

HBMS PTSA MINUTES

February 17, 2006

Attendance: Lynn Goldberg, Mary Thomas, Ruth Kabel, Debbie Pucci, Shelly Bower, Janice Kagenski, Susan Holroyd, Patti Chilton, Anita Moynihan, Bonnie Frisard, Patricia Goyette, Lin Westberg, Cynthia Andreola, Erin Magee, Tammy Campbell, Trish MacDonald, Debi Davis, Regina Kozsan, Janet Listowich, Merle Carrus, Ginny Brooks, Don Brooks, Cindy Ullrich, Joyce Hegarty (24)

1. Introductions

At this point of the year there is not much need for introductions! We looked around the room and found we were all familiar with each other.

2. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the January 20, 2006 meeting were available to review. Anita Moynihan made a motion to accept the minutes as written, second by Susan Holroyd. This motion passed.

3. Principal's Report – Patricia Goyette

Pat was able to join us and shared with us that in her 9 years as Principal this has been the toughest finance year. The two Principals control only 6% of the budget. She reminded us the annual co-op district meeting is March 9th. She also urged us to be educated about the issues that are up for vote. The middle school is requesting that the fifth team be completed with teachers for each subject.

Anita Moynihan informed us that the Co-op budget committee has submitted their own budget, which is different from the school board budget. Also the cost of oil and electricity have risen this year. On a different topic Anita also wanted us to know that the Co-op board recently made a motion to reconsider the vote on a School Resource Officer (SRO) the new vote was 5 to 2 in favor of the SRO.

The SRO cost is approximately \$44,000 with Co-op paying 54%, the town of Hollis paying 40%, and Hollis Elementary School paying 6%.

Sixth Grade transition day is scheduled for May 24th. Letters to sixth grade parents including input sheets will go out the Monday of vacation.

Sixth Grade parents will be at the middle school on March 28th and there will be a parent table hosted by the PTSA. The current 6th grade will not have the opportunity to go to conservation camp together because we have grown too large for the facility. Tim O'Connell, a sixth grade teacher at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy in Brookline, is in the process of completing his practicum to become an administrator and will be working on a process of bringing the towns two sixth grades together as part of this practicum. After June 6th the parents of sixth graders can call for test results.

On March 27th the parents of eighth graders will be invited to the high school for a discussion on the high school class offering for Freshmen. A program of studies book will go home with the students and will also soon be available at the high school web site. On March 28 & 29 the high school will be coming to the middle school to discuss Freshman classes with our eighth graders. The dialog with the high school regarding math classes is very good. There is one special advanced math class at the middle school called power packed algebra. The selection begins at school with the students then goes home for parents to review and sign off on.

On March 14th there is a mandatory meeting for parents and eighth grade students who are attending Washington. The DC trip is March 21-24th. The room assignments have been easy and this has been a great group to work with!

The seventh grade has settled in nicely and this is one of the best combinations of students in 7th & 8th grades!

The eighth grade end of the year celebration will be held in the multi purpose room. There is a screen for power point presentations in the closet. Pat gave the PTSA the ok to put out a donation jar at the mandatory Washington trip information night on March 14th for donations to be used for the 8th grade end of the year celebration. Pat will cover the cost of the police officer at the eighth grade end of the year celebration.

The 7th grade barbecue will again be held at Alpine Grove. As of this meeting the last day of school is scheduled for June 21st. Pat will cover the fee for the rental of the Grove for this day.

The question was asked will team Jordan be looping? Team Jordan remains cross-graded for the 2006-07 school year. We have 5 teachers retiring at the end of this school year. So the possibility of the make up of the teachers on the teams could change. This being said there may be the opportunity for students to loop with this cross graded team. A job fair will be held on March 7th, and placements are happening early this year as they try to complete placements before Kim leaves on her maternity leave. Kim's baby is due May 19th!

Debi Davis inquired if the students of Mr. Johnston are changing clothes for gym classes. Pat said she would look into this.

The results of the NECAP testing will be available mid March.

A concern was brought to Pat's attention recently that it appears the Middle School is letting go of fun things such as the spelling bee and the science fair. Pat said the students don't feel like they want an audience for the spelling bee, however parents are welcome to come and watch if they would like to. The science fair took a lot of class instruction time, time that partly went to the glitz of the science fair. The state testing alone this year took 3 weeks of instruction time, and faculty felt they didn't want to give

up more instruction time. The speaking contest is not held because it involves much time spent on memorizing and this is not part of our English curriculum. The Scholastic Art contest is through the art club or art classes.

The question was raised is there was a problem with theft in our school? Pat responded that there has been one incident of theft this year of a purse and that occurred on the school bus, not in our school.

The Y teen program is going well! Pat recently stopped by the cooking class that has 15 students and all was going well. The ballroom dancing class has more girls than boys and is taught by an older gentleman. The participants rotate partners including a turn with the teacher as your partner. All is going smoothly with the program and the second round of class offerings will be handed out in the ROCK groups next week.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ruth Kabel

We did not take any money in this past month, and we still have extra money to spend. We still have to purchase a memorial tree and are expecting a formal request for a conference table.

