

**UAHS PTO General Membership Meeting  
Upper Arlington High School Learning Center  
September 21, 2017**

**Attendees:** Emily Gerber, Cathy Pultz, Jenny DeCapua, Aimee White, Kristen Greenberg, Kellie Ali, Laura Hellstedt, Ann DeVoe, Melissa Ford, Debbie Jerman, Marti Underwood, Diane Hobson, Kim Kinatader, Kris Ferraro, Stacy Lilly, Sue Pohl, Xiaokui Mo, Dave Berk, Molly Brenner, Gail Hervey

**I. Welcome & Introductions – Cathy Pultz**

**II. Paul Imhoff - Superintendent Upper Arlington School District**

Paul thanked all for a great start to the 2017-2018 school year. We are preparing for the levy vote on November 7th, 2017.

So far, there are 70 coffee talks scheduled with limited spots left. Thirty of these 70 have been done, 10 of which are happening this week.

Paul is hearing that some people want us to rebuild the high school first and wonder why we would not go that route. The reasons why we chose to not follow that path are that our knowledgeable financial committee recommended it was not a smart business decision. This is based upon the facts that construction costs will only rise the longer we wait, interest rates will increase with time and that we are one of the top 10 fastest growing school districts in the state. Waiting to rebuild the elementary schools would only cost more time, more money and more taxes. Our goal is to spend the least amount possible.

Some Upper Arlington residents are concerned that we are trying to build the equivalent of the Taj Mahal. This is not the case - we will be building a normal building.

We cannot compare the school we are trying to build to other area schools that have been built. We cannot do an apples-to-apples comparison because not every school district reports costs the same way. Upper Arlington has put in every possible cost such as landscaping, any fees related to building, etc. Other districts have listed only construction costs and no other costs

associated with building. Hilliard Bradley High School has generously shared their building costs which has allowed us to conduct a comparison.

Our budget is escalated in comparison to Hilliard Bradley's costs for the following reason: 1. Our costs are adjusted to show the 2019 inflation. 2. Our costs reflect the inclusion of a natatorium which we have as part of the current building structure. Some struggle with the addition of a natatorium because they argue that a low percentage of students use the pool. A small percentage of students also use other areas of the school as well such as the football stadium and other athletic areas. 3. We are including a performance level auditorium which seats 1,500 people. This space can also be used as part of other community events. 3. Our design includes quality finishes and systems in order to extend the life span of the new school. The new school will be built to last 50 to 60 years so we will need good HVAC systems, other mechanicals, etc. Hilliard Bradley and Olentangy's budgets are identical with our's without these "add-ons". It will be beneficial to continue to gain cross-revenue streams such as the auditorium which brings in \$100,000 annually.

Residents ask about our Plan B. There is no plan B. We will need to spend millions for repairs if there is no new high school. This is because there is no time - our systems are at a critical breaking point which will impact school programming. Cuts will be felt most deeply in the class room.

Other residents ask why we don't use Northam Park as a new spot for the high school. Northam Park's footprint is smaller than the current high school site.

If the levy fails, this will affect class size and programming. Almost all money goes to staff. Cuts would leave no one to run programming which equals programming cuts.

### **III. Andrew Theado – Principal**

State Report Card scores have arrived. We had an increase in two areas: Gap Closings (sub groups in building - learning disabilities, Asian/Pacific Rim, etc) We received a C last year in this area.

We also increased our score in the area of Progress. Progress measures growth of all students. In the area of gifted students we received an A. In the area of learning disabled, we received an A. In the area of lowest 20% achievement students, we received a B. The overall grade is an A.

The graduation rate also achieved an A. In Achievement we earned a B. All sub components meet the state threshold. The Performance Index was 103.6 out of a possible 114 which gave us a B.

How much emphasis are we putting on this? Our students are under stress due to assessments such as this one, college entrance expectations and competition between students. The high school conducted a Gallop Survey with students on engagement. The survey found students are not engaged as they should be. For every one student that is engaged, one is not. Thirty percent are engaged. Thirty percent are not engaged. It is a 1:1 ratio. The forty percent in the middle are an area of focus. How do we engage them?

Service Learning is a focus to motivate engagement. Helping the student do real world projects and connecting them to service helps to engage them. Goal is to establish cross-curricular projects which enable kids to want to make a difference. Currently, there are a group of teachers working with the coffee shop and environmental classes to see the impact on coffee growers and how to market this.

The IB Program is raising funds the homeless and less fortunate through Socktober .

Funky socks are being sold at school events. Socks sell for \$12 a pack. For every packet sold, a pair of wool socks will be donated to various places in need. For every certain quantity of socks sold, a prosthetic limb will be donated.

Students also looking at local areas for limbs to be donated to children. Mr. Orlof's classes are building a limb out of cardboard. Diabetes is #1 reason people lose limbs in US. Students are on financial teams, marketing teams, etc.

