

PTSA MINUTES

April 13, 2007

Attendance: Ruth Kabel, Susan Holroyd, Erika Cross MacDonald, Tracy Moore, Karen Brown, Bonnie Frisard, Sole Hawekotte, Barbara Bruinooge, Kristen Berry, Janet Listowich, Beth Baryames, Lynn Goldberg, Cherie Wholey, Merle Carrus, Lin Westberg, Dorreen Mercer, Anita Moynihan, Lisa Keehan, Vicky Sandin, Jill Russell, Regina Kozsan, Julie Forgaard, Venu Rao, Diana Kroeger, Karen Roberts, Kim Barron, Linda Falcone, Pat Goyette, (28)

1. Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 8:35. Sixth grade parents were particularly welcomed to the meeting.
2. Review of Previous Minutes: Moved by Barbara Bruinooge, seconded by Janet Listowich. Minutes from March 15 were approved.
3. Lisa Futrell-HBHS Guidance: Lisa is a new addition this year to the Guidance Department. Her specialty and background is in High School transition, so she focused on new developments as they relate to the rising freshmen for next year.

Highlights: the online registration process has been very smooth. Continued improvement for next year will include increased time for parents and students to discuss the HS course selection process and options, as well as parent workshops held in advance of the open registration period. Further development of the online registration site will continue. In response to a parent question about study halls, Lisa recommended that if students are taking accelerated classes, she almost always recommends that they also request a study period during the school day. Courses available to freshmen will be evaluated on an annual basis.

Generally, the first two years of HS are prescribed with little room for elective choices. Upperclassmen are able to self-direct to a greater degree with respect to course selection. Counselors are assigned on an alphabetic basis rather than following all students of a specific class. Email or phone any questions to the Guidance office. A 24-hour response is typical. The first week of June is the target for schedule dissemination, and counselors will be available until the first week after school is dismissed in June.

An invitation to “Coffee with the Principal” is extended to parents of freshman to meet with the HS Principal, counselors, and teachers in a discussion about transitioning to the HS. Coffees will be held in the HBHS mini-cafeteria on 5/2, 9, and 16th from 8:30-9:30 am. Call Teresa Noel at 465-2269 X 128 (noelt@sau41.k12.nh.us) for reservations.

There will be an evening “fair” offered to incoming freshman to learn about extracurricular and athletic opportunities. Student representatives will be available to answer questions, and recruit new members to a wide variety of student organizations.

4. Principal’s Report: There was an incident this week of students having shared over-the-counter medications in school with other students. After discussion with the School Nurse, Assistant Principal, and Counselors, Pat has met with all students to discuss both the medical implications of sharing medications, and also the decision making process. Students were reminded that over-the-counter meds do have side effects, and are easily accessible. It was reinforced that if students ever have the need for OTC meds that they see the nurse who has parent permission to dispense. The only exception is for those students who are required to carry an epipen or inhaler with parent permission. Pat reminded students that it is everyone’s responsibility to keep the school safe, and if they ever have any concern or knowledge that there is an unsafe situation, it is

their duty to tell any adult available who will then investigate further.

In this case, consequences for those students involved have been imposed, including suspensions and counseling. Pat put to rest all rumors of students having been hospitalized, transferred out of the school by ambulance, and all other dire medical stories that have been circulating. No student suffered any ill-effects, and the emphasis for all students is on making good decisions and taking responsibility for their own actions.

One parent is aware of a new FDA program geared toward Middle Schools regarding OTC medications. Pat will investigate to see whether this program might be suitable for inclusion in the health curriculum in the future.

INTERVIEWS: A candidate for School Nurse has accepted an offer of employment and will be presented for approval to the School Board on Wednesday night. She has 10 years of experience in a school setting with a focus on wellness, and will be a wonderful addition to the staff. Her name will be released after Board approval. Interviews for the Assistant Principal position continue, and will be concluded early next week. At that time, the field will be narrowed to a select few candidates who will be called in for additional interviews. Pat is very impressed with the caliber of the applicants.

MATH COUNTS: The Math Counts team traveled to the Statehouse in Concord for an awards presentation. They were treated to a limousine ride to Concord funded by an anonymous donation, and were very enthusiastically received by the legislators. What a terrific academic achievement, 1st in the state!

6TH GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION: Due to the weather, the 6th grade parent orientation has been rescheduled to Monday, 4/16. The parents of special needs students had a separate session which was very productive and will be continued in the future. Placement notices for incoming 7th graders will go home prior to the end of school.

5. Treasurer's Report: Income this month included \$138.74 from the Magazine Drive, and \$5.00 from a directory sale. Expenses were \$203.87 for staff requests (games), and \$115.02 for miscellaneous/hospitality expenses. The ending balance is \$18,989.54. A box had been checked incorrectly, so the IRS is requesting additional paperwork to finalize our tax filing.

6. Events:

7th GRADE BBQ: Due to snow days, the date for the BBQ has been changed to June 20 at Alpine Grove. Jill Russell is looking for volunteers to help run games, serve food, setup, cook, and cleanup.

8th GRADE CELEBRATION: Blue sheets sent home with the final Washington DC information have been slow to come back. A broadcast email will go out to all 8th grade parents, as well as a reminder notice with the report cards next week asking for food/beverage/prize/monetary donations and pictures for the PowerPoint presentation. The budgeted amount funds about 1/3 of the total cost for the celebration.

PARENT ENRICHMENT: The Drug Awareness program was canceled due to the weather, and will be rescheduled.

GENERATIONS: Erin White wrote a letter thanking the PTSA for all of the support for the Generations program which has been a very successful and rewarding experience for teachers, parents, and students alike.

TALENT SHOW: Kim Barron reported there are 16 “acts” in the Talent Show to be held on 4/19 at 7 pm. She is looking for volunteers to help backstage, and would like to have people who do not have students that are in the show. This will enable the parents of the performers to see their students onstage from the audience. There are lots of singing acts, and every attempt is being made to arrange lighting, small scenery, and props to make the event a very special experience. There are only minimal expenses for poster board related to the show. Supplies and props are being borrowed from the Brookline schools. A suggestion was made to make this event a fundraiser in the future, but for this year, there will be no admission charged.

OLD HOME DAYS: OHD will be held on Saturday 9/15. Since this event occurs so close to the beginning of school, and often prior to the first PTSA meeting in the fall, a committee will be formed next month to coordinate efforts with the high school and organize the cooking/sale of food at the PTSA booth. Volunteers will be needed to work the booth, and it is a fun opportunity to work shoulder-to-shoulder with administrators (and their spouses!), teachers, and other parents.

7. Committee Reports:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Janet Listowich, Cherie Wholey, and Lisa Keehan have found people willing to fill various open positions for next year. Still open are 2nd VP, 7th & 8th grade Hospitality, Magazine Drive Chair, and Staff Appreciation Chair.

STAFF APPRECIATION: Last year, a June luncheon was held. The 2nd week in May is Teacher Appreciation Week, and several people volunteered to help organize a lunch for teachers pending review of available dates.

8. Other Business:

PARENT CONCERN: A parent mentioned that the school website homework listings was not up to date, and in some cases, almost 3 weeks old. Pat will investigate, and said that homework should be posted by 4pm daily.

PAPERWORK REVIEW: All forms, order blanks, and other PTSA info disseminated in the beginning of the school year will be reviewed to ensure accuracy and ease of use to avoid issues and confusion that occurred this year.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Friday May 18 at 8:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Goldberg