

PTO Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2014
9:10AM, Hillside Elementary School

Attendance

Michelle Barton, Diane Cohle, , Marcy DelOrefice, Adam Haines, Maura Harley, Sian Keating, Lisa Nishikawa, Elizabeth Pechin, Dana Zdancewicz

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from December 11, 2013 were approved.

Principal's Report – Diane Cohle

- Food Allergies
 - Mrs. Cohle acknowledged there has been confusion recently expressed by some parents regarding Hillside's Birthday policy on whether students can bring in food to celebrate their birthday celebrations.
 - The District issued guidelines during the Summer regarding food allergies and birthday celebrations within the classrooms. It was understood that the District was providing guidance at that time.
 - Some grades at Hillside are handling Birthdays differently and this appears to be the source of confusion.
 - As the year has progressed, a review of the Districts regulations resulted in a change in understanding exactly what the District has decided.
 - The TESC Regulation #5403 was revised on September 19, 2013:
"in-school birthday celebrations, while permitted, may only occur either with fruits and vegetables or without the use of food altogether."
 - Also, in accordance with this regulation if a child is identified as having a life-threatening allergy, a 504 Plan will be developed and when necessary, the 504 Plan must include the elimination of the allergen in the student's classroom.
 - Mrs. Cohle will be sending home an updated policy to communicate the policy, to hopefully clear up any confusion.
- Happy New Year wishes from Mrs. Cohle to the PTO.
- Preparation for PSSA testing is underway. Mary Nagle has been helping the teachers with practice tests.
- Upcoming events:
 - 4th Grade – Betsy Ross
 - 2nd Grade – Master Chen
 - K – Mother Goose

President's Report – Dana Zdancewicz

- Dana will be sending out a Letter from the PTO President to parents (draft passed out to meeting attendees).
- Dana will mention the Parent Social at the end of January (Beef n Beer)
- Also, reinforcing the Birthdays Food policy and try to provide suggestions for other ways for the students to celebrate and still feel special.
- School Store Coupons will be introduced in the letter with samples on the back. Coupon booklets may be purchased by parents for their children to share with their classmates as part of the birthday celebration.
- Michelle Barton will work to produce the first batch of coupon booklets and then the PTO can assess whether it is an item to keep offering.
- Booklets of approx.. 20 \$.50 coupons and booklets of 20 \$1.00 coupons will be tested out.

President's Report continued:

- April 30th is the PTO Expo in Oaks. Cost is \$10 per attendee. Dana will coordinate with Board Members that want to attend.

Treasurer's Report – Sian Keating/Maura Harley

- Holiday Shop made \$487.64. Various board members mentioned that they felt themselves and received feedback that some items did not seem appropriate (religious, too cheaply made)
- Parent Social is coming up quickly and no tickets have been sold yet. Sian stated that the Social needs to cover the deposit, at least, and of course, make money beyond that.

Committee Reports

- Yearbook: everything is on track. Life Touch has been chosen as the vendor. Christa Amos needs more Kindergarten and 1st grade photos. Due date for the Yearbook to the printer is April 11th. Flyer for sales will go out soon.
- Book Fair: Second book fair of the year is coming at the end of February.
- ISC: Hillside's presentation is coming up soon (February). Lindsey Andreuzzi will be presenting the 7 Healthy Habits project.

The meeting was adjourned. The next PTO meeting will take place on Wednesday February 12, 2014 at 9:10am at Hillside.