

**PTO Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2014**  
**9:10AM, Hillside Elementary School**

**Attendance**

Michelle Barton, Lori Benedict, Melanie Bradish, Andrea Bruce, Diane Cohle, Ann Davidson, Marcy DelOrefice, Maura Harley, Sian Keating, Lisa Nishikawa, Carla Ojha, Dana Zdancewicz

**Special Presentation – Elementary Connections**

- A presentation on the Elementary Connections program was given by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Principal's Report – Diane Cohle**

- Recent Events: Chinese Paper Cutting, Betsy Ross and Mother Goose – always popular.
- If we have a Snow Day on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Valentine's Day Parties will be reschedule for Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Hillside has established a "Concussion Team" – Mrs. Nagle, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Cohle.
- The Book Fair will be at the end of February.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Staff Appreciation Breakfast – Pancakes.
- The Harlem Wizards are coming back – the FLITE event will take place March 21<sup>st</sup> (Friday) – so far, Mr. Pechin will play in the game. On February 18, there will be an assembly with a Wizards player.
- Field Trip for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade has been rescheduled, again, due to weather.
- Mrs. Cohle thanked the PTO for organizing the Parent Social and that she thought it was a great event.

**Committee Report – Parent Social**

- Kristin Becket presented to the Board the results of the Parent Social:
  - The Beef n Beer at the Berwyn Tavern made \$5700.
  - Approx. 142 people attended.
  - The feedback from parents was very positive – only request would be a larger venue for next year. McKenzie's in Frazer was suggested – their downstairs. Or The Annex.
  - "Low Key" seems to be the way to go
- Lori Benedict suggested a Kid Social or Family Social event – why not another event similar to Pizza Bingo Night? Perhaps a Trivia Night or a Family Game Night Fundraiser/Social. Include a Bake Sale. Lori will form a committee to organize. Mrs. Cohle checked the calendar and the date of April 4<sup>th</sup> was selected.
- Another suggestion was a 5K Fundraiser. One issue would be finding someone to organize. Ann will follow up with the Tredyffrin Township to learn more about permits, etc.

**VP Social Functions – Marcy DelOrefice**

- Marcy needs donations for the Staff Appreciation Breakfast – making pancakes.

**VP Membership and School Services – Lisa Nishikawa**

- Hearts for Hillside: Melanie Bradish is organizing the event. Melanie stated that Hillside Families have donated enough food for 30 grocery bags of food to be donated to the Great Valley Food Pantry.

### **VP Fundraising – Ann Davidson**

- Book Fair this month – Grandparents Day and two mornings of Donuts with Dad.
- Marcy DelOrefice asked the Board whether the Book Fair should cash out (25% take) or receive Scholastic dollars (50%).
- It was decided by the Board for the Fall Book Fair to take Cash and the Spring Book Fair take Scholastic dollars.

### **Treasurer Report – Sian Keating / Maura Harley**

- Sian provided the February Budget and Fundraising Reports.
- Sian mentioned that Committee Chairs need to be mindful of their budgets. Also, she had some questions regarding the Vanguard account: Cultural Arts Endowment Fund.
- Sian asked what it is and why was it established.
- Michelle Barton mentioned that at the end of last year, the fund was mentioned at a PTO Board meeting and should be in the archives of the meeting minutes. Michelle continued to recall that basically, it had been established with the idea that in good fundraising years, the PTO would continue to add to the fund. The original intention was for the fund to grow to a point in which Cultural Arts would be able to, at some point, be supported by the interest earned by the Endowment Fund.
- Michelle continued to recall that last year's PTO Board realized that with the downturn in the economy in 10 years, fundraising at Hillside by the PTO has decreased dramatically. Last year's PTO Board acknowledged the endowment will not be able to fund Cultural Arts but for a couple of years at its current value.
- Michelle Barton said that the meeting minutes from May and/or June will help refresh her memory of these comments. Michelle said she will read over the minutes from those meetings and stated they are available to the others as well.
- It was suggested, as Carla had a previous engagement and would be late to today's meeting, that the conversation be tabled until such time as to include Carla and have her shed some light on any issues.
- Sian stated that there seems to have been confusion or an error in the budget planning last year. The Writer Workshop/Author Visits was not included in last year's budget planning. Sian stated that Cultural Arts continuously goes over budget and is over budget this year.

### **VP Cultural Arts – Carla Ojha**

- Carla arrived later than expected and apologized to the Board. Carla provided an update that included planning for next year's Theme Week is underway. Carla mentioned that Darcy McGroarty has offered to chair the Theme Week Committee next year.
- Carla stated there are just a few remaining Cultural Arts events remaining this year.

### **Committee Reports – Spring Fair**

- Lori Benedict requested the Board to approve her budget for the Games portion of the Spring Fair. There was a motion to approve a budget of \$3190 for the Games budget for the Spring Fair. It was seconded and was approved unanimously.

### **Summary of Votes Taken**

1. Game Night as a new event was approved and April 4, 2014 was selected as the date.
2. Establishment of a 2014 Fall Walk/Run fundraiser was approved.
3. The budget for 2014-2015 is to remain the same this year's budget.

**The meeting was adjourned. The next PTO meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 7, 2013 at 9:10am at Hillside.**