

# Hanna Woods Elementary PTO Meeting

## Special Session

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**\*A recording of the meeting is available upon request.**

Dave Herendeen came to Renee Dudding in the summer of 2023 to request the Charter Organization Agreement be signed by the PTO. We (the PTO Board) were unaware of this agreement, as it had never been brought to the attention of the current PTO Board. The PTO Board posed several questions to Jim Ott and Dave Herendeen about the agreement.

These questions included:

- What is required of the PTO when we sign this agreement?
  - The PTO can decide how much they are involved. (See answer to question 3 below.)

The questions below were posed by community members.

1. The Charter Organization representative can't also be the committee chair. What is the plan for that?
  - a. Amelia Forbis will take over as Committee Chair as of 1/1/2024
  - b. Jim will be the Chartered Organization Rep and will attend all PTO meetings. Jim Ott volunteered to be the COR for the remaining time; his youngest would be at Hanna Woods.
    - i. The PTO Board decided that the position of COR would be revisited every year when the renewal for the Chartering Organization was completed.
2. Do we have a succession plan in place?
  - a. The PTO will determine a succession plan at our July Meeting. However, incoming board members will be notified during the transition of the PTO board. That transition takes place in April, with a full transition in May for the upcoming school year.
  - b. The PTO will add this Succession Plan into our bylaws if the current board deems it necessary. An adjustment to the by-laws would require  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote.
3. A question was posed that there was a conflict of interest with Jim Ott and Dave Herendeen. The PTO followed up with Scouts and there were no reasons to back up this claim.
  - a. Jim will attend all PTO meetings and update us on the happenings within the pack. Information about the pack as well as volunteer opportunities will be shared with the larger Hanna Woods community in the PTO Newsletter. This same opportunity will be given to the girl scout troops.
  - b. All BSA financials will be shared with the PTO.

4. Faith is a strong component, and there have been concerns brought up regards to this.
  - a. Faith is encouraged as a component, but not required. It is a combination of morality and spirituality. The scouts are encouraged to have a faith based conversation once a year.
5. A concern was raised that a PTO member should be the Chartered Organization Rep.
  - a. None of the other elementary schools within the South High area have a PTO member as the Chartered Organization Rep. This has also never been that way at Hanna Woods in the past.
6. A question was brought up about the experience of Dave Herendeen and Jim Ott as leaders of the BSA troop at Hanna Woods.
  - a. The PTO followed up with Scouting parents and there were no reasons to back up this claim.

Becky Reinholz spoke up in support of the Charter.

Mike Mizerny (a Boy Scout leader), spoke up to say that half of the boy scout troop (grades 6-12) are from Hanna Woods. He also mentioned that Hanna Woods scouts complete the Eagle Scout training at 4x the national rate.

Here's a letter written to the PTO in support of the Charter.

To the Hanna Woods PTO:

Hello, my name is Melissa Anfield. My sons are Kevin and Will Markiewicz. My apologies for not being here in person, we had other obligations that prevented me from representing our Pack, as I'd love to do. A little bit about us, we are new to the area. We moved here a year ago, after many years in Champaign, Illinois. There have been lots of changes for all of us. New school, new town, new friends.

But the one thing that has remained constant is Scouts. We knew it would be a hard adjustment moving. But we also knew we would find friends and family in Scouts. We were welcomed with open arms to the Hanna Woods Scouting Pack, and it was a relief to find a community to belong to. The friends made in scouts are priceless, as are the lessons and values of Scouts.

The values taught in scouts are the most important: Leadership, community, friends, loyalty. Kevin was recently asked to join the Student Council. I attribute this to Scouts. The leadership skills he has acquired in scouts are key to his success and will continue to serve him his whole life.

I love how the pack and scouts focus on giving back. Teaching our kids to help their community is so important. Scouting for Food, the wreath laying at Jefferson Barracks, cleaning up area creeks, volunteering at Manchester Days and other events, are all just a few examples of the commitment to give back to the community. Partnering with the PTO can only further this success.

Scouting gives kids a chance to try new things, make new friends, and build new skills. Along with outdoor skills, archery, woodwork and more, scouting also teaches leadership, teamwork,

determination, resilience and problem solving. It gives the children self confidence and self esteem when they meet goals and succeed!

By chartering the scouts at Hanna Woods, you are giving the current scouts a chance to better serve the Hanna Woods community. Also, a continued partnership with Hanna Woods gives more children and families the opportunity to be involved in scouting and grow this incredible community of future leaders.

The values of Hanna Woods are the same as that of scouts: community, inclusivity, loyalty, and friendship.

Thank you for your time

Melissa Anfield  
Mother of Kevin and William Markiewicz

**The PTO took a vote (with all in favor) to continue the Chartered Organization Agreement. The following people came in support of the Chartered Organization Agreement between the Hanna Woods Elementary PTO and Boy Scout Pack 781.**

1. Luke, Lauren and Finnegan Walker
2. Natalie Mertens
3. Adam Phillips
4. Mike and Kori Mizerny
5. Eric and Kim Demerit
6. Kathleen and Brian Barsha
7. Matt and Amelia Forbis
8. Kristin and Jim Ott
9. Bret and Affton Fendelman
10. Brian Jackson
11. Katie Hamlin
12. Marcy Korczak
13. Julie and Mukwati Akufuna
14. Becky Reinholz
15. Anne and Nick Riek
16. Latha Cabanero
17. Kristen Krumm
18. Susanne Kindel
19. Shad Moss
20. Steve Scott
21. David Newman (Zoom)
22. Ron and Heather Nason (Zoom)
23. Cory O'Bryant
24. Christine Detwiler