

CVHS PTO General Meeting via Zoom  
February 16, 2023 at 7pm

- I. President - Maria Calzada
  - A. Call to Order at 7:00 pm
  - B. Good evening Carnegie, welcome to the PTO meeting. My name is Maria Calzada, PTO President. You should have gotten an email last night with the agenda and PTO minutes. If you did not get the email, then please check your spam and make sure you are signed up.
  - C. Quickly, I wanted to go through a few points. First, we have our Program Planner and a QR code. If you scan this it takes you to a google form. If you are trying to request something from the PTO, that is the fastest way to get that information to all of the Board members.
  - D. National Counselor Appreciation week was the first week of February. We had a sign out in front of the school, and we had a lunch. We want to thank Alexandria and then entire committee that does the monthly teacher appreciation lunch.
  - E. We are in the process of doing a year round Amazon wish list. We tried to beautify multiple staff and faculty areas, and we have used the PTO budget to staff those areas. None of these things are must haves, but wish items.
  - F. Finally our Valentines day one day fundraising raised over \$2500. That was an amazing fundraising effort. Want to thank everyone that contributed.
  - G. Secretary Aparna presenting the minutes. The video and transcribed minutes are also on the Vanguardian website. No questions, motion to approve. Minutes are publicly posted. Susan Hawes motion to approve, seconded by Mary.
  
- II. Secretary - Aparna Jotwani
  - A. Secretary Aparna presenting the minutes. The video and transcribed minutes are also on the Vanguardian website. No questions, motion to approve. Minutes are publicly posted. Susan Hawes motion to approve, seconded by Mary.
  
- III. Treasurer's Report - Mala Gupta - out
  - A. We don't have our Treasurer's report because Mala is traveling. But all of our reports are available on the website. All of the forms and reports are available on our website.
  - B. Again, the recent Valentine's day campaign earned us over \$2500.
  
- IV. Communications - Mary Mathias
  - A. Good evening everybody. From communications and IT there are two things I want to talk about. I think parents prefer updates through email and social media. If you are a parent that prefers emails and newsletter, then make sure you sign up through Membership Toolkit.
  - B. We are also active on Facebook and Instagram. If you prefer to get updates there, make sure you are on the PTO fanpage and closed community group. There parents, PTO and school members are there.

- C. Please make sure you are part of it, and sign up so you stay up to date. We are trying to reach you through whatever avenues we can.
  - D. Next year we will try to converge to a single tool, most likely Membership toolkit.
- V. Membership & Volunteers - Gauri Semlani
- A. We have had a busy start of the year. We are halfway through, but still need a lot of volunteers for the remaining activities we have planned.
  - B. Please go to [Vanguardian.org](http://Vanguardian.org), and check out our activities and sign up. Some things we have done are the College Information Zoom sessions. We are talking about how to make that program larger. If you have ideas, then wait to the end of the meeting and we will do breakout rooms to discuss and support us.
  - C. Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation committee, led by Alex.
  - D. In addition, we had volunteers for Ms. Moumni's committee
  - E. And thank you for those parents who volunteered for the Valentine's Day dance.
  - F. We are also nominating for next year's Board. If you are interested and have time, please send email and express your interest. We would love to bring in more engaged parents. We will be forming a Nominating committee. I will talk about that in my breakout session.
- VI. Special Events VP - Jacky
- A. I would want to quickly ask parents for any ideas of student appreciation events that we can do for them. We had to reschedule our October event because of the weather and Astros. I would love to do something like a movie night.
  - B. You can reach me at [specialevents@cvhspto.org](mailto:specialevents@cvhspto.org)
  - C. Allison Moorehad is our chair for our spring event, Crash Bash. The event is going to be not-formal but fun. Yes we would prefer you to wear and outfit from home and put your money in the Carnegie pot. It is April 30th from 5:30-8:30pm, at Flight Club which is a darts place. We will also have an auction and we are looking for underwriters for that, and also to buy tickets. It is adults only. I will also have a breakout session to talk more about it.
- VII. FACE Rep - Susan Hawes
- A. They are having us do a walk through on February 18, 2023 just after drop off. They want to know what parents see when they walk through the school.
  - B. I want to draw everybody's attention to the Board of Trustess where they are having meetings to have community feedback. It is always important to remind them that our school serves all students.
  - C. Thank you for representing us at the PTO Expo a few weeks ago.
- VIII. Senior Events - Jaymie Turner
- A. Good evening everyone. My name is Jaymie Turner, and I am the Senior Parent. A few updates is to ask of you to be able to share with you some things about what to expect during Senior Year. The Seniors would appreciate it. We want to

send our Seniors out beautifully. My email is [seniorparent@cvhspto.org](mailto:seniorparent@cvhspto.org). Then you can shadow or get involved

- B. We have our first event coming up, Senior Brunch, Wednesday, March 1, 2023. There will be food, games and music. During advocacy and lunch. Please email to get more information.

IX. Principal's Report - Mr. Ramon Moss

- A. Good evening everyone, thank you for being here, we have thirty some parents here.
- B. Monday is a holiday for Presidents Day for students.
- C. Next Friday February 24th is the end of cycle #4. A week from then is report cards.
- D. Let me thank the PTO for everything you do to support students, faculty, staff and administration. We really appreciate all your participation.
- E. Another piece of great news, the organization Children at Risk did it's annual ranking of best schools, and Carnegie is number one in the high schools. There was a press release on Monday morning. It is cause for celebration.
- F. On Tuesday we had our Valentine's pep rally. There prize is having Monday off. We want to celebrate at least with a pizza party. Our secretary is reaching out to vendors. We're very proud.
- G. I wanted to mention a little bit about the budget. That applies to our current school year. Last year at this time principals were asked to make an estimate for enrollment. That is the snapshot date. We were 19 students over my predication. So in January, last month, we received additional funding, ~\$43,000. So we are meeting extra needs from teachers now. One of the big ticket items is the irrigation system. There are three components of the building, the perimeter where a lot of the plants have died due to the broken irrigation. We want to fix that before we get new plants. There is also the athletic fields and then the green roof. There is a class, Wildlife for short, that work on components of the school. Irrigation is going to be a critical factor. I have gotten some good feedback on vendors.
- H. Another things is updating our sound system in the gym. For this past Valentine's day dance, we rented a sound system. We would like to have something more permanent.
- I. In terms of next year, we don't have any solid figures, but central office has notified us that we are running a deficit. This may reduce our PUA. Not only in HISD schools but central administration. We may have a 5% decrease in our general funding. We are trying to put some information together. We are trying to do some things to help, such as increase our enrollment. We won't know that until after Spring Break. We can also try to increase our daily attendance. Our attendance is 97-98%, which is great. This is part of our funding for next year.
- J. Hopefully I appeased everybody with the good news. Next I am going to try and explain Attendance laws, that HISD has misunderstood. Not just Carnegie, but HISD. The state monitors attendance, and with our better understanding of state

laws, Mr. Garner and I are going to provide some more information. If your student received an asterisk \* on their report card, it means your student is reaching the limit of excused and unexcused absences. There is a helpful link regarding attendance on the left side of our webpage.

X. Adjourn Meeting -> Special Program with Mr. Garner on Attendance