

HBMS PTSA Minutes  
April 15, 2005

Attendance: Susan Holroyd, Kristen Berry, Janice Kagenski, Cindy Ullrich, Linda Casazza, Lynne Goldberg, Erin Magee, Dianne Bonta, Bonnie Frisard, Lisa Schmalz, Mary Thomas, Jill Russell, Sue Nierendorf, Ruth Kabel, Marie Degulis, Betsy Cotton, Cynthia Andreola, Debbie Pucci, Trish MacDonald, Kimberly Saunders, Pat Goyette (22)

**1. Introductions**

Quick introductions were made around the table.

**2. Review of Previous Minutes**

An addendum will be added to the March minutes to reflect a vote to fund the cost of airfare for Mrs. Goyette and Mr. Taber that was not published in March minutes. This was originally unpublished do to the fact that the arrival of Mrs. Goyette was to be a surprise to the students. A motion was made by Betsy Cotton second by Ruth Kabel to accept the minutes as written. This motion passed.

**3. Principal's Report**

Pat extended congratulations to the middle school Destination Imagination team that will be heading to Tennessee for Global Finals. The school will be giving them \$200 towards the cost of going to the Finals.

Sixth grade parent orientations had approximately 180 parents in attendance. The evaluation forms were collected at the end of the evening with nearly 100% turned in. The overall feedback was positive. The goal of the evening is to give incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents a comprehensive overview.

Tours of the addition are on hold because the production got a little behind with the snowstorm and they are working to catch up. If we hold tours they must stop production during the tour, thus delaying the amount of work they can accomplish. Mr. Simons from the school board will be giving tours after the work has ceased for the day in the future. The new part of the construction will be done by the last day of school. The renovations will start June 22<sup>nd</sup> and be completed by November. Art, Spanish and French will remain in the Farley building all on the first floor and the use of portables will continue until all renovation work has been completed. They will be replacing the electrical panel in the gym with the renovation and this is costly.

A list of volunteers willing to pack things at the school, at the end of the school year was collected. If you were not at the meeting and would like to volunteer, please give Pat a call and let her know you would like help and indicate what your availability is.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington trip went well with a few suggestions for next year. The tour company will meet with a few teachers to discuss some recommendations for the future. Some of the lines were very long and the feeling is this was do to the trip being close to Easter, the tour guides were new, it was spring beak in the south, and security. Mike Slonaker met with our students and spoke at the Vietnam wall, planting seeds for another generation to remember this war.

Presentations at the wall were interrupted when a Park Ranger informed the group that you may not photograph at the wall. Pat offered many thanks to PTSA for funding of her plane fare for the trip.

Team six received funding for the full time math teacher. Team 1 will be looping next year, teaching 3 sections of 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 2 sections of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The two grades will be taught at different times, in other words students will be in class with only students of the same grade. The master schedule is all set for each grade to have lunch together as a grade as opposed to this year where they would eat as a team. The teachers will split for grade level programs with some staying at the school and some participating in the event such as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to see A Christmas Carol.

Parent input sheets will be going out to parents soon. This would be your opportunity to indicate if you have a preference that your child should remain in that team or be moved to experience different teachers if they are on team 1.

A Spotlight School is an extraordinary school that is used as a model. Interviews were held this week to determine if our school would be accepted into the Spotlight program. Pat offered thanks to all who participated in the interviews. If chosen as a Spotlight School, the school receives a fee when these visitors come to observe and talk with us.

The town of Hollis did not fund the School Resource Officer, so we will not be having this program at our co-op schools.

Communication with the High School regarding the math programs is ongoing with several information nights planned. April 21<sup>st</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents will have a meeting. At this meeting the No Child Left Behind Act, Grade Level Expectations and NECAP tests will be discussed. The high school will announce a date for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent's information night. It is recommended that the parents of 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated students attend this evening also.

