

Minutes Oct 12, 2010

7:00 Call to Order

Homework Help Speaker- Ms. Spence

“What is your biggest problem?” parent: Math- how to write a BCR-“In math do NOT write a paragraph... instead show a picture – show place value- the best thing to do is know your facts- doubles, pluses, multiples of 3 and 5. Flashcards are good. Open ended questions are hard for kids... but let them try it.”

Reading- 10 minutes everyday- anyway you want to do it-Non-fiction is tough for kids- get them to read the text features in the newspaper- the title, the picture, the caption, etcetera.”

“Homework should not be hugely time consuming- it is not graded... hw is an extension or a practice of what one needs for the day- It's ok for parents to help but don't do it for them. If it's a struggle, stop them after 15 min and then send a note- stating that after 15min they don't know it- but if you teach them then the teacher doesn't know that the kid doesn't know. “

From Ms. Wagner: “Remember the definition of a C? a C means the work done is appropriate for grade level- we want the kids to grow over time. Remember, the only thing that is reported on the transcript to middle school is the final grade”. Ms Wagner has asked teachers to make sure the kids are getting the grades that reflect what they know- remember kids are kids and they need to learn to grow- if they get a C on occasion- it's ok- we don't want to raise kids who have anxiety.”

“we want kids to like math and what we are doing works, our scores went up last year. A good math problem has many different ways to get an answer- kids need to know that 5 times 3 and 3 times 5 are the same as 15 divided by 3...”

Parent: “How do we know if our kids are getting the same challenge?” Ms. Wagner :”Each teacher has a guide that states what needs to be taught. We have good teachers here and the kids have common tests and so the data is looked at to see if the kids are getting it.”

7:15 Roll Call (membership VP- Sonia)- we're doing great- we are all most up to 200 members. And 25 teacher members. We now have magnets that have contact information.

7:18 Minutes Approval- minutes posted on website- motion made, 2nded and approved.

7:20 President's Report: Jenn Barrett – successful back to school night!

Don't forget the Committee Written Reports that are due every month before the PTA meeting. This is very important so we can have a running record of what the monthly goings on are in each committee.

We are going to try something new tonight- we are trying to run our meetings a little smoother by loosely using Robert's Rules of Order and Stacey our secretary will act as our Parliamentarian.

Lastly- The Board has found we made an error on our budget. It was correct on the preliminary budget and somehow became incorrect on the final. The silent auction asked for \$1900, but we show \$1700- the funds have already been secured to cover this money so all we need to do is amend the budget to show \$1900.– Motion was made, 2nded and approved.

7:25 Treasurer's Report: Melissa Fennelly- attached- the current budget looks good

The Fun Fair is our biggest fund raiser

Boat show parking- 10/17

Where do proceeds from birthday books go? Right to library to purchase the books... PTA pays for the books.

7:30 Principal's Report: Ms. Wagner-

- All teachers will have had .5 day of technology training by end of this week.
- Monthly reading themes are being used to help reading skills- Sept was monitoring comprehension
- math consultant was here for .5 day sub for every teacher- math computation- explaining how to get a kid to understand the concept of 7 x 8... also for teachers who need help with math teaching skills and management-
- math benchmarks and reading benchmarks next week-Benchmarks are given three times per year- Fall, January and May to test where are kids and where do we want them to go- looks at school and teachers' needs and strengths.
- Saturday 10/23 Annapolis cluster-wide event at Truxton Park- bringing band and strings...
- 10/28 family fun night
- 10/29 halloween- 2 hr early dismissal. No dressing in costumes- go ahead and put on Halloween colors and pumpkin-type shirts and socks, but have a party ;
- 11/06 is the Fun Fair -instead of buzz bucks- all kids on green 90% of the time gets 25 tickets... below 75 % on green get 5 tickets... everyone gets tickets.
- Pressure is on the teachers to make sure all kids are challenged and are getting rigorous education.
- 10/20 Bates PVA overview
- 10/26 Annapolis MYP overview

parent question: "Will there be a replacement for talent development teacher when she goes out on maternity leave?" Ms. Wagner will do her best but it is hard to find a certified substitute. Remember we are one of the only schools with a full time Talent Development Math teacher on staff.

7:40 Committee Reports:

- Birthday Books- we do this to enrich the library. 102 kids signed up- these books will stay in our library- with a dedication sticker with the student's name on it... The media specialist will buy an assortment of books and each child will be able to choose from this selection- wonderful program- we have really increased the collection- this way kids can get a bigger variety to choose from- books are not in yet.
- Fun Fair (auction)- If you have items for the auction please label "PTA silent auction" and send it in OR drop off in the office- or call or email and we can come pick it up... dead line is Oct 29th. So we have time to get flyers together and then we can advertise what we have... we will also describe them on the buzz- We will sell tickets for iPad during fun fair- have more tickets if you need them- Each class is doing a group craft project that we can sell and the room parent will head up the – 3rd grade needs a lead parent on this project and 5th grade.

