

HBMS PTSA MINUTES
1-22-04

Attendance: Lex Bundschuh, Anne Dumas, Lynn Goldberg, Dianne Bonta, Ruth Kabel, Pat Goyette, Jill Russell, Shelly Bower, Linda Casazza, Kristen Berry, Trish MacDonald, Donna Cormier, Debi Davis, Kate Ricci

1. Introductions were made
2. Minutes of the previous meeting accepted noting change in CD dollar amount. Dollar amounts will be reported in exact figures in future minutes
3. Talent Review- Linda Casazza
Feb. 14th is the Talent Show. 20 students showed interest and they were given guidelines to follow. Next week will be a preview of all the talent. It was agreed that the proceeds will go to PTSA Student Enrichment fund. The PTSA will assist with refreshments. Jill Russell and Linda Casazza will connect with each other on this.
4. Parent Enrichment- Ruth Kabel has organized two evenings of education.
 1. Feb 11th @ 7pm in the HBMS Library will be a Drug awareness program designed for middle and high school parents allowing time for questions and answers. This is a very informative program for parents and all are encouraged to come. This program in co-sponsored by the HBMS and HBHS PTSAs.
 2. April 14th New Hampshire Higher Education will present a program for middle school parents and their children on preparing for college. This is an evening for 7th and 8th students and their parents. More information will be forthcoming.
5. Fundraiser-Trish MacDonald researched Krispy Kreme fundraiser. One dozen of donuts cost \$6 and the PTSA will keep \$3. This will be by pre-order and the donuts will be available for pick up at the district meetings. Expect to see an order form in your child's report card. Support PTSA while enjoying yummy donuts.

Mrs. Goyette- The HBMS will be hosting the middle school basketball semifinals on Feb. 4th. There are 4 games being played that day. A committee headed by Lynn Goldberg and Kate Ricci will supply refreshments. All profits will go to HBMS PTSA. Miss Botcher kindly offered our gym to be the host of this event. Mrs. Goyette will enlist students who are interested in participating in the Service Club to assist in the sale of these refreshments. The really good thing about this is that no one has to bake anything. The HBMS PTSA would like to thank Miss Botcher for allowing us to participate

in this wonderful opportunity. Come and show your school spirit. **GO KNIGHTS!**

6. Middle School Space Proposal: HB Coop School Board Members, Tom Enright, Steve Simons and Tim Bevins attended our PTSA meeting to share updates and answer questions. The following is a synopsis of the discussion.

On 1/20/04 the Board made a final decision to support the middle school renovation and addition bond, as this is the most fiscally and programmatically responsible solution. This decision came about after 10 months of discussions, surveys, and more 5000 volunteer hours donated by Hollis Brookline community members. First we would like to thank all that took time to research, explore, listen, and evaluate all of our concerns before reaching this final decision.

It should be noted that each year the COOP board was asked to consider many questions and concerns such as comparing costs between a new facility versus renovation, reducing coop size, costs of portables among other concerns. Each year the COOP board members went back to the drawing board to address these community concerns. Many community members expressed their opinions on a recent survey and at small community focus groups and forums.

The first concern regarding the middle school space needs was cost, and the second was programming. Site location was rated as number 6 in the list of concerns. Arming themselves with this information, the Board set out to consider these two major issues, i.e. cost and programming. It was agreed that the middle school offers a very competitive public school program and the board is more than satisfied by the current program. For the 2004-2005 school year the middle school will house 475 students and the renovation/addition will be built to support a core of 550 students.

The board members discussed the current deed stating if the current middle school is not used as a coop building, the building goes back to the Hollis school district. The restructure the deed is very complex. There may be a movement to reduce the grades if renovation does not pass. An article will be presented to form a committee to study and create education plans (program and building) for the individual towns. This article could be passed by a simple majority to form such a committee. Then each town will have an opportunity to consider individual bonds. All this would have to meet the approval of the State Dept of Ed. Both towns have to approve this and both towns have to have educational plans in place to move forward educating their own children. It will take a few years to get into place. **The board studied this as well, and agreed it is more fiscally and programmatically responsible to continue to educate our students**

together starting at the 7th grade. Both towns will realize a significant increase in taxes to educate their own 7th and 8th grade students.

Portables will be needed if the bond fails. Three double wide portables would be needed. Portables will be needed in the short run no matter what. If the bond fails, portables will be in use longer until these two towns come to an agreement as to the solution to the middle school overcrowding.

The suggested order to be expected at the March district meeting will be the Deed consideration, bond for renovation/addition, portables, then other business. It is probable that the district meeting will move for an all day vote.

Things to consider:

Please attend the District meeting scheduled for March 3rd and 4th at the HBHS gym.

Please consider voicing your support for the bond at the district meeting. A short statement explaining your support based on your own positive experience. You can write it up and read it. Please....we need as many speakers as possible to speak in favor of the bond. It matters to our children.

Talk to everyone you know and ask them to speak in support of the bond. As simple "I support the bond" is all the needs to be said.

If there are questions or concerns that you would like addressed prior to the district meeting COOP Board member Tim Bevins has offered to speak to you personally. Give him a call 465-7250.

When considering this vote the academic, social, and emotional growth of our children is interconnected. Bringing the two communities together at 7th and 8th grade allows the students to be challenged academically while experiencing their personal growth in a secure environment. Our 8th graders are ready to "hit the ground running" in 9th grade when they have had the opportunity to grow together in 7th and 8th grade.

Thank you to Tom, Tim, and Steve to taking the time to reach out to us and educate us on the district's needs, and for being honest about the methods used to reach the decision of the current bond. Thank you to Pat Goyette and Kim Rizzo for their input and insight. And thank you to the PTSA parents who took the time to express their concerns, listen to the explanations and promise to assist the board by being vocal at the district meeting.

The meeting was adjourned @ 10:20 am.

Next meeting is Thursday, February 19th @ 8:30 am in the HBMS conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ricci
HBMS PTSA Secretary