

HMS PTO Minutes
October 19, 2017

I. **Present:** Ann, Steph, Hillary, Corinna, Rachel M., Tara K., Laurie, Alison, Elizabeth M.

II. **PTO News**

a. **Paypal:** Rachel said we had trouble collecting money for calendars, so she set up Square and Paypal accounts so people can pay with credit cards (though we'll probably dump the Square account). Anybody selling something for the PTO can get the password from Rachel and go right into the account. You don't need a card reader, though there is one. You can just punch in the credit card number.

b. **Boxtops, Amazon Smile, Field Goods:** Ann just redid the advertising. Susan Eckhart is the leader of Boxtops. November is the last drive. They missed it last year, but hope this year all the boxtops collected will go in. Corinna has transferred over Amazon Smile – people should talk it up. 0.5% of purchase goes into an account for PTO. It adds up. Field Goods: A dollar per bag ordered per week is donated. They pay quarterly.

II. **PTO Sub-committee Reports**

a. **Art Sub-committee:** Laurie said this sub-committee is doing installations for Open Houses: Bright Ideas and Meadowfest. Laurie was confused about the divide between fund-raising and ideas in sub-committee. Members have a lot of ideas. Items: Calendar; t-shirts; auction/art auction. Monument project: Kids participate in making sculptures around grounds. An Art Week/Month where there's art everywhere. After-care volunteering with artsy parents for volunteer hours. Parent and Me workshops. Field trips to local museums, studios, art classes, etc. School bulletin board on web site (informal). Unofficial parents group/Facebook. Laurie asked about a school store/canteen that could sell after-school snacks and High Meadow merchandise. Steph said that's a school function, though the Art subcommittee can help. As per the last PTO meeting, Rochelle is organizing an after-school snack table/canteen to sell things to benefit PTO.

b. **PTO Sub-committees:** A determination was made that these sub-committees are PTO: Library/B&N Bookfair, Art, Yearbook, Building/Grounds, Fiesta Latina, Social Justice.

c. **Online Auction:** Steph reported that there

will be no big party like last year. There will be a nice art opening instead. They want to work with the Art sub-committee and use the new coffee shop Carthaigh for the event. Laurie discussed potential of doing a separate art auction online through a program like Bidding for Good (but a different site specific to art). Artsy parents tapping into artist networks. Having a live auction. Steph was skeptical of a big gala and live auction, but suggested that further discussion could be had and perhaps the school could get rid of Ride the Ridge and do a gala/live auction instead. Corinna suggested we do the art auction site first, get seed money and do a gala next year. March 10-19 is the online auction. Laurie will go back to art subcommittee to see if this would work.

III. PTO New Business

a. **Teacher Appreciation idea:** The once-a-year lunch is overwhelming, so much food gets thrown out. Steph suggested four smaller appreciation lunches. A way for the Board to show appreciation for teachers. Corinna suggested having these on Staff Development Days, because they're all together. A date was discussed. December no good. Maybe one in spring and Staff Days, so three days.