

## **Hershey Middle School BAT Meeting Minutes January 5, 2022**

- The PTO does not hold a January meeting. BAT meetings take place prior to PTO meetings since the same people attend both. This month's BAT meeting was designed as an open forum for questions. The following questions were raised:
- There was a concern for students standing outside in the cold before school. The group was informed that students are permitted to enter the building through the bus corral entrance and sit in the auditorium while waiting for homeroom to begin. Students are supervised by school administration as the teachers are not contracted to begin working until 7:23.
- There was a concern that students are not assigned lockers. The group was informed that the students were not assigned lockers initially because of safety concerns. Early in the school year, we decided to have students sit in individual student desks during lunch in order to prevent the spread of Covid. Some of these desks are blocking lockers that we would need to assign to students. We also reminded everyone that students are permitted to leave their coat in homeroom during the day. We agreed to look at some other options to allow us to assign lockers to students.
- There were some general questions about other events including field trips, socials and Mini-Thon. We agreed to provide an update on these for the next BAT meeting.

## **Hershey Middle School BAT Meeting Minutes February 2, 2022**

### **School Operations:**

#### **Masking**

With regard to masking, the school board has collected the recommendations of the Health and Safety committee along with community concerns. They will be meeting to determine when and under what circumstances the district will move to making masking optional.

#### **Lockers**

The individual student desks used for lunch are spread in areas that block access to student lockers. The most recent student lunch seat selection at the beginning of the marking period allows us to remove some of the seats that are blocking the lockers. We are working on assigning lockers to students in the next few weeks.

### **Student Events:**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are investigating a possible early spring trip to Harrisburg to visit the Whitaker Center and tour the capital.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students missed out on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Kenbrooke trip and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip. We are organizing a special lunch for them to enjoy while they are on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Gettysburg.

### **Update About HMS Mini-THON**

On Thursday February 20, 2020, HMS finished our record-breaking Mini-THON where we raised \$31,214.70. At that time, little did we know a few short weeks later, we'd experience the start of a pandemic that has now lasted almost two years. Mini-THON in 2021 at HMS did not occur as we all tried to navigate the difficult school year. As the 2021-2022 school year commenced, the Mini-THON teacher committee began to discuss what the 2022 Mini-THON would look like. While we can't do the multitude of activities offered in 2020, we still wanted to be able to support the Found Diamonds Foundation. We set a goal of raising \$10,000 by February 25, 2022.

In February, we will be doing a T-shirt sale, to promote the HMS Mini-THON. T-shirt order envelopes will be sent home with students on Monday, January 31st. An image of the T-shirt can be found at our website: [www.hmsminithon.com](http://www.hmsminithon.com) under the 'Important Dates & Information' tab. Orders and money will be due to homeroom teachers by Friday, February 4th. No late orders will be accepted. T-shirts will be delivered in mid-February.

Our main fundraiser to reach our \$10,000 goal will be our Paper Diamonds Fundraiser. On February 7th, students will receive a manila envelope with a donation page attached to it. Students can ask their friends and family to support Four Diamonds through a donation of cash or check (payable to Four Diamonds). Students who return their donation envelopes to school from February 16th to 18th will receive a Mini-THON themed prize for their participation. More details about the Paper Diamonds Fundraiser can be found under the 'Important Dates & Information' tab at [www.hmsminithon.com](http://www.hmsminithon.com).

Our grand total will be announced at the end of the school day on Friday, February 25th. To date, HMS Mini-THON has raised over \$193,000 during the past nine Mini-THON events. Hitting our goal of \$10,000 would push us over the \$200,000 mark!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the teacher committee members listed at the bottom of the HMS Mini-THON website. Dori Hammer, Victoria Masse and Kate Frenz  
HMS Mini-THON Teacher Committee

Announcements:

### **Lost & Found**

There are numerous items there: clothing, coats, sweatshirts, water bottles, glasses, books, binders,, ear buds... you name it, it's there... and it's FULL. We are asking families to remind their students that if they are missing something or not even sure if they lost something, please stop by and check the Lost & Found.

### **Substitute Teacher Need**

We are in need of qualified substitute teachers. When we are short on substitutes, teachers miss valuable professional development opportunities in order to cover a colleague's class. If you or someone you know is home during the day and completed a bachelor's degree in any area, you

can be a substitute teacher. Please contact Erick Valentin, Hershey Middle School Principal, for more information.