

FRIENDS OF THE HGM, INC.
Minutes

From: Judy McKelvey
To: Board Members
Subject: Minutes -- Board of Directors Meeting, April 28, 2010
Attendees: Harry Geozian, Judy McKelvey, Fern Wallach, Nita Dixit, Brent Lowensohn, Eugene Woo, Rowena Borja
Guests: Phyllis Spadafora, 9 additional HGM Parents

1. Call to Order

The meeting was held in Kennedy Room 109, and called to order at 6:40 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Judy did not have the minutes from the 4/7/10 meeting ready for presentation for approval. She will complete and forward those minutes to all Board member by email within the next week. Brent moved to vote for approval of 4/7 minutes by email, and Harry seconded. Motion passed unanimously without objection.

3. Coordinator's Report -- Phyllis Spadafora

Phyllis presented a calendar of events for the rest of the academic year.

HGM School Leadership council will be meeting tomorrow (Steve Page and Aviva Heston are HGM parent members of this group).

AP exam handout (blue sheet) has instructions about test taking dates, times, requirements, and materials. All students have received this handout. Everything needed for the test, including pencils, calculators, photo IDs, small snack (and nothing else, including cell phones) must be brought to the test site in a clear ziploc bag. Students should leave their phones and other belongings in school lockers. If they miss the bus from school, they cannot take the test. Students taking afternoon tests will get back late, possibly not earlier than 5:30 pm. Make sure students sleep and eat well before the tests, and that they arrive at school on time.

District budgetary problems have translated into a shorter school year; information has already gone out to parents.

Orientation for incoming HGM students will take place on June 18. We expect a total of 82 confirmed incoming freshman for 2010-2011.

Kirsten and Phyllis have been working on the California Year-End Evaluation re: Alternative Schools; this is a very detailed report and has taken a significant amount of

time and effort to prepare. Phyllis distributed an HGM Parent Questionnaire that will be used as part of this report.

Budget -- Many of our annual expenses are now coming due (e.g., Senior Night, Yosemite trip, etc.) Phyllis requests that Friends allocate the following funds to supplement HGM senior expenses: graduation sashes \$100, senior night \$750, petty cash \$100, incoming HGM orientation \$200, Yosemite trip funds (TBA, maybe up to \$1000), and funds to hire Iris Abrams to help with diplomas up to \$200 for past and future work on these. Brent moved that Friends approve such funding up to said amounts as necessary, and Nita seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously without objection.

Website -- Nancy Zekioglu is working with Phyllis on this.

Life skills and Health online options will hopefully continue next year. We are also looking at possibility of doing some home-based PE options; anyone interested in same should send their student to the HGM office. School psychology counseling services are going to continue next year; we are very grateful for that support.

4. Coordinator Position -- Group Discussion

Harry updated developments since our 4/7/10 discussion on this issue. We, along with Portola Middle School HGM parents, have presented possible criteria to be used to decide which coordinator positions will be cut (this as opposed to the current plan, which is to arbitrarily cut every magnet coordinator position to half-time). The District and District Board members Yolie Alvarez, Tamar Galatzan, and possibly Steve Zimmer are trying to get this matter raised and discussed on the Board before any cuts are made. This is an ongoing process; we don't yet know when the final budget will be voted on and approved. Phyllis says that as of now, Office of Student Integration is only funding our HGM Coordinator position half-time for next year, but Delling has agreed to fund the other 50% time for next year. As previously discussed, this isn't a long-term solution. We also face probable cuts of all magnet counselors; we need to respond to this shortfall as well.

Brent again brought up the importance of publicizing the need for, and success of, our program. Talk to the media, etc. to get our story out on a regular, repetitive basis. We should consider forming a parent subcommittee to spearhead and coordinate this effort; perhaps Thom Horowitz and other parents might take the first steps in getting this function going. Thom is already trying to put some pieces together; he's met with a couple of education-oriented California assembly members to try to get them on board.

We are still working towards binding the student letters we've received re: our program and the coordinator position, along with letters written by teachers, parents, college admissions people, etc. for distribution to strategic/key people. This needs to be finished and we need to get it into the right hands.

Judy made a motion to create “public affairs” subcommittee that includes at least one board member and at least one non-board member parent to deal with these political and media issues (2 paras above), and that that subcommittee will report back to the board with progress update no later than the next board meeting; motion seconded by Brent. Motion passed with unanimous approval without objection.

Discussion about Board members on this new subcommittee. Judy volunteered to do this and to help coordinate, supported by Brent and Fern. Non-board member HGM parents Thom Horowitz, Steve Page, and Shih-Hua Liu agreed to serve on this subcommittee. (Nita suggests that we get a Media Kit together for distribution to media types, etc.)

We also need to find a way to reach our non-English speaking parents. Shih-Hua Liu volunteered to take on this task for the Chinese parents, and to figure out how to do the same for the Korean-speaking parents. Tina Kim isn't here tonight, but she will probably help Shih-Hua Liu with that task. Phyllis says she thinks she can get LAUSD translators (with headsets) for HGM general parent meetings.

5. Website Update -- Group Discussion led by Fern Wallach

Fern discussed the fact that the HGM website could be used to distribute HGM calendars and other HGM-related information on our HGM website, thereby disseminating helpful information more widely. Phyllis will talk to Kirsten to find out if she would be willing to put in a couple of extra hours every month to work on this project. We may also solicit a parent to work on this project.

6. Treasurer's Report -- Rowena Borja

Rowena distributed her Cash Balance Report as of April 28, 2010.

7. Annual Fund Drive / Fundraising Taskforce -- Gene, Judy

82 families have contributed to annual pledge drive (38%), with a total of approximately \$31,000. Judy, Gene, and Cheryl Holland are discussing ideas for future additional fundraising and community-building events. This may be further discussed at the next Board meeting. Gene was congratulated on a job very well done this year on the annual drive. Possible events for consideration include ballroom dancing lessons, dinner dance for parents only, movie dinner nights for students, silent auction, etc.

8. Parent Meetings -- Gene

This year we've had a college financial aid meeting for HGM parents (2/2010) and a college admissions information meeting (3/2010). We need to have additional parent meetings re: HGM general information and the picnic, both in the fall of the 2010-2011 academic year. We will discuss possible dates for these at the next board meeting (picnic tentatively 10/3; HGM general information meeting possibly 9/15?)

9. Old Business

SAT preparation courses -- Revolution has not responded to our requests for further information. That leaves Eureka!, which can make its West L.A. office available for our students. We are still looking for a site that's closer to NHHS, but so far have had no success; we will keep looking for possible sites that might be available over the summer. Rowena and Gene will continue looking for alternate sites closer to NHHS.

10. New Business

We need a parent (or two) to take over the HGM picnic planning committee for fall 2010; they need not be a Board member. We hope to have that person(s) in line by next meeting so they can meet with the Smiths to take over the reins. Harry will contact the Smiths to ask them to set up an email for the Friends network briefly describing the picnic tasks and soliciting someone(s) to head up the task force.

11. Public Comment

Parents contributed to discussions re coordinator position, as above.

12. Next Board Meeting

Is on May 26, 2010 at 6:45 pm, Room 109 in Kennedy Hall. Harry to send out email to parents in advance encouraging them to come

13. Adjournment

Brent moved to adjourn at 8:33, Nita seconded. With unanimous consent without objection, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.