

PTO Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2013

9:10AM, Hillside Elementary School

Attendance

Lindsay Andreuzzi, Michelle Barton, Lori Benedict , Ann Davidson, Marcy DelOrefice, Sian Keating, Darcy McGroarty, Lisa Nishikawa, