

Pleasant Hill PTA Meeting Minutes
Monday August 21, 2006

Attendance

Donna Watson, Mary Geregach, Katie Hermetet, Kris Haas, Diane Johnson, Cathy Bogaert, Carol Skoog, Wendy Rowden, Penny Schmit, Sue Quinn, Monica Leonard, Jennifer Drazeal, Kim Kelly, Joanne Wojcik, Sue Curry, Kim Radochonski, Debie Fox, Margo Ban, Dawn Wurtz, Rita Poklachi, Donna Smaga, Mary Vanek, Lori Lewis, Chris DePau, Judy Benka, Mary Leatherman, Janet Siben, Karen Schutz, Mary Hanson

Treasurer's Report

Proposed budget, including the use of excess funds was reviewed line by line. Feedback was captured as items were identified. Feedback included:

- The board would like to convert individual committee supplies (ie: Art Awareness) to general PTA supplies that can be used across committees
- Request was made to see a plan for software upgrade. New Technology Group has been formed (Berry, Keller, Juskiewicz, Munson, Garro). The TG is still working on the plan. Mary G indicated that the school budget has enough funds to cover the software upgrade.
- Request was made to see an accounting for money spent by Teachers for the \$200 classroom support funds. This turned to a discussion. It was indicated that this was not a trust issue, but an accountability issue – making sure that the funds spent on the children were the most appropriate (ie: not construction paper). Recommendation was made to have the PTA establish a list of preferred spending items. This list could be used to spark interest, reuse of ideas across teachers. One item to add to the list is “item supports unit of study activity”. Recommendation was made to post a reminder sheet for the teachers which included the: preferred spending list, save receipts and turn receipts in as money is spent.
- We want to carry \$1,400 into the 2006-2007. This will cover PTA expenses in the interim until the fund raising activities kick in.
- Budget will go before the general membership meeting on August Aug 29th.

Corresponding Secretary – Nothing to report (NTR).

PTA Presidents' Reports

PTA Information:

- All PTA committee flyers must be approved by Mary G.
- All PTA committee flyers must be on green paper.
- All PTA committee flyers are to be dropped off for classroom distribution in the PTA workroom. These will be distributed by the student helpers. This includes all PTA items – picture forms, wrapping paper info, newsletter, etc.

PTA Presidents' Meeting – The teacher contract talks have started. The teachers union needs to give a minimum of 10 days notice before initiating a strike.

New Business

- The Spanish Teacher is looking for a little help with writing a Spanish friendly newsletter. She is looking to have a bilingual liaison to support her throughout the year.
- PTA training dates – Exec Board Sept 19th
- FYI – Child predator was discovered at Birchwood – Sean Thacher. Police was contacted with license plate.

Principal's Report

Yesterday's Welcome breakfast for the Teachers was well appreciated!

We want to extend a Thank You to the Beautification Committee.

The Teachers are very appreciative for the \$100 increase in classroom support.

Parents can join in the daily announcements, starting at 9:10 in the LRC.

Clubs

- We have more Teachers available this year to support student clubs.
- We will be revitalizing the Cougar Character program this year.
- Recommendation was made to include clubs on our PTA website and newsletter.
- Video Productions is available to 5th and 6th graders. Recommendation was made to offer opportunity first to 6th graders because they were not given an opportunity last year due to budget constraints. 6th graders will be given this opportunity first, unless the now 5th graders who were already trained last year are needed in the interim.
- Student Council is available to all 3rd through 6th grades.
- Cougar Character is available to all grade levels.
- Choir is available to 5th and 6th graders.

ISAT raw data is now available. Parent reports will be available in October.

Recommendation was made to include the ISAT summary as a marketing tool to get new parents to come to the October PTA meeting.

PH has earned the Illinois State Board for having at least 90% of our students meet or exceed standard performance criteria. Plaque is in the office.

Audit Committee – 2005-06 audit was successfully completed.

Art Awareness - Nothing to report.

Audit Committee – The 2005-06 audit was conducted in July. No issues identified.

Beautification – We will be changing school entry areas with Fall foliage.

Birthday Book Club – The Program will run from Aug 24th through Sept 8th.