I really need help following up with all the companies- we have had great success calling or emailing companies... we need help putting up signs around town after the boat show—something will go in the capital and the Annapolis patch- send picture and blurb to Ms Wagner and she'll send it to the person in charge.

- Fun Nights- first 10/28
 - A variety of active family activity demonstrations and participations will be lead.
 - Kids in kitchen will be set up in the hall, Media has guided discussion on healthy eating
 - Heritage is going to let us use their bus to go to Robinwood to pick up kids- \$1 per person but if family has membership then the family is free- there will be a list of who signed up even if you lost your card. Heritage needs a teacher to ride the bus
- Landscaping- We received a \$1000 grant from unity gardens- including technical services- lucky to have talented parents with connections to the environmental team, Eric O'Neil is helping out the week of Oct 25-29 with school wide educational events- will find out when teachers will do outdoor lesson and will communicate with PTA when this happens- very useful to have parent volunteers to help with the planting- growing natives program for acorn collection and distribution- Next Oct 20 10:30am Janet is going to Homestead gardens to get \$1000 worth of plants- she needs assistance and a vehicle to help transport.
- Robotics- Thanks to PTA – 21 students total- they built one robot already and now they are programming it- come see us on Friday mornings. 4th and 5th graders- they are having so much fun—there needs to be something about this in the patch- We may soon lower the age but we are still trying to get more 4th and 5th first... every 5th grader interested got in and almost all except for a few 4th graders...
- School Dance- March 4 - before MSA and before the time change- it is also a Spirit Day 6:30-8:30. Have a former Hillsmere student DJ the dance. Have a disco ball- kids request top 5 songs and the DJ sensors the songs for appropriateness. More Disney –type songs. \$1/person, if PTA member family free- younger sibs welcome, no older siblings

- Tech Fund- - Goal is SMART board and accessories in every single classroom- goal was \$10k last year- almost made it so PTA got us up to \$15k total. Most people have document cameras need 17 more SMART boards for a total of about \$65k – this year we will do a holiday request for funds for teachers to help pool moneys to buy tech for class- BruMar will allow us to do the mulch sale- Also reuseable bags for sale- will have some available at Fun Fair to purchase.)- also will have some to order. We will do recycling forward program- electronic as a credit for new technology- cell phones, computers, ink cartridges. Will send out flyer and at fun fair and in buzz. Need help looking for grants- who can do this? Do you know anyone who has fundraising ideas?
- Volunteer Committee- getting parents involved in classrooms- boxes are in the copy room- the box is there- and you will not have to interrupt the class. 107 people volunteered- let us know what you need and we can match your needs to what you need- email us... From Ms. Wagner- this is a huge wonderful committee that we can never do without- from kate- never allow one person to do this again – it is too much work- a group of 3 is best – a training will be provided for volunteers who need to know how to use the machines... if you don't hear back let us know so we will get you the information you ned. Remember to log your hours. Kate has slips that go home with project- the teacher gives instructions and the parent writes how long it takes to get it done... Your data base can help the committee
- Catalog sales- did really well- must place order Oct 13 materials will arrive Nov 10 at 1:00 and we will need help passing out stuff- pizzas and cookies will have to be organized before parents come to collect them. We made about \$7000. Go ahead and order online- we'll find out for how long. For next year: Promote the out of town online option please if we do this again... and put in buzz

8:24 Unfinished Business: none-

8:24 New Business:- Questions- is there a DJ at the Fun Fair? We don't know yet- discussion to follow.

Entrance Mats- - we don't own them- we pay \$112 each month. We cannot renew this contract for beyond the current membership- two options spend: \$112 month until June 30 (may go up) or make sure they are kept cleaned- there are two sets- one here one getting cleaned and then switched out. 12 x \$112. Contract expired March 30, 2010. In order to continue (Hornet mats) do we want to continue or purchase the rugs for \$60 each and our custodial staff will clean them. We can keep these or we can get rid of them and get the free ones from the Board of Ed- \$240 so PTA owns them and we can donate them and school is responsible for them... or get rid of them and have central facility to donate. The custodial staff is up for the job.

Motion to buy. Seconded. all in favor none opposed, none abstained

Parent directory- she will email them. there will only be 7 hard copies- if you filled out a form you will get it this week- 200 children and 142 families...

8:30 Meeting Adjourned- Motion to adjourn. Seconded. all in favor no opposed, no abstained