

# Minutes

## Homestead Parents Club Meeting

### September 15, 2016

Start time 11:09 am

**Present:** (14 attendees) Heather Wilcox, President; Karen Kirby, Treasurer; Elizza Wesner, Secretary; Liz Auger, Jennifer Kennedy, Shannon Doswell, Jessica Hoff, Chris Perez, Deb Norman, Cindy Volk, Anita DiGregory, Susan Shanz, Andrea Schichner, and Linda Swartz

#### Welcome by Heather Wilcox, President.

- Heather recently attended the SACS Presidents Council. This group is comprised of all PTC Presidents in the district and the Homestead High School Parent Club President.
- Stacey Fleming, SACS Director of District Communications, presented the results of the survey that was available during online registration back in August. “The survey was designed to gather data concerning how our families receive information, how often they use various tools available, and what other means should be investigated to improve overall SACS communications” per Stacey Fleming.
- 3,827 responses: How do you WANT to receive information—78% email, 59% text, 45% newsletters, 29% website, 28% US mail and 22% Canvas. As you can see, there isn’t one definitive answer. Stacey will work diligently to create a program together which will effectively reach as many SACS parents and families as possible.
- To review the results please visit the SACS website [www.sacs.k12.in.us](http://www.sacs.k12.in.us) and look for the title “Communication Survey Results”
- At the Presidents Council, Dr. Downs shared with the group the three areas he will focus on immediately: Performance surveys to parents, students, and teachers; an audit for the Gifted & Talented Program which will be conducted by Ball State University; and facility upgrades especially the HVAC system at Homestead High School.
- Heather asked the group, “What topics would you like addressed at our meetings?” The responses were the following:
  - A speaker to address how to communicate with our teenagers
  - Steve Lake’s “Resiliency” talk
  - Officer Heriot’s presentation on drugs, alcohol, and the dangers of social media and the risks associated with mobile phones, i.e. privacy issue

#### Guest Speaker, Park Ginder, Principal

- Homestead High School was named by Newsweek as One of America’s Top High Schools of 2016. This was published in August of 2016. Homestead was ranked #480. The following Indiana high schools were also mentioned: Signature School #85 (Charter school, located in Evansville, IN), Crown Point HS #114, Carmel HS #182, and Zionsville Community HS #244.
- The recent heroin overdoses and drug use can be addressed during Advisory Period.
- Mr. Ginder discussed the elimination of the End of Course Assessment (ECA). Students are now measured via the ISTEP. It was observed that Algebra scores fell when the material is tested months or even years after completing Algebra.

#### Karen Kirby, Parents Club Treasurer

- Karen presented the 2016-2017 Treasurer report and budget
- We are thankful to have nearly doubled membership dues. This will enable The Parents Club to award more grants and to serve the staff and students at Homestead High School.
- Karen asked the group for suggestions on how we can invest in our high school. One parent suggested we create a Homestead HS community service program. We would provide the marketing, t-shirts, and transportation to the event.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm