

Pleasant Hill PTA Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
7 p.m.

I. President's Report: Margo Ban and Donna Hirsch

a. Around the district news

Reviewing final candidates for Assistant Superintendent. Would like to have decision by July 1. Looking for a 3 year commitment, someone with a strong financial expense management skills. District will need to make \$4,000,000 - \$7,000,000 in cuts. Looking for a Principal for Virginia Lake.

b. Standing fund update

They rescinded the motion to distribute the "standing fund" (\$12, 000) via a committee/grants, due to lack of interest. Still looking for a way to distribute the funds. One of potential options is to fund the Coat Closet. This is a program where children throughout the district can go and get a coat, but the existing set up does not work very well. Teachers from Conyers asked for a stipend to bring some assemblies in to the children. Conyers doesn't really have a PTA, and could also use some elementary books. It was agreed upon to give them \$500 every year to use for books. We are also thinking of other ways we can support Conyers. (school supplies, books etc.)

c. Illinois PTA convention: 3/11-3/14 in Naperville. See ilpta.org for details. Only costs money if you want to go to the seminars (which the Pleasant Hill PTA will pay for). Attendance at the vendor fair is free of charge; you just have to show your membership card.

d. Awards applications due 2/2/10

e. Reflections showcase for District 15 is Monday, Feb. 22 at Carl Sandburg Junior High School. 6-7 p.m view artwork; 7-8 General Membership meeting (We need 4 people from our PTA to attend and sign in as Pleasant Hills PTA members.) It will be a very short meeting. The board nominees will be presented and voted on.

f. Blood Drive will be 3/16/2010 at Walter Sundling

g. Working on getting Pleasant Hill PTA committees finalized for 2010-11. Goal is to have 2 people per committee, to share the burden and to facilitate knowledge transfer.

II. Ways and Means Report: Joanne Wojcik

a. To date, we've earned \$265 from pizza sales. Pizza forms were due today for February delivery.

b. Considering sponsoring a night at Sears Center to see the Chicago Slaughter. Would sell \$9 tickets (retail value: \$10). For every ticket we sell, we get \$2. Would be on a Saturday, April 24 at 7:05 p.m.. Would not promote it as a fundraiser – just as a fun thing to do.

III. Teacher's Representative

a. Primary K-2: 100 day activities. Working on paragraph writing and descriptive writing. Science and motion.

- b. 3rd & 4rd grades: PowerPoint presentations, electricity (will have an electricity fair before spring break) Preparing for ISAT's.
- c. 5th grade: mini unit on whales, Science: motion and design. Social Studies: Colonial times. Preparing for ISAT's.
- d. 6th grade: persuasive essays. Social studies: Ancient Greece and myths. Science: studying variables. Preparing for ISAT's.

IV. **Principal's Report: Matt Palcer**

- a. Currently focusing on ISAT prep – test-taking strategies.
- b. Great job on Cougar Carnival, Colleen Novak & Donna Hirsch . Thanks to everyone that volunteered!
- c. Thanks to Carol Hansen: The cultural trips to the theater, The Metropolis, were a lot of fun for the kids. Mr. Palcer said the students were very well behaved!!

V. **Walking School Bus Presentation:** Gail Artrip (mother of 5th Grader @ PH)

- a. Safe Routes to School: Federal funding, through Department of Transportation, is available for finding ways to get more kids to walk or bike to school.
- b. Pleasant Hill is going to be a beta testing school for District 15.
- c. Encourage people to reach out to other parents on the block to see if we can get more small clusters of kids walking to school.
- d. Discussed some potential issues: safely crossing Cedar, drainage by baseball fields, plowing of sidewalks, lack of sidewalks on Michigan, safety in general...
- e. School will go over “safety rules” to remind kids how to cross the street, stay away from unfamiliar cars etc.
- f. Will be sending home materials in backpacks over the next couple of weeks.
- g. Some reasons that kids walking to school benefits everyone: the kids stay in better shape, they are more alert when they walk to school in the morning, less automobile congestion, less pollution.
- h. For more information, please visit: www.saferoutesinfo.org.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Parent Committee for Educational Excellence:** Representatives from every school hear the Board of Education updates. You can only attend if you are on the “approved” list of attendees.
- b. **Cougar Carnival** (Colleen Novak): Everything went smoothly – 180 families were preregistered (approximately same number as last year). Had a lot of support of volunteers – including many teachers. We don't make money on the event, we just try to just break even. 35 families rode the shuttle bus – and we had a raffle for people who rode the bus. Ended up cancelling the cake decorating contest due to last of registration (only had 5 people pre-registered). Looking for some new people to help out with the Carnival next year. Also looking for feedback form the event.
- c. **Manna** (Kristi Svec): December orders were very good, as many were ordered for teacher gifts by room parents. YTD we've made: \$427.
- d. **Rollerskating Party** (Lora Lewis): Thursday, February 25, 6:30-9:00 p.m. All children must be accompanied by a parent. Free event. However, skates are \$3.00 rental. You may bring your own skates, but they will be inspected to see if they are clean enough for the rink.
- e. **Yearbook** (Cathy Peterson): Pre-orders only this year. Will send a follow up mailing 1 week before the deadline order. Looking for Veteran's Day pictures and activity pictures for the class pages, so if you have any, please email them to Cathy. Also looking for anyone interested in being a co-chair for next year. It's very easy to do – the entire process is web-based.

VII. Nominating Committee

- a. The following people were approved to be on the nominating committee:
Rita Poklacki, Pat Murakami, June Sheehan, Marsha Thompson, Anna Fiore, Jennifer Johnston, Maria Knuth, Sherri Lamerand, Manjula Sriram
- b. Will be slating candidates for open PTA positions for 2010-11 school year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.