Simone said she just doesn't know. Everything is up in the air. Her main focus is having a graduation ceremony. If things improve late in the game we might be able to have a Prom. Jamie said the Home & School could also host a scaled back After Prom. Ms. Simone promised to be honest and transparent as the pandemic continues.

Budget

The budget report was waived, as Treasurer Ed Troy was unable to attend. Jamie reported that the Home & School has about \$20 thousand in the account.

Committee Reports

Committee reports

- There were no committees reports at this time.
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New Business

Jamie reported

- Depending on how long the pandemic lasts the Home & School hopes to be able to host the staff appreciation lunch, spring flea market, and the After Prom. We will need parental volunteers to help.
- The entire Home & School Board is going out this year. Please consider taking on a role as a board member.
- Esther Bubb, the Home & School co-president had to resign. The Home & School Association greatly appreciated all of her help over the past year.
- With the vacancy for the Home & School co-president, we will need a replacement. Asking parents to consider this.
- Fundraising: Jamie is looking into H & S having an online raffle; we are also considering a clothing drive later in the year; fall flea market is out, spring flea market is up in the air; Jamie will work on getting a UDHS spirit wear web store up and running within a few weeks. Stay tuned.

David Neill reported

- The School Board was able to get the marching band a new trailer (this was GREATLY NEEDED);
- Restrooms in the High School are all being renovated;
- New security equipment was installed; there are new procedures for entering the school – Everyone must enter through main entrance;
- All classrooms are getting cameras to be used for offsite learning and security;

- COVID-19 protections for upcoming (November 9) hybrid learning was discussed, a link for a video that explains procedures will be sent out

Jamar Alston, UDHS parent expressed kind words of how professionally the school has handled all of this during these difficult times.

Next Meeting

November 11, 2020, Via Zoom and/or You Tube

The meeting adjourned at 8pm