

HBMS PTSA MINUTES

May 18, 2007

Attendance: Ruth Kabel, Susan Holroyd, Mary Thomas, Dorreen Mercer, Cherie Wholey, Janet Listowich, Kara Tulley, Kristen Berry, Marianne Graves, Lisa Keehan, Maureen Lorden, Julie Forgaard, Lynn Goldberg, Lina Falcone, Merle Carrus, Beth Baryames, Jill Russell, Pat Goyette (17)

1. Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 8:35.
2. Review of Previous Minutes: Moved by Janet Listowich, seconded by Kristen Berry. Minutes from April 13 were approved.
3. Principal's Report: This week pilot science testing for the state of NH was conducted with the 8th grade students. There will be no results shared with individuals or the school. The purpose was strictly to evaluate a new test instrument. Unlike other paper-and-pencil tests, this was "hands-on". The students were given a scenario and asked to make predictions. They moved to the MPR to test their hypotheses in 140 workstations, then returned to classrooms for follow-up questions regarding interpretation of their data. The experience was very smooth, with students easily able to work cooperatively in groups. This particular test instrument closely resembles the typical learning experience as taught in the classroom.

Claudia Dufresne and Carolyn Ciccu made a peer presentation to the NHCT (NH Council of Teachers of English). It highlighted the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) initiative which has been implemented at HBMS this year, and was very well received.

Stephen Secor has been hired as the new Assistant Principal. He is energetic, compassionate, and proactive. Although his contract does not officially begin until 7/1/07, he has already attended the 6th grade orientation night, a school dance, and baseball/softball games. The School Board conducted a "second-level" interview with Mr. Secor and was impressed with his credentials and the energy he brings to his new position. Welcome to Mr. Secor!

A surprise retirement party will be held for Deedee Adams on 5/24 at Alpine Grove from 5-8 pm. Please RSVP to Jackie Lucas if you are interested and able to attend.

"Breaking Ranks in the Middle" is a workshop attended by Jeannie Saunders, Rick Mellilo, and Pat Goyette. It builds upon previous workshops, and was conducted by the NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals). The highlights included the observation that schools have basically remained unchanged for the past 150 years, yet students and societies are vastly different. New approaches to learning, performance, and achievement are some of the 9 "cornerstones", and the 3 R's have been redefined as Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. Teachers will be exposed to the material over time, and leadership groups will form. Pat conducted a brief activity with the group in which each was asked to define "rigor" and write their interpretation on a card. Cards were passed around for review, then each person was asked to rank HBMS on a scale of 1-10 in terms of rigor. An overall ranking of 7 was suggested by Pat and confirmed by almost all parents in attendance. There are pockets of less "rigorous" rankings, and Pat encouraged anyone wishing to discuss specific concerns with her directly. Parents also identified pockets of rankings of 11, demonstrating some areas of high satisfaction.

After having our long-time QSP (Magazine Drive) contact person fall ill this year, the replacement was unsatisfactory. Pat offered to check into an alternate company for the Magazine Drive next year and will share the information prior to signing any contracts. A parent commented that the QSP contact at the Hollis Elementary schools was very good, and will

follow up to see whether we might be able to request a new contact person. Parents were inclined to continue to offer the Magazine Drive since it is the major fundraiser of the year. There is a possibility that the elementary level will discontinue their magazine drive which has caused conflict for parents in the past who have students at both schools.

Pat surveyed parents to find out whether they are receiving the Knightly News through an email link or as an attachment. Most parents appreciated having the newsletter delivered electronically, but some problems were noted, primarily that there was no regular schedule this year, and that some families did not find out about critical meetings (9th grade registration meeting) in time. Pat will investigate improvements to the system and establish a regular schedule.

4. Treasurer's Report: Income this month included \$12.00 from the Magazine Drive, and \$7.00 from a directory sale. A refund of \$114.00 in overpaid national PTSA dues was deposited. The music department has spent \$2083.10 of their \$6925.00 donation to date. Boxtops provided \$20.69 of income. Expenses were \$184.16 for staff appreciation, \$259.60 for Generations, and \$18.52 for Hospitality. Donations of \$1040 have been made by parents to offset costs associated with the 8th grade celebration. The ending balance is \$17,637.85.

6. Events:

7th GRADE BBQ: Everything is on schedule. Donations of supplies and volunteers are being collected. Alpine Grove and buses are all set. There was a parent request to review the way activities are assigned. Last year, students had a choice of sports, arts/crafts or movies. The sports group was very active, with multiple sub-choices to make and travel between during the activity portion of the day. However, both the arts/crafts and movie groups had limited choices and wound up indoors the entire time with little variety in their activity time. It was requested that all students have the opportunity to participate in both indoor and outdoor activities.

