

PTO Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2013
9:10AM, Hillside Elementary School

Attendance

Yolanda Allen, Michelle Barton, , Diane Cohle, , Marcy DelOrefice, Michele DiNoia, Maura Harley, Sian Keating, Beth Lee, Cheri Lotan, , Lisa Nishikawa, Carla Ojha, Dana Zdancewicz

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from September 9, 2013 were approved.

Principal's Report – Diane Cohle

- Mrs. Cohle stated that she is happy with the Student Directory, something she uses every day. Michelle Barton thanked Christa Amos for creating the QR codes used in this year's directory.
- Walk to School Day, Health Screenings and the Open House all went well.
- Mrs. Cohle stated that she enjoyed the Spirit Day at Handle's, noting it is nice to talk with people in a different setting.
- There are 2 field trips scheduled this month – 1st Grade at Milky Way Farms and Kindergarten at Sugartown Farms.
- November 5th schools will be closed – district wide – due to Election Day and that some of the District's schools are polling locations.
- Halloween Parade will be on Oct. 31st along with the class parties. Mrs. Cohle stated that the school has contracted with Tredyffrin Police presence.
- Mrs. Cohle proudly announced our PSSA results – 93.2 is our score. The results of the PSSA's have been published and our school and district did well. This website shows the results: <http://paayp.emetric.net/ReportCard/Index/c15/124157802/1439>

VP Membership and School Services – Lisa Nishikawa

- A Chairperson for the Drama club has been found and the club will start up in the new year.
- At the Core Parents meeting, Lisa provided details on the Publishing Center.
- There has been a complaint about the lack of knowledge of the Winter Recreation program.

VP Social Functions – Marcy DelOrefice

- Marcy stated the Fall Coffees were well attended.
- Marcy continued to say that Pizza Bingo on Oct. 11th has pre-sold tickets for 40 adults and 36 kids, so far.
- The costume sale will take place at Pizza Bingo, but Colleen Mullin warns that we do not have many donated costumes. The PTO needs more to be donated soon.

VP Cultural Arts – Carla Ojha

- The Cultural Arts calendar is set for the school year. October 28th Harry the 3rd, a master illusionist, will be at Hillside doing an assembly with a 'Kids for Character' theme, about making better choices.
- November 8th Hillside will have an Author Visit – the author is Peter Catalanotto and he will be illustrating and writing with the students.

VP Fundraising – Ann Davidson (Not Present – notes provided)

- Handels event made \$172 which is a little less than last year, but great considering Handle's cut two hours from our event. In all, Hillside families spent over \$800 on ice cream in 3 hours.

- Wrapping paper sale has been extended thru this week.
- Costume Sale will take place at Pizza Bingo. We are in need of more costumes!
- Ann does not have the Spirit Wear numbers yet, but Spirit Wear will also be at Pizza Bingo.
- Book Fair will take place October 29-November 1st.

Treasurer – Sian Keating/Maura Harley

- Sian stated that she and Maura have been working on the books and looking at each of the Fundraisers, evaluating the budgets and the expected income.
- Sian & Maura have some totals (as of Sept 26th)
 - Hawky \$1614
 - Spirit Wear \$84
- Target check and Target gift card – they have not arrived, it may be wise to call Target and ask them to cancel the initial check and resend.
- The Target gift card will be given to the teachers – Ms. DiNoia stated the teachers would like to spend it on Pride Day.

President’s Report – Dana Zdancewicz

- Dana attended the PTO Presidents Meeting – safety improvements are taking place throughout the district. One example is with the Fire Drills – the most recent drill included a redirection that the students were not told ahead of time about – Mrs. Cohle stated the drill went very well, better than most would have expected.
- Dana stated that some of the safety projects are behind the scenes. One is the topic of PTOs running background checks on parents that run the after-school clubs and the parents that volunteer at the clubs.
- The topic of whether Hillside’s PTO should require after-school clubs to run background checks. Issues involved are – who pays, who monitors the program.

Committee Reports

- Class Parties – Kim Zahlaway and Jenn Howell have been working with Lisa Nishikawa who has learned of a baker who cooks without the 8 most common allergens – gluten (wheat), dairy, egg, soy, sesame, peanut, and tree nut (including coconut). She is certified by the state.
 - A school nurse joined the meeting for this topic. It was suggested that the list of ingredients be provided to the nurses for approval.
 - The new policy is that any food served at the party must be able to be consumed by all students, not just in the class, but the entire grade.
 - The cost of the allergy-friendly treats for the Halloween party will cost approximately 1 per child, which is the entire budget for the party.
 - Marcy DelOrefice posed the question – how many of the allergy families will feel comfortable with a treat baked by someone other than themselves? What if the PTO puts forth this effort and increased cost and then the allergy kids don’t participate?
 - Marcy also stated that the Kindergarten classes have chosen to serve holiday versions of Oreo cookies, as they are acceptable for all of the students in that grade. This might be more cost effective.
 - 4th Grade has agreed to run a “test” of this approach to the allergies issue in the classes. And perhaps other grades will join the 4th grade.

- Directory – Michelle Barton stated that there have been 3 errors brought to her attention. A correction flyer will be distributed within a month.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am. The next PTO meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 9:10am at Hillside.