

Pleasant Hill PTA Meeting
September 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.
21 people in attendance.

1. President Margo Ban welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. President's Report: Margo Ban
 - a. District News
 - i. H1N1 Virus
 - Hand washing: Although it is the most effective type, alcohol-based sanitizer cannot be provided in the classroom by the teachers. However, if you want your child to keep the sanitizer in his/her desk or lunchbox, they may. Your children can also have their own sanitizer/wipes in their desks for their personal use. You may also donate wipes to the classroom.
 - ii. Transportation

If you have a bus transportation issue, the chain of command for addressing issues:

 - 1) Transportation department
 - 2) Jim Garwood, Assistant Superintendent
 - 3) District 15 Superintendent
 - 4) Matt Palcer, Pleasant Hill principal
 - iii. District 15 Foundation: Is sponsoring a circus event this weekend
 - You can buy tickets online.
 - The District 15 Foundation provides grant money to fund innovative teacher initiatives.
 - Last year, 4 teachers at Pleasant Hill wrote grants and all four were awarded grants.
 - b. Northwest Suburban Council (NWSC) PTA
 - i. Scholarship Fund – there is currently \$11,000 in the fund
 - The fund was originally intended to reimburse teachers for furthering their education, but that program was discontinued a while ago. The NWSC is currently looking for how to disperse the remaining money in the fund. Margo asked for suggestions that could be proposed at the November NWSC board meeting. She noted that technology was something that she proposed, but was told it is not an area they want to fund.
 - If you have any thoughts, please email Margo Ban.
 - ii. NWSC Nominating Committee
 - Joanne Wojcik (representing Plum Grove Jr. High) and Margo Ban (representing Pleasant Hill) will be on the nominating committee.
 - iii. Sept. 21 General Membership meeting
 - We need at least 4 people representing Pleasant Hill to attend the meeting. Agenda includes: passing the budget, forming the nominating committee, and presenting a workshop entitled: Tools for coaching your adolescent toward healthy sexuality and relationships.
 - Please let Donna Hirsch know if you can attend.
 - iv. District 57 Annual Dinner on Monday, October 19th, 6 p.m. at the Seville in Hoffman Estates—need to RSVP by 9/28 to Donna Hirsch if interested.

- If you're interested in going, let Margo Ban go. The PTA will pay for you to attend the dinner.
- v. Pleasant Hill PTA Nominating Committee
 - Looking for people to serve on the nominating committee.
 - The nominating committee will be slating a Co-president, co-membership VP, Treasurer and Legislative person.
 - It is good to have a number of people on the committee – with children representing different ages/grade levels.
 - Not much work other than meeting a few times to discuss possible candidates.
 - Contact Donna Hirsch if you're interested in serving on the Nominating committee.
 - vi. Costco tax exempt purchasing
 - We've worked out a way to use our tax-exempt letter at Costco.
 - You need to complete a special Costco purchase order form, available in the PTA workroom.
 - Once you complete the form by indicating what you're purchasing the items for (i.e, Cougar Character), you need to get it signed by Margo Ban. Then, take the completed/signed form—along with the PTA's tax-exempt letter—to Costco. If you provide Costco with both the form and the tax-exempt letter, your purchase should be exempt from sales tax.
 - vii. Gino's East fundraiser for the D15 Foundation and PTA
 - We need volunteers for the 3rd Friday of every month to receive the frozen pizzas, sort them and stay there until the people who have ordered them pick them up.
 - We sell the pizzas for \$12. Pleasant Hill will receive \$2.50 for each pizza sold through this effort. The District 15 Foundation will also receive \$2.50 for each pizza sold.
 - viii. Newsletter
 - A question came up about whether or not the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can put information about their organization in the PTA newsletter. The answer is “yes.” However, they are not able to advertise fundraising efforts or membership drives. As an example, you can advertise that you are having a “drive” to support a cause. (i.e. Caroling for Cans)
3. Ways and Means Committee report: Joanne Wojcik
 - a. As of today, we have raised: \$9,402 for the Fun Run. Probably will not meet our goal of \$20,000.
 - b. The times the grades are walking were sent out as of today. The Fun Run is this Friday, September 18th.
 - c. We have until September 25th to collect pledges.
 - d. If we don't raise enough money, we'll have to think about whether or not we'll need to do other fundraisers during the year.
 4. Treasurer's report: Kim Radochonski
 - a. Bank balance as of September 1, 2009: \$8,710.78.
 5. Principal's Report: Matt Palcer
 - a. ISAT Scores:

- i. Any student in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade last year got the report from last March's tests in their backpacks yesterday
- ii. ISATs are mandatory across the State of Illinois. Scores are reported back to the Federal Government which is looking for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations. The AYP results are tied to government funding.
- iii. Last year, out of 20 schools in District 15, 18 made AYP (including Pleasant Hill).
- iv. Pleasant Hill results were:
 - Math
 - 1) 3rd graders: 100 percent met or exceeded the standards
 - 2) 4th grade: 98.8% met or exceeded the standards
 - 3) 5th grade: 98.7% met or exceeded the standards
 - 4) 6th grade: 97.9% met or exceeded the standards
 - 5) We were the number 1 school in the district for math standards.
 - Reading
 - 1) 3rd grade: 96.5% met or exceeded the standards
 - 2) 4th grade: 94% met or exceeded the standards
 - 3) 5th grade: 97.3% met or exceeded the standards
 - 4) 6th grade: 100% met or exceeded the standards
 - 5) We were the number 1 school in district for reading standards.
 - Writing
 - 1) 3rd grade: 93.9% met or exceeded the standards
 - 2) 4th grade: N/A: Do not take test
 - 3) 5th grade: 83.4% met or exceeded the standards
 - 4) 6th grade: 83.4% met or exceeded the standards
 - 5) We have no comparison data on this part of the test.
 - Science: tested in 4th grade only
 - 1) 97.6% met or exceeded the standards
 - 2) We have no comparison data on this part of the test.
- b. MAP Information: kids are on the tail end of these tests
 - i. Testing 2nd through 6th grades.
 - ii. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP): Very good for measuring growth throughout the year.
 - iii. Map is gathered to give teachers baseline data in the fall, track progress through the winter, and measure growth for the year in spring.
 - iv. For teachers: MAP helps determine skills sets and areas of instruction. Also helps teachers determine summer regression and serves as a secondary determinant for gifted placement.
 - v. Untimed and computer-based tests.
- c. COgAT Testing: starting next month
 - i. Testing done in 2nd, 4th and 6th grades
 - ii. Cognitive abilities test measures IQ and processing speed in verbal, nonverbal and quantitative areas.
 - iii. Is the major factor determining gifted eligibility (not placement).
 - iv. Testing window is Oct. 19-23 for all second, fourth, and sixth grade students.
 - v. Results mailed home to parents in December (approximate).
 - vi. Traditionally done in February—but moved it to October so we could have the results in time for when staff builds the class list for the next year.
 - vii. Gifted assignments will still continue to be announced in April/May

- viii. If you want more information, you can go to www.cogat.com for more information about this test
- d. Head Phones
 - i. Were on class lists as optional school supplies.
 - ii. If there is a head lice outbreak, all the school headphones have to be taken out of the computer lab in order to avoid the spread of lice.
 - iii. As of last Friday, we had the 3 cases of head lice. Therefore, the headphones are no longer available for all students to use.
 - iv. If you want your child to use headphones in computer lab, they will need to supply their own headphones.
- e. Institute versus Non-Attendance Days: What's the difference?
 - i. Institute Days belong to the Principal—Mr. Palcer can schedule anything for those days (i.e., staff development)
 - ii. Non-Attendance Days: Are teacher-driven days; they belong to the teachers (i.e., for planning purposes)
- f. Questions about lunch policy
 - i. During Mr. Palcer's presentation, there was a question about the new lunch policy of having children sit with their classmates during lunch.
 - ii. Mr. Palcer shared that last year, there were problems with disrespect and responsibility during lunch. There was also an atmosphere of exclusion in the lunchroom.
 - iii. As a result, the decision was made to have the children sit with their classmates during lunch—with the children having the opportunity to earn the privilege of sitting with people outside of their classroom on Fridays if behavior warrants
 - iv. Before making the decision, a number of principals from other schools were consulted, all of which take the same approach to lunchroom seating at their schools.
 - v. So far, this new approach has been very successful; there's been a 50% reduction in the number of write-ups during lunch over last year.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Book Fair report: Kim Radochonski
 - i. Destination Book Fair: Read Around the World
 - ii. Dates will be: Tuesday, October 20th through Friday, October 23rd—and will be open during Fall Fest.
 - iii. Children will be encouraged to bring in change to school. The money raised will purchase books for needy schools in Chicago through Bookworm Angels. The classroom which collects the most money will win the honor of throwing whipped cream pies at Mr. Palcer!
- b. Environmental Education: Kristen Berryhill
 - i. 1st waste-free lunch of the school year will be on September 25th.
 - ii. Last year, the Earth Club received a grant to purchase ziplock containers to give to 1st graders.
 - iii. 3rd and 4th graders can sign up for Earth Club.
- c. Fall Fest: Colleen Novak
 - i. Scheduled for October 23: event will be held inside.
 - ii. Will have a number of fun activities and food.
 - iii. Need about 50 volunteers for the event.
- d. Reflections: Colleen Novak
 - i. Information is going out this week about this program.
 - ii. Theme is: Beauty Is.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Dates to Remember:

9/18 Fun Run
9/21 NWSC General Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.
9/25 Dads and Donuts (A-I), 8:15-8:45 a.m., Cafeteria
9/30 6th Grade Cross Country Meet
10/2 Dads and Donuts (M-Z), 8:15-8:45 a.m., Cafeteria
10/6 PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Teacher's Lounge
10/9 No School
10/12 Columbus Day, No School
10/20-10/23 Book Fair
10/23 Fall Fest, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
10/29 Picture retakes
10/30 Halloween parties