A discussion regarding asking eighth grade parents for donations for the 8th grade end of the year celebration was a good idea since the PTSA presently has money that needs to be spent. Regina has concerns about how she might handle questions regarding a letter asking for donations if people have read the PTSA minutes stating that the PTSA has funds that need to be spent. Some history to this is that a few years ago the 8th grade parents were so generous with donations that there was money left over after the celebration. It became a problem as to if that left over money should remain with the HBMS PTSA or go up to the high school with the students. In the end the money went to the high school with the students. There is money budgeted for this event, but not enough to cover all the expenses. The three big expenses are the police officer (which Pat will pay for with her Principal fund that the PTSA gives her), the DJ and the photographer. Some other expenses are decorations, prizes and food. It was decided that Regina and Ruth would meet to discuss what was spent last year for this celebration and also discuss the letter for donations that will go out to the eighth grade parents.

Debi Davis said she felt the PTSA extra funds should be used for education and she has reservations about spending the money on a conference table. Trish responded the PTSA cannot use funds for curriculum and as far as the table goes when we get the official request it will be discussed and go for a vote at that time.

The miscellaneous donation on the budget report was for the donations that were previously voted in memory of Jordan Coffey.

5. Events

Community Conversations-Ruth Kabel

Over two dozen people attended the presentation about drug awareness given by our towns two DARE officers and Bill Quigley. The parent enrichment program has \$250 in it and Ruth thought giving the two towns DARE programs donations of \$75 each would be a nice gesture. Anita Moynihan made a motion to donate \$75 each to the Hollis and Brookline DARE programs, Mary Thomas second. This motion passed.

On Thursday April 6th at 7pm at the middle school Rick Melillo will be hosting a program for parents. The program will touch on many topics; sorry the title was so long and I don't take short hand so I couldn't get it all written fast enough!

There are no DI teams this year so those funds will go back into the budget.

SRO & My Space Anita Moynihan for Kathy deLacey

The presentation on myspace and Internet safety highlighted dangers of the Internet. This talk was well attended and received positive comments from those in attendance. Tim Kelly spoke about having a SRO. Mr. Ledoux was a SRO and he attended and spoke about his experience as a SRO. The SRO would be a Hollis officer simply because Hollis is the physical location of our school. Don Brooks asked if Brookline DARE officer Irwin would have any input into who would be hired as the SRO. Brookline supports the SRO through the Co-op and the Brookline Police will have a relationship with the SRO. The actual hiring would be done through Chief Ux of the Hollis PD. The hiring of this SRO officer needs to pass 3 votes at meetings on March 9th at the Co-op meeting, March 15th in the Town of Hollis, and at the Hollis School District Meeting. The budget committee does not support hiring a SRO; the school board does support this. Someone asked if this job is too big for one person with them changing rolls. Chief Ux would be the one to make that determination.

Spanish Class Field Trip-Trish MacDonald

The Spanish classes will be taking a field trip on April 4th to a South & Central American Dance Show. Trish will take care of getting chaperones for this.

6. Committee Reports

8th Grade Celebration-Regina Kozsan

There were about 15 people present at the planning meeting. The theme of the eighth grade celebration has been determined but will be kept a surprise, as is tradition until the invitations go out. The celebration will take place on June 16th, the Friday before the last day of school. We still need to solicit donations of food and gift certificates. The photographer that was used last year is not available this year. Regina asked if any one had suggestions for a photographer and was given the name of Marie Bristol. She will check on her fee and availability.

Seventh Grade Generations-Deb Pucci

The planning is ongoing. Tammy Campbell has coffee and paper goods at her home that were left over from the 8th grade generations day. Debi Pucci and Lynne Goldberg will co-chair the event. Lin Westberg noted that the budget for 8th grade generations

was much too low. She also shared that by lunchtime at 12:30 the people were very hungry.

7. Other Business

PTSA Closet-Trish MacDonald

The PTA closet has been cleaned-again. Trish will get a sign made for the closet in hopes that it will let folks know that this closet is designated for the PTSA storage.

“Annie”-Trish MacDonald

Trish reminded all the performance of HBMS spring musical “Annie” was this weekend at 7 pm both Friday and Saturday nights. She asked us all to take special notice of the dog costume that one of our parents laboriously made! (Nice job Trish!)

Advocacy/Support –Erin Magee

Erin was looking to see if there would be any support for a parent resource group for parents with special education children. Anita told us that she thought Sue Heath from Hollis already had such a group. Anita will get Sue’s contact information to Erin and Erin will put the information into the newsletter.

Girl Scout toothbrush drive

The Girl Scouts collected over twice the number of toothbrushes that they had anticipated! 963 were collected in all with Mrs. Saunders ROCK group collecting 221. Thanks to all who participated in this drive.

Thanks from staff

The PTSA received a thank you card from the staff for the Valentines Desserts that the PTSA provided.

8. Meeting Days/Time

The next HBMS PTSA meeting is on March 17th at 8:30am in the school.

Janet Listowich made a motion to adjourn, second by Bonnie Frisard. This motion passed.