

HBMS PTSA MINUTES  
January 20, 2006

Attendance: Ruth Kabel, Trish MacDonald, Susan Holroyd, Anita Moynihan, Bonnie Frisaard, Shelly Bower, Kathy deLacy, Lin Westberg, Lynn Goldberg, Erin Magee, Regina Kozsan, Janet Listowich, Mary Thomas, Debi Davis, Tammy Campbell, Michelle Ball, Julie Forgaard, Pat Goyette, Richard Pike, Joyce Hegarty (20)

**1. Introductions**

We went around the table and introduced ourselves. Richard Pike introduced himself and joined us for most of our meeting.

**2. Review of Previous Minutes**

There are no December minutes due to cancellation of school and our PTSA meeting because of a snowstorm. The November minutes were available for review. Kathy deLacy made a motion to accept the minutes as written, second by Anita Moynihan. The November minutes were accepted.

**3. Principal's Report**

We started off with a question for Pat. Would the early release day need to be made up? The students were released early because there was no water to the school. Neither Pat nor Richard knew the answer to that at this time.

Pat asked the PTSA for scholarships for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington. \$3,000 is needed, we already had \$2,000 budgeted for eighth grade enrichment that will be used for the scholarships. Susan Holroyd made a motion to use \$1,000 from the general fund to make up the difference. This motion was second by Debi Davis. This motion passed with no one opposed.

Next up was an amount for the Rock Climbing equipment that we voted to support at our September meeting. \$1,164.00 was approved, \$1,019.20 was spent to buy helmets and harnesses and the check should be made out to Wing Speed.

Some monetary support was asked for to purchase bins for the recently initiated recycling program. Fifty-five bins are needed at a cost of \$3.00 per bin or a total of \$165.00. Anita Moynihan made a motion to spend \$165 for recycling bins, second by Regina Kozsan. This motion passed with no one opposed. The seventh grade has already filled a half a dumpster with paper to be recycled. The pizza boxes can also be recycled because the pizza company agreed to lay an extra piece of wax paper in the bottom of the box to keep the box clean. It will cost \$34.00 to have the paper picked up.

Lin Westberg and Pat provided an update of the recently launched Y teen program. Registration opened 2 weeks ago and as of Monday we had 25 students signed up! An on site director is provided by the Y from 2:30-5:30 five days a week.

Faculty Council would like our input regarding the recognition assemblies. It was noted that the teachers are concerned about lost instruction time due to the length of the assemblies. At the same time they also saw merit to learning about skills in students as well as students noting skills in their peers that they may have otherwise not known about. The assembly used to be at 1:30, when it was changed to early morning parents responded that they liked the earlier time better. It was more convenient to go into work later than leave in the middle of the afternoon, especially for long distance commuters. A parent noted that with younger siblings the early morning time is not so convenient because often the younger sibling ends up late to school. Some of the staff liked the idea of rotating the time of the assembly so the early class is not always the one that gets impacted by lost instruction time. This was also felt to be fair by some at the PTSA meeting. A lengthy discussion followed as to possibly changing to an evening assembly, limiting the coach's remarks, having the assembly only once a year, having the students stand in place when their name is called instead of walking to the front, the coaches could do a written comment instead of a verbal. It was noted by Susan Holroyd that she enjoys clapping and recognizing every student; many heads were nodded in agreement of this statement. Many felt an evening assembly would run too late. In the end there was an overwhelming feeling within the PTSA group that we should keep it going but try to shorten it.

Pat will look into posting the dates of the recognition assemblies as well as the dates of the dances on the web site so parents can plan ahead.

The next big discussion was regarding our opinion over the honor roll. The high school is working toward having only two levels, high honors and comprehensive honor roll. High honors is all A's all subjects, comprehensive honor roll is all A's & B's. The high schools honor roll is based on grade point average, this is not possible at the middle school because we do not rank the students at this level. The middle school also has a category of honor roll called high academic honor roll, which is based on A's, & B's in classes that meet everyday all year only. The question is do we want to keep this high academic level at the middle school. Let me try to list all the comments that I could hear and keep up with writing down

The high academic level discounts the efforts of the specialist teachers.

Students are able to achieve an A in physical education even if they are not an athlete. A student was kept off the honor roll due to a B in home ec. the first quarter of her 7<sup>th</sup> grade year and was devastated because of it.

Leaving it the way it is will not hurt anything.

The transition from elementary school can be difficult, let them have the transition of honor roll before they reach the high school.

An informal thumbs up/down vote was taken as to keeping the third honor level at the middle school it visually it was right down the middle to keep it and to remove it!

Pat gave us a reminder that the Middle school play of Annie will be performed February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that she has seen glimpses of the rehearsals and it looks wonderful.

We will be having 5 retirements of faculty members at the end of this school year. Some of those retiring would like to go out quietly so the names of those retiring were not presented. Due to the larger than usual number of vacancies this will present Kimberly Saunders suggested holding a job fair. Kimberly is heading this up with help from Tim Kelley, Bob Ouellette, and Rich Manley from our high school. The anticipated job openings will be advertised in the next two weeks, with interviews occurring in March.