8th GRADE CELEBRATION: Subcommittees are being formed. Each has been given a list of those willing to help. Those who signed up as being willing to work in a number of areas may get several calls to help. Parents should feel free to choose a single area they would like to focus on and not feel obligated to serve on multiple subcommittees. Invitations will go out the first week in June. The celebration will be from 7-9:30 and accommodations will be made for students who have school sport obligations and will need to arrive late.

PARENT ENRICHMENT: The Drug Awareness program was attended by 15-20 parents who were very impressed with the amount of information offered. It was suggested that in future sessions, less emphasis and time should be given to the DARE officers who do a great job, but work with younger students. The SRO and Bill Quigley had the most valuable information for the Middle and High School populations, but ran way over the time because the DARE officers spoke at length. This program has always been very well received and is planned to be repeated in the future. Janet Listowich moved, Cherie Wholey seconded that a donation be made from the PTSA to the DARE programs in both Brookline and Hollis. The donation will be the same as it was last year, approximately \$75 for each town's program.

HOLLIS OLD HOME DAY: A list of names was taken for volunteers to help at the booth cooking and selling food if OHD is still offered. This is a collaborative effort between the HBMS and HBHS PTSAs. It is unclear whether the Hollis OHD committee will be able to fill the chair positions and be able to organize the annual event.

3RD ANNUAL WALK FOR MENTAL ILLNESS: Continuing the tradition begun by Devin MacDonald 2 years ago, Kelsey Berry has stepped up to be a school leader for this project.

Kelsey and Christy Grieff spoke about plans for 6/16 when the walk will be held at the Nichols Field track from 9am-12pm. A variety of activities, games, and entertainment will be available in a carnival-like atmosphere to encourage families to attend while raising money. Prior years have raised more than \$3000, and a goal of \$5000 has been set for this year. The funds will be split between NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness) and NCC (Nashua Community Council) to raise awareness about Mental Illness in the hopes of reducing the stigma attached to a wide variety of conditions. Approximately 53 million people are affected by some sort of mental illness so the need for education and awareness is great. All are invited to walk, watch, sponsor walkers, or make donations. Merle Carrus moved, and Beth Baryames seconded a donation of \$100 to be used by project organizers to purchase raffle prizes or rent a Pitchburst (similar to dunk tank) booth for the event. A parent commented that the date planned is also the Cal Ripken playoff event to be held at the same time. Christy will contact Tim Cardoza who is head of the Cal Ripken league to coordinate plans. It could prove to be a boon for the NAMI program as well as provide additional activities to the ballplayers and their families, potentially a win-win situation!

2007-08 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION: PTSA officers were elected for the 2007-08 term. Susan Holroyd and Ruth Kabel will continue as co-chairs, Jill Russell will serve as 1st VP, Karen Brown as Secretary, and Julie Forgaard will return as the Treasurer. The 2nd VP position remains open, which is primarily a “stand-by” job. The 2nd VP fills in as needed if members of committees or one of the officers needs a hand, but this group is so well-organized and run, it is rare that the 2nd VP is ever called upon. Please contact any of the officers if you are interested and able to fill that position.

7. Committee Reports:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Janet Listowich, Cherie Wholey, and Lisa Keehan met to consider the slate of officers for 2007-08, as well as review open positions for key committees. Still open is the coordinator position for the Magazine Drive. This person will coordinate (with lots of willing volunteers) the collection and tabulation of orders and award of prizes. The drive is conducted shortly after school begins in the fall, has a couple weeks of activity, then is over. For many years running, there have been more helpers available than help needed, but the need exists for a leader (or co-leader).

STAFF APPRECIATION: The Beach theme luncheon was well received by teachers and staff. Three helpers were plenty to organize and run the luncheon, and the teachers are most appreciative.

8. Other Business:

FORMS: Ruth Kabel, Susan Holroyd, and Julie Forgaard met to discuss and improve beginning of the year PTSA paperwork for 2007-08. Last year there was a great deal of confusion with money collected for PTSA membership and directories, and errors occurred when some restricted phone numbers ended up included in the directory. Continued focus will be placed on reducing the amount of paperwork, coordinating information with the school database, and reducing errors.

JUNE MEETING: Kristen Berry has offered to open her home for the June meeting, which has traditionally been a business/social event. Parent feedback indicated that a potluck lunch meeting would better suit busy schedules than an evening, so Ruth will email all PTSA members after Kristen checks her schedule and chooses a date in June.

RETIREMENT GIFTS: Merle Carrus moved, Cherie Wholey seconded an expenditure equal to the traditional gift (approximately \$50) offered to retiring staff to celebrate Deedee Adams'

retirement as well as Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders departure to her new school.

PARENT COMMENT: There will be a Math Survey disseminated to families in Hollis to collect opinions related to the Everyday Math program. Parents will have 2 weeks to complete and return the survey which is critical for ongoing evaluation and curriculum development.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a potluck luncheon event, date TBD. An email will be sent out to inform all about the time/location.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Goldberg