

HBMS PTSA Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2011

Attendees: Deanne Martin, Michelle Repp, Cheryl O'Donnell, Penny Arsenault, Pat Goyette, Deb Drouin, Maryanne Shanley, Leslie Eisenberg, Kristi DeLong, Ellen Kotelly, Jeannette Hallerman, Katie Corsetti

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance is \$24,714.78, which includes deposits from SCRIP and membership directory orders. Leslie Eisenberg motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Cheryl O'Donnell seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved.

Principal's Report:

Pat Goyette discussed the concept of the "S" in PTSA standing for students. She mentioned that if the PTSA has tasks that students could do during their skills class, there is always those ready and willing to help.

Pat attended a School Board meeting the previous evening, on October 19. The meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 in the MPR at the MS. Pat encouraged all to attend as the upcoming budget season will be a tight planning year ahead. She recommends parents get involved early so that they hear and understand the issues before voting in March.

MS budgetary needs are divided into 3 parts: technology, maintenance, and facility/athletics. Teachers have been economical about previous requests to prepare for upcoming needs. The Math and English departments and the library would like ceiling mounted projectors. Science rooms have these already. The cost should be about \$7,000.

The athletic department needs a new wrestling mat at a cost of about \$12,000. The one being used now was purchased in 1990 by the HS and has been refurbished to be used second-hand by the MS. The athletic fields need improvement. This is predicted to be a two year process, involving installing sprinklers and upgrading field conditions. It is expected the first year of this process would maximize at \$10,000.

Pat would like to reinstate two night time custodians to full time status. Currently there is one full time night custodian, which isn't enough to meet the needs of the building use at that time. Hours and retirement contribution would be about a \$13,000 increase.

Currently there are 205 8th graders who will leave next school year with a new 7th grade class of about 176 entering. This is a decrease of 29 students. At this point, the budget reflects a decrease of one teacher, to be announced. Pat feels strongly about preserving the team nature of the middle school and is committed to keeping teams in place. Specialists were decreased last year; losing the Family and Consumer Science position. The Middle School 101 class, added as a replacement to the lost special without changing the workings of the students' schedule, utilizes existing faculty and administration. It has been successful, but the challenge lies with it taking a staff person away from his or her regular responsibilities and needing office/library coverage at those times.

To prepare for the Washington, D.C. trip, students have given Pat an index card with signed names of hopeful partners. Out of 205 students, 12 have decided not to go for a variety of reasons. Chaperones

are set. Pat will check in with PTSA if scholarship money is needed, although she does not expect this will be necessary. A nut free bus is available.

Pat discussed science NECAP scores, which were recently sent home to parents of 8th graders last spring. Overall state scores were very low. Science does not have GLEs (grade level expectations) the way other subject areas do. Science testing involves Grade Span Expectations that cover three to four years of varying aspects of science. NECAP will do an analysis of the scores to give specific data about the results. Discussion followed that the MS science program is very strong; the scores don't reflect this. Pat reported that NECAP testing will be phased out by 2015. In lieu of GLEs, a common core of national standards will replace them.

Pat reiterated that budget talks for next year are happening now. Parents need to make their opinions known now; not in March. Pat says the Board meetings are more efficient, so hopefully that will encourage parents to come.

Lastly, the *Knightly News* has been streamlined. It comes the first week of the new month from Pat. She will add a Board meeting reminder in that newsletter.

Generations Day: Jeannette discussed Generations Day, which will occur on March 23 for the 7th grade when the 8th grade is in D.C. Health teacher, Erin White, is the contact person at the school for the program. Due to budgetary constraints she is looking for creative ideas for seminars. Deanne Martin mentioned that the energy committee in town is interested in doing something for it. Pat will make an announcement in the *Knightly News* to attract interest. This is an important message to get out in order for Generations Day to be successful.

June minutes: Deb Drouin motioned and Cheryl O'Donnell seconded that the June minutes be approved. The minutes were approved.

September minutes: Cheryl O'Donnell motioned and Deanne Martin seconded that the September minutes be approved. The minutes were approved.

Co-op Board: Maryanne discussed that the Board uses a zero guidance in budgetary matters. This means that schools/groups start with \$0 and must justify how money is used/needed. Maryanne stressed how parents must be "budget aware." She also stated that there was a discussion at the meeting about limiting public input at meetings. Although this was voted down, she was concerned that the Board is forgetting about the public service aspect of their responsibility. It was restated that parents must get involved to make their voices heard. Maryanne will speak with the National Honor Society at the HS about babysitting at the Hollis Social Library during Co-op meetings for parents with young children.

PTSA By-laws: Maryanne, Jeannette, and Katie will go over by-laws in detail and bring any proposed changes to monthly meetings for discussion.

SCRIP: Deb reported that orders were down in October. She will have November 10th and 30th order dates to tap into holiday shopping. December will allow for one order time as cards should arrive around the 17th.

Ferdinand Family: Denise Pustizzi sent an email reaching out to families to provide meals for the Ferdinand family whose mother passed away in July. There are four children; the third is a 7th grader at

the MS. The dad thought Tuesdays would be plenty. They are scheduled until November 23. A discussion followed about providing gift cards to restaurants so the family could get what they wanted. Also Michelle Repp will look into sending care packages along to the college student son.

Staff Appreciation: Cheryl O'Donnell is organizing the Staff Appreciation luncheon. It will occur on November 16. A Thanksgiving meal for about 80 staff members is provided. Turkey and gravy will be ordered from Boston Market. Last year, \$700 was the total budget for staff appreciation throughout the year. A discussion followed about including students in the set-up and clean-up of the luncheon. Cheryl thought students would be most helpful during clean up. It was recommended that students – possibly from the Art Club – could make floral centerpieces. Students could also write thank you notes to teachers as part of the “appreciation.”

High School: Maryanne reported that Dr. Ben Garber will present “Taming the Beast Within,” about anger management. Also, the Reflections program will be extended to the HS this year.

Other:

The PTSA will use Mail Chimp for email distribution to members.

MS directories were distributed. Improvements for next year: the MS website is listed incorrectly. There should be a date on the cover.

Jeannette will connect with Gina Quinn regarding PTSA VP. Maryanne hasn't heard from Gina on this.

Jeannette will prepare PTSA membership cards for distribution.

The PTSA needs to vote on a budget for the year ahead next month, when Penny is available for discussion.

Jeannette motioned and Cheryl seconded for the meeting to be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25. Next meeting is November 17 at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Corsetti