Pat will still be looking for input regarding placement of students for next year and feels the input is important. However she wants to caution parents that with the 5 anticipated openings from faculty retiring and the possibility of other faculty choosing to move to a different position the make up of the teams could very well be different.

Tim O'Connell, a teacher at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy in Brookline is currently in the final stages of getting his masters in administration and supervision and needs a project to complete his degree. He will be working on a way for the sixth grade from the two towns to get to know each other a little before entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade together. We have grown to big for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade conservation camp experience to be enjoyed by both towns at the same session.

The course selection for the eighth grade will also have a component of a night for parents. If you have an administration issue at the high school you should direct that to the high school principal Tim Kelley directly.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report-Ruth Kabel**

The magazine drive money keeps trickling in as well as directory money.

The eighth grade generations luncheon went a little over what was budgeted. During the luncheon they felt they were going to run out of salads and purchased 3 from Aspirations at a cost of \$80. Without this emergency purchase they would have been fairly close to the budget. Presently we have earned \$702.13 over what we had budgeted so this overage will not be a problem.

We have \$8,005.13 in the checking account that is allocated in this year's budget. However we have \$10,000 extra that needs to be spent! Erin Magee made the suggestion that perhaps Trish could attend a staff meeting to let staff know that we have a substantial amount of money available for requests.

#### **5. Events**

##### **Community Conversations** Ruth Kabel

On Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the middle school in rooms 14 & 15 a group of police officers will talk to parents only about drug awareness. A note informing parents of this program will be included in the second quarter report cards.

##### **SRO & My Space** Kathy deLacy

On Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the high school in the auditorium Sergeant Mello will be presenting information about My Space for parents only. Parents of fourth

graders and up will be invited to this presentation. A question and answer session will follow regarding having a school resource officer (SRO) at the high school.

A discussion followed regarding 2 warrant articles that will be voted on in Hollis. The first one will be for a full time police officer for the town. Kathy informed us the new police chief feels this is a priority over a SRO due to the fact that only 1 officer is on duty at midnight. Chief Ux would also very much like to see a SRO position. In the town of Hollis 21 arrests have been made for Internet predators. Trish asked the PTSA to spread the word that it is a separate vote for the SRO. Joyce Hegarty noted that the SRO article could only be voted on by the Hollis residents.

### **7th Grade Generations**

Deb Pucci and Darlene Kohler will take care of the luncheon for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade generations day on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>. Coffee hour will be handled by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade hospitality. Ruth Kabel and Susan Holroyd will be at the school at 7am to hand out schedules.

The PTSA closet still needs to be cleaned out; there has been difficulty with access to the closet. We will try to have this done by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Tammy Campbell has plates, cups, and napkins from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade generations day at her home that can be used for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade generations.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Barbecue**

Janet Listowich and Shelly Bower will chair this! (Thank you) Pat will call the Archambault's regarding using Alpine Grove again this year for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade barbecue. She will let us know what the fee will be. The overwhelming feeling after the barbecue last year was to look into holding it there in the future because of the offerings of fields (in sun and shade), mini golf, volleyball, picnic tables. This is held the last day of school. No date set until snow season is over!

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration** Regina Kozsan

Regina Kozsan will chair this event. She is looking into having letters asking for donations for this event sent home with the report cards. The most likely date for this celebration is June 16<sup>th</sup>, but could change depending on snow days between now and then.

About this time Richard Pike bid his farewell as he was off to more meetings. He said he would like to join us again with particular interest in the matter of canceling events and still making money! (See Old Home Days)

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Generations** Lin Westberg

Lin expressed a big thank you to all that were able to help with the eighth grade generations! Other than an emergency purchase of salads things went smoothly.

### **Box Tops 4 Education** Lynn Goldberg

Checks for the box tops are made out twice a year. We just received a check for \$73.56, so keep saving those box tops and if you're not already saving them please start! \$30 came from clipping the box tops and the rest came from on line shopping. The web site is [www.boxtops4education.com/treasure](http://www.boxtops4education.com/treasure)

### **7. Other Business**

#### **By-Laws Review and Vote – Trish MacDonald/All**

This vote was postponed from December due to December PTSA meeting being cancelled because school had a snow day. The revisions have been available for months and there was little discussion. The definition of quorum was looked at in Article XI Section 4. Finding that we did in fact have a quorum the motion to accept the changes was made by Lynn Goldberg and second by Julie Forgaard. The motion passed with no one opposed. Those present at this point of the meeting for voting were: Ruth Kabel, Trish MacDonald, Susan Holroyd, Bonnie Frisard, Shelly Bower, Lynn Goldberg, Erin Magee, Regina Kozsan, Mary Thomas, Debi Davis, Julie Forgaard, Joyce Hegarty.

#### **Hospitality**

A dessert buffet will be held for the staff on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **8. Meeting Days/Time**

The next meeting will be February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Thomas made a motion to adjourn, second by Ruth Kabel. No one opposed this motion passed.