

PTSA MINUTES
March 15, 2007

Attendance: Susan Holroyd, Dorreen Mercer, Jennifer Starr, Jill Russell, Linda Falcone, Janet Listowich, Beth Baryames, Tracy Moore, Lisa Keehan, Julie Forgaard, Vicky Sandin, Lynn Goldberg, Mary Thomas, Pat Goyette, Cherie Wholey, Kathy de Lacy, Ruth Kabel (17)

1. Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 8:35.
2. Review of Previous Minutes: Minutes from the 2/17 meeting were approved without change.
3. Principal's Report: Sixth grade parents have begun to contact HBMS with questions and concerns about placement. On Tues. April 3 at 6:45 pm, orientation for parents of 504/IEP students will be held and attended by all case managers and paraprofessional staff. In addition to the formal presentation, a parent panel has been assembled to answer questions. Similarly, the orientation for all 6th grade parents will be held on Thurs. April 5 at 6:45 pm. Anyone interested in serving on the parent panel should call or email Pat Goyette.

Yesterday's early release teacher workshop was very productive. Presentations included: 1) Teachers from each team showcased student work in conjunction with the ICT initiative. Word, Excel, Websites, and PowerPoint presentations were highlighted. Teachers welcomed the chance to see what progress was being made across teams and subject areas. 2) The SPED report explained the in-house evaluation visit that will occur on 3/21-22. Two student case studies will be models for the program. The Governor, Commissioner, and legislators have been invited. 3) Rich Mellilo presented his research regarding students who may not be meeting academic minimum competencies. Students are required to exceed minimum standards to participate in sports and extracurriculars, and a program of tracking all students beginning in 7th grade, with interventions offered on a case-by-case basis will be explored further. Students involved are those who are not identified as 504/IEP students but may need support to reach their maximum potential.

Eighth grade students met with nearly 20 Veterans, including a few WWII vets for conversations about their experiences in preparation for next week's Washington DC trip. This program has grown over the past 7 years, and is a great benefit for the students as well as the Veterans themselves. When surveyed, students unanimously supported continuation of this program in the future.

The Math Team placed first place in last week's state meet at Plymouth State University. Of the 4 top scoring students in the state, 2 hailed from HBMS! Part of the competition was to make an 11-minute presentation on a math problem with a 4-minute question and answer session, quite an accomplishment for Middle

School students! They now move on to the national meet in Fort Worth, TX. This is the second time in the last 4 years our school has reached this level. All students on the team are to be commended for their excellent achievements.

Performance Pathways software has been licensed by the State of NH and is available to all schools. This software enables administrators to access detailed reports on standardized testing. Pat will be able to call up lists of names of individual students who scored in each of the proficiency levels, as well as list scores of specific test items to determine whether there are “gaps” in learning that could be addressed in the curriculum. This fits in perfectly with the curriculum mapping initiative and will provide staff a means of analyzing in detail our strengths, while pointing out areas that require further focus. A parent asked whether there was software available for parents to access test scores for their children such as “Powerschool”, but this feature is not available on the software HBMS uses. There are pros and cons to parent access, but communication is critical for parents to understand all facets of grading.

Krista Thorpe is an 8th grade student who brought a concern to Pat about the disposable styrofoam cafeteria trays. Pat assisted her in meeting with Liz Murray and Amy Cassidy about more environmentally friendly ways to deal with the waste. Food service is a self-funded program, unbudgeted by the schools. The 3 options include: 1) the current system which uses #3 recyclable trays. However, all food needs to be removed before trays would be allowed to be reprocessed. 2) the use of a higher grade (higher cost?) trays that would not require food removal. 3) plastic trays which would require the purchase of a commercial dishwashing system. When the renovation was completed, the hookups for such a system were installed, but no dishwasher was purchased. The High School has a similar dishwashing system which is not currently being used. Krista will survey students to see whether they would be willing to remove food from trays prior to disposal, and other options will be explored further. Krista is to be commended for approaching this with such an inspired problem-solving approach.

The New England Math League can boast that several students scored more than 30 on a 40-point possible score. Steven Griffin got a perfect 40!

Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders has accepted a position as Principal in Winnisquam, NH. Her new contract will begin on 7/1/07. Although it is a wonderful opportunity for Kimberly, it will leave HBMS with a huge hole to fill. She has been such a positive force, and will be sorely missed. The position of Assistant Principal has been advertised locally, and the search will begin immediately for a replacement.

4. Superintendent's Report: Richard Pike was unable to attend this morning, and will attempt to reschedule his visit.

5. Treasurer's Report: There was no income this month. Expenses included \$3000 for the 8th grade enrichment (\$2800 for the DC trip, \$200 for field trips for students staying in Hollis). \$1500 was expended for the Generations keynote speaker, and miscellaneous expenses previously approved were distributed. The \$1700 check for the lacrosse goggles was never received by Mrs. Bottcher, so if it is not located, a stop payment will be placed and a new check issued. No requests for reimbursement have yet been received for the donation for music department equipment. The Ending Balance for this month is \$19,164.69.

6. Events:
7th GRADE BBQ: There are no current needs. Planning is progressing on schedule.

8th GRADE CELEBRATION: A theme has been selected (secret), and plans continue to develop. A "Fact Sheet" was sent to all 8th grade parents, as well as a request for donations of prizes, and a reminder to send in photos to be included in the PowerPoint presentation. Pictures may be sent into the office. If you would like them returned, put your name on both the envelope and the backs of the pictures.

PARENT ENRICHMENT: Jill Russell has arranged for a Drug and Alcohol Awareness presentation by Bill Quigley on Thursday April 12 at 7:00. Brookline and Hollis DARE officers will be involved, as well as Tracy Dunne. This program has been so well-received in the past that it has been requested to repeat each year. Tracy Dunne would like to explore the idea of a couple organized summer activities for students.

GENERATIONS: Linda Falcone is organizing the luncheon for the 7th grade Generations day Friday 3/23. PTSA will set up coffee. There is no need for baked goods in the morning since they are generally not eaten and instead transferred to the luncheon table.

TALENT SHOW: Kim Barron and Erin White will be organizing the talent show scheduled for Thursday 4/19. There are 20 students currently signed up. Tryouts will determine whether acts are "appropriate" for inclusion in the show. Volunteers will be needed to help on all of the following listed dates. If interested please call Kim Barron at 672-1128. Tryouts will be on 4/4-5 at 2:30 in Rooms 14 & 15. Practices will occur on April 9, 11, 13, 16 and are not all mandatory. The dress rehearsal will be on April 17.

REFLECTIONS: The first place winners will advance to the next level. In photography, Noelle Kotelly placed first. In visual arts, Stven Griffin placed second. There were two students from HUES who placed as well.

DI: HBMS has a first place team which will be moving on to the State meet in Plaistow on 3/31. The winning problem was "Roundabout Courage", a theatre-in-

the-round presentation in which the main character had to overcome a personal challenge. The DI students will be encouraged to repeat their winning performance as part of the Talent Show.

7. Nominating Committee: Janet Listowich, Cherie Wholey, and Lisa Keehan have agreed to lead the nominating committee to seek Board Member and Committee Chair open positions. Ruth Kabel will post the openings for consideration. A representative from Membership will be at the 6th grade parent orientations to recruit new members, and answer questions.

8. Other Business:

DEVIN'S WALK: Christy Grief will assist Devin MacDonald in organizing the Middle School portion of the 3rd annual walk to benefit NAMI and the local mentally ill population. Devin would like this to be a Middle/High School combined effort. We are waiting to hear from Devin to see when, what she needs, how we can help, etc.

OKLAHOMA!: Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday 3/16 & 17. Admission is \$5 at the door, and the show promises to be spectacular.

UNIV. OF MA AT LOWELL DESIGN CAMP: Ruth Kabel has brochures about an interesting camp for students interested in design and engineering.

PARENT REQUEST: A parent reminded all committee chairs to please acknowledge those who volunteer to help but may not be called upon. Sometimes there are more volunteers than there are positions, and it is important to respond to everyone in order to validate their offer of help.

9. Next Meeting: NOTE DATE CHANGE: The next meeting will be Friday April 13 at 8:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Goldberg