Mr. Theado had put in place a Principal Advisory Group made up of students last school year. This group found a process in design thinking to help solve problems. This led, in part, to the R&D Lab.

There will be a UA Idea Day in February based upon Chicago's Idea Week. We are sending a couple of staff and students to Idea Week to learn and bring back feedback.

The high school is identifying list of students who are involved and engaged to see how they are involved and then compare it to those who are not involved/engaged to see how they can connect them. Also, we are running a list of students to see who has an existing relationship with a teacher/adult. Every student should have a mentor of some sort.

Community School has a built-in real world learning environment. It was initially started for students who did not fit with traditional learning model. Relationships need to exist to keep students in the building.

Communicating with the teachers is step one in managing student stress. Also, setting up family time with your teenager and setting boundaries is essential.

Utilizing school counselors, our Syntero counselor (Deb Culp) helps with stress and anxiety, drug issues, etc.

#### **IV. Parent Tips for Powerschool/Schoology**

Lisa Shambaugh – *Instructional Leader*

Nick Komjati - *Powerschool Mentor*

Alexa - *Jones Schoology*

What is Schoology? It is a robust school management system. It enables teachers to have a space online for their class. Teachers can upload all class materials, post discussions, syllabus'. It is used as a way to organize and distribute content.

Schoology has a parent interface. Schoology keeps student's information safe. Students can collaborate with other students. It also integrates with other programs (Google, Powerschool).

Schoology allows teachers to share resources with other classes.  
PTO currently does not have a group set up in Schoology.

It is preferred that parents do not access their children's account with their student's login because this can give them the ability will to see other children's information. Other's information is only protected if parents login through the parent portal.

Powerschool and Schoology are linked. We cannot see grades on Schoology. We can see assignments, directions and see what has been submitted by the student.

To access Schoology you need a device, internet access and the code to connect to your child.

In Powerschool, if content is in blue and underlined, you can click to access comments from teacher. If there are two dashes, the assignment or test may not yet be graded or turned in yet. If there is a zero, the assignment may not have been turned in.

L1 is full year score. We are advised to disregard this because it is not a cumulative score. It is only for the quarter or semester score.

Email notifications can be set up to be sent to your email. You can customize what is delivered and when.

Problems can be sent for troubleshooting to [familytechhelp@uaschools.org](mailto:familytechhelp@uaschools.org).

## **V. Cynthia Balheim EF Tours & AP/IB Coordinator**

This is the 4th year EF tours have been offered. Travel is important because students learn to become independent when they are alone more so when they are with family. This fosters independence and growth. EF Tours provides a hands-on education. Students will use these opportunities in college application process.

This summer a college trip is offered for 9th and 10th graders. They will keep a reflective journal during the trip to quantify what they want in a college. A 1/2 credit is earned. Liz Hughes is putting on this tour during Spring Break.

Liz Reese is running the Galapagos Island trip over Spring Break as well.

There will be two immersion trips to Spain and Paris. It is a immersion trip because students will speak Spanish or French throughout trip.

The premier trip offered this year is a summit trip to Berlin to the Technology on Society conference. - several trips culminate in Berlin. Students will be placed in groups based on the Strength Finders Index. There will be breakout sessions targeted to specific disciplines.

## **VI. Kellie Ali- Co-Chair - *Citizens For UA Schools***

Residents can sign up on the ForUASchools website to host Neighbor to Neighbor home talks, obtain yard signs, like the Facebook page and list your name in support on website.

Early voting is important. We have the numbers in support of the levy. We need 7,000 people to vote for the levy. Voting early is key so early voting is very important.

September 30th is the first Knock-n-Talk. We are sending people to supporters houses to talk about early voting, yard signs and adding their name on site in support of the levy.

## **VII. PTO Business**

- a. Levy – vote for UAHS PTO Supporting the Levy

The UAHS PTO supports our schools and issue 43. Read “PTO’s can do.”

Motion - Debbie Jerman  
2nd motion- Diane Hobson  
All in favor

- b. Budget – Approve 2017-2018 Budget

Motion - Debbie Jerman  
2nd motion - Marty Underwood

All in favor

c. Policies & Procedures Change: Mini-Grants

This was approved by the Executive Board on 9/12

d. Innovation Grants

- a. Grant is helping the Printing Lab which has completed several print jobs. Currently only doing jobs for those that can pay directly.
- b. Help desk - payed for t-shirts and training for more students
- c. Idea Day - paying for 4 kids to go to Chicago
- d. Robotics - helping with programming costs because of high interest
- e. Website: [uahspto.org](http://uahspto.org) – check it out!

**Future PTO Meeting Dates:**

October 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm *UAHS Cafeteria*

November 28<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am *Carsonie's*

February 1<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 am

April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am *Carsonie's*

***Meeting adjourned***