



HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES
PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Virtual Meeting held on April 20, 2020

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

- Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm by Nicole Rothschild, President of HSAS PTA.
- Executive Board attendees: Nicole Rothschild, Cindy Parra, Stephen Friedgood, Joanna Brody, Eric Weinberg, Jorge Ramirez, Dan Jacob, Eniko Horvath, Nora McCauley, Wendi Lee and Juliet Ragaishis

Opening Remarks – Nicole Rothschild, PTA President

- The PTA understands the difficulty of navigating this crisis and remote learning and is committed to supporting the school and the students.
- **Condolences for** Denis Murphy and Officer Castro.

Principals Report – Mr. Weiss

- Presently, the National Guard is utilizing the school building and parking lot for COVID-19 testing.
- Several students and parents are sick, unemployed or students are assisting in childcare while their parents are healthcare workers. The administration of HSAS is working to assist students with technology and emotional support when needed.
- **Seniors** - Graduation will be held virtually if we cannot have a live ceremony in June; hopefully there will be a ceremony in August. Prom may have to be canceled or postponed, the hotel (Marriott Marquis) is being used by medical workers. **Yearbook** is being printed; distributing it is going to be a challenge.
- Please feel free to place condolences for Mr. Murphy online.
- **Exams** – AP exam will be 45 minutes, open book w/essay. Contact colleges with criteria, but best to take it.
- **Grades** – Waiting on guidance from DOE on grading parameters. Could be pass/fail or letter grades.
- **Budgets** – school budgets are coming from the DOE. Expectations are that it will not be good.

Treasurer's Report – Jorge Ramirez

- Currently there is \$375k in the bank, down from \$430k due to expenses, including a \$50k check to the school. Contributions since last meeting are \$28k.

New Business – Nicole Rothschild, PTA President

- The online auction is extended to May 6.
- Minutes from January and February are voted on and passed.
- **Committees** - Need volunteers for next year's PTA and committees. We will send emails about all committee commitments to interested parties.
- Thank you to Paula for her efforts in scheduling the meeting.

New Business – Nicole Rothschild, PTA President

- Guest speaker on Wednesday, April 29th is Jonathon Shapiro discussing College Essay Writing via Zoom.

Q&A/Discussion with Mr. Weiss:

- High school decisions are delayed. If parents are willing to talk to potential students regarding HSAS, please email us. Without Open House it is difficult to communicate with incoming freshman.
- **Attendance** – Attendance is good. We send out reminders and reach out to 25-30 students a day if they do not check in.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.