May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the recognition ceremony in the morning. On that afternoon the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will make their course selections for 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> the High School will have a general welcome evening for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

There is no income reported for this month. Money for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade party has come in but is not included on this report. The money for the plane fare for Mr. Tabor and Mrs. Goyette has been taken from the money budgeted for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade enrichment. The ending balance in the checking account is \$15,084.61. A reserve of not more than \$5,000 is recommended by the national PTSA. At the present time we have a reserve of \$8,884. We are comfortable with this higher reserve for now because we anticipate requests from staff in the fall as they move into their new spaces in the new sections of the building and also in the renovated areas of the school.

Contributors expressed that they felt enrichment money should be used for the benefit of the whole class and once you use this enrichment money in a certain way it sets a precedent. A discussion followed regarding the funds for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Barbeque and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Canobie lake trip. There was also discussion regarding the year-to-date Financial Summary handout of remaining funds in the budgeted areas for this school year.

## **5. Events**

### **Seventh Grade Barbeque**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade barbeque will be held at the Alpine Grove this year. This will be a one time only situation due to safety concerns and space issues at the school with the ongoing construction. We will not need to arrange special transportation for this; the school buses will drop off at the Grove in the morning and pick up at the Grove in the afternoon.

### **Eighth Grade Celebration**

Betsy Cotton reported that the cost of helium is high and no discounts have been found for this item.

### **Old Home Day**

We will again have a stand at Hollis Old Home Day with the High School, but this time the Middle School will take care of getting supplies and preparations. The high school will be supporting the event by supplying people to help on the day of the event.

### **Sixth Grade Transition (Parent Evening)**

The evening went well, we had a few parents join the PTSA.

### **Eighth Grade Transition**

Kimberly Saunders has been working on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition. Four areas are being focused on: school expectations, academic expectations, school climate/culture and extracurricular activities. They have held the first of 4 dates to address these topics. Bob Ouellette, the Assistant Principal at the High School met with ROCK groups to discuss school expectations. Some High School staff and High School students will also be coming to the Middle School to present one of the above-mentioned areas to our students. The number one question from a survey of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders was "Am I going to get lost in the school?" #2 was "Will I still have my friends?" and #3 was "How much will I get picked on?". Kimberly Saunders and Rick Melillo are making a survival guide for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The eighth grade students will visit the high school this spring when they will have the school to themselves. The first day of school in the fall will be for freshmen only as an orientation day. There will be a survey of the parents regarding the transition before the students attend the high school and then again after having attended for a period of time. Kimberly would like feed back on this transition program, please contact her with any comments!

### **Seventh Grade Generations**

The day went smoothly, no problems with the food.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **Staff Appreciation**

May 5<sup>th</sup> will be a staff appreciation luncheon from 10:30 to 1:00. The plans include making smoothies for the staff. Wednesday of vacation is secretaries day and Wednesday after vacation is nurse's day. An elegant lunch will be provided for these people after vacation. Trish MacDonald will cover for the secretary.

### **Parent Enrichment**

Two programs are being looked at for the PTSA to offer next year, they are a drug program and a career-planning program.

### **7. Other**

#### **PTSA**

The PTSA is close to filling major positions for next year. Our nominating committee is Erin Magee, Lisa Schmalz and Jill Russell.

#### **Destination Imagination**

A middle school Destination Imagination team has qualified for Global Finals and will be heading to Tennessee over Memorial Day weekend to participate. Support from the PTSA is being solicited for funds to help cover a \$3,000 entrance fee as well as money for travel expenses. The team consists of 2 adult team managers and 4 students. The money is due May 4<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that a group four years ago qualified for the Global Finals and \$500 was donated by the PTSA from the Principal's fund. Dianne Bonta, PTSA Treasurer recommended that \$725 be used for this from the Principal's fund. She had spoken with Pat Goyette to get her input for this expense from the Principal's fund. Dianne also noted that we have already budgeted \$275 for this program so the PTSA total donation would then be \$1000.

Kristen Berry made a motion to spend \$725 from the Principal's fund for the DI team to go to the Global Finals. Second by Susan Holroyd. The motion passed with 13 in favor and 1 opposed.

Betsy Cotton suggested we check into buying a defibrillator for the school with some of our extra funds. She was directed to Dee Dee Adams, school nurse to talk about this idea with her.

The question was raised if this was a better attended meeting than normal because of the meeting time being two hours later. The feeling was that the attendance was typical.

The next PTSA meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17