Book Fair – Program will run October 23 through 27. LRC will be closed this week.

Box Tops – Nothing to report.

Calendar – Distributed (Great Job!!!). Recommendation was made to update both the front and back entrances with monthly PTA sponsored event information. Recommendation was made to work with the Directory committee when it benchmarks the HR directory to see if the calendar pages can be sized and added to directory notebook.

Care and Concern – Nothing to report.

Cultural Arts – Nothing to report.

Directory – Recommendation was made to benchmark how Huntington Ridge implements its directory. HR sells a small hardcover note book, and distributes updated directory pages annually.

Environmental – Did not capture info.....

Fun Fair – We need an updated contract with Perfect Touch. Karen/Mary thinks this was taken care of. Presidents' will follow up on this.

GFS – Nothing to report.

Health and Safety - Nothing to report.

Holiday Workshop – The preview date is Dec 13th. Sale date is Dec 14th.

Hospitality - Nothing to report.

Junior Great Books - Nothing to report.

Kindergym – Nothing to report.

Legislation – Nothing to report.

Make a Difference Club – Want to limit membership to 3rd - 6th graders. The club has generated its mission statement. Brainstormed ideas for 2006-07 include: individual letters to Nigerian students, October candy drive for soldiers, collecting gently used books for inner city schools, special Olympics, quilts for needy, Arbor day, end of year collection of unwanted school supplies. Activities will be run over lunch and recess periods.

Manna – Nothing to report.

Membership – Nothing to report

Newsletter – Moving newsletter to monthly schedule. Since PTA meeting, this has not been changed to bi-weekly with a hard article submission due date. We will continue to email newsletters to families to save on publishing costs. The next article submission date is Aug 24th. The first issue distribution will be September 1st.

Nominating Committee – Nothing to report.

Parent Ed – No one has stepped up to chair this committee.

Plum Grove Liaison – Attended first meeting. This is a very friendly group.

Programs –

- Fall Fest – May skip hot food and go with subs, chips and popsicles. Need to get a new company for glow sticks. Board wants to continue with horse and buggy.
- Roller Skating – March 1st

Read to Succeed – Nothing to report.

Reflections – The theme this year is “My Favorite Place”.

Registered Agent – Nothing to report. Not sure we need this committee?

Room Parents – Think we have covered for all classrooms. Room parent meeting moved to Monday Aug 28th. This will support getting the Room parents ready prior to the Curriculum night which is Tuesday Aug 29th.

Scholarship – Nothing to report.

School Kits – Each kit has a \$3.99 certificate which can be used at the book fair. Half of the families picked up on Monday. Remaining kits can be picked up at 12:30 in the gym, prior to the Meet the Teacher event at 1:30.

Staff Appreciation – We are working hard to change things up this year. We are looking to facilitate smaller tokens monthly in place of the single week events in May.

Spark – Nothing to report.

Spirit Wear – Flyers will go out in Sept. Recommendation was made to see whether Lisa Frelish (PH parent) can be used as a supplier instead of existing company. Using Lisa will save on postage and use local vendors. Concerns were raised that existing vendor works well, and whether Lisa package by family in same manner.

Volunteer Coordinator – The theme for this year “Make this your year to Volunteer!” We will have a volunteer booth at the parent orientation night. Suggestion was made to reinstitute the buddy families this year. *Cougar Character really begins in the parking lot and with every interaction each of us has with new families.*

Ways and Means – Chris Hass will be joining Katie Hermitat as co-chair (yeah!!!). Sept 1st will be the wrapping paper fund raiser kickoff assembly with the students. Prize booth will be available for all students selling \$300 or more. There are more things available from Innsbrook on their website. Not limited to hardcopy catalog items. Free shipping is available for orders which are \$65 or more. This is an excellent option for remote, out-of-state extended family members and friends.

Website – We are writing the District web page policy. We plan to present policy to district in September. Thank you was extended for increasing committee funding this year to cover the Frontpage software. The package is much easier to use and has more built in capabilities to support the web features.

Welcome – Nothing to report.

Yearbook – Not theme yet. Not kit yet. We are staffed appropriately.

We are adjourned!