

PTA Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 4, 2008

Introduction: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Hollywood School Library. PTA board members in attendance were Laura Tracy, Maureen Rurka, Kierith Kurth, Denise Notz, Sue Gersch and Jennifer Perry.

Recording Secretary Report: The minutes for the May 8th meeting were accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Sue Gersch reported on activity since May. The PTA received thank you notes from the staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Two thank you notes were received from last year's kindergarten class: one for the Jim Gill concert and the other for everything the PTA did over the last school year. More recently, a thank you note was received from this year's kindergarten class thanking the PTA for the Hollywood School t-shirts. A birthday card was sent to orchestra director Patti Gill.

School News & Teacher News: Hollywood Principal Vicki DeVyllder welcomed everyone to the meeting. This year is Ms. DeVyllder's ninth year at Hollywood and at District 96. There are several new staff members at Hollywood. Valerie Brackett is the new third grade teacher. Alison Manson and Rachel Pellegrini are new para professionals, working in 2nd and 5th grades respectively. There is a new speech therapist at Hollywood, Michelle Schowel, who has been paired with social worker Carrie Levin. Hollywood also has a new full time nurse, Judy Dalton. Deborah Czubik is the new mid-day assistant.

Ms. DeVyllder thanked the PTA for the New Parent Tea, which was very well attended. Ms. DeVyllder said that no special first day activities needed to be planned at Hollywood because the kids provided their own with their excitement.

There are two new technology initiatives. Every teacher has a laptop and there is a new laptop cart with 24 laptops that are available to students. Students can sign out a laptop, use it in the classroom and return it to the cart when finished. The cart also charges the laptops.

Ms. DeVyllder thanked the PTA for the parking map, which people seem to be following so far. Ms. DeVyllder also asked that people not park in the back of the school, as there isn't a lot of room and it interferes with recess and endangers children who ride bikes to and from school.

Parents are asked to send a note to notify teachers of after-school play dates.

When picking up a child from school early, parents are asked to wait in the office until the pre-arranged pick-up time or to call if early so that classes are not disrupted.

The third, fourth and fifth grade teachers will be implementing problem based learning experiences in math and science this year.

The faculty field trip was an inquiry based field experience to Chinatown. What makes a neighborhood unique? Hollywood staff explored Chinatown and answered this question. Got Questions? This is the theme of this school year.

District News: District 96 superintendent Dr. Jon Lamberson was in attendance to deliver district news and describe his kickball game with Hollywood students.

Total enrollment for the district is currently 1,457, which is the highest number of students in 35 years. This is an increase of 6% at the elementary level and a 10% increase at Hauser over last year. If enrollment continues at this pace, the district will reach its all time high of 1,570 students (last reached in 1969) within two years. Hollywood enrollment is currently 113 students.

This year, the age of computers in the district has been cut in half and the number of computers for student use has been doubled.

The district is currently working on a civility and courtesy policy.

Students in third, fourth, and fifth will be encouraged to participate in parent/teacher/student conferences.

Next year's fifth grade students will have the opportunity to bring home their own laptop, which they will be able to keep through Hauser. Funding for this pilot program has not been finalized.

Jennifer Leimberer asked Dr. Lamberson if the district has a plan in place to avoid problems experienced by kindergarten parents this past summer, such as not knowing where children will attend school until a few days prior to the first day of school. Dr. Lamberson said the current kindergarten enrollment is 169 and the projection for next year is 190 students. There are currently eight sections of kindergarten in the district. Dr. Lamberson said that the flexible boundary policy has been a challenge and that the district tries its best to find out how many students will actually attend District 96 schools. Currently, there are no plans to open a second section of kindergarten at Hollywood next fall. The district is looking at all options.

Dr. Lamberson will attend two more Hollywood PTA meetings this school year.

Committee Reports:

Fun Lunch: Joyce Clarkson reported on fun lunch, which will be held every Thursday during this school year. Lisa Buffo and Laura Meehan are also on the committee. Lunches will still be \$3.50. However, parents may be asked to provide a drink or kids can use their milk cards. The year will begin with Home Run Inn provided the hot lunch. Joyce and committee are currently looking at other vendors. Volunteers are always needed to help.

Kindergarten is welcome to stay for fun lunch. Volunteers are needed to supervise kindergarten during lunch, which will be from 11:20-11:55. Kindergarteners will need to be picked up at 11:55.

PTA Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 4, 2008

Joyce also said plans are in the works to bring more fun to fun lunch.

Cultural Arts: The Hollywood PTA plans and pays for assemblies and field trips for Hollywood students. Artist in the Classroom is a program where parents introduce students to an artist and leads a related art project. Each class has an AIC presentation four times per year. Parent volunteers are always needed. A background in art is not needed, as all materials are provided.

Committee Update: The committee list will be e-mailed to Hollywood families. No committee is ever full; volunteers are always needed.

Gift Wrap/Entertainment Book Sale: Packets will be coming home on September 15th with every student. The sale ends October 3rd. Delivery is scheduled for the first week of November. Entertainment Books will come home at the same time, but only with the oldest child. Entertainment Books must be returned if not purchased.

New Parent Committee: All new families have been paired up with buddies.

Ice Cream Social: This Hollywood PTA welcome event will take place on Friday, September 26th from 7pm-9pm.

Wee Deliver: The first wee deliver will happen in October. A flyer will go home soon with addresses.

Scrip: SCRIP will start soon.

Girl Scouts: Information will be coming home in the backpacks soon.

Parking Map: The new map went home in backpacks and was distributed with the PTA calender.

Easy Ways to Help: Denise Notz and her husband have put together detailing easy ways to help raise money for the Hollywood PTA. The flyer will go home soon.

Announcement & Reminders

Picture Day - Sept 10th

Board of Education Meeting @Ames - Sept. 16th @7:30 p.m.

Fun Lunch - Sept 18th & Sept 25th

Fall Parent Night (parents only) Sept. 18th 7-8:30pm

Ice Cream Social - Sept 26th 7-9pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Jennifer Perry, Recording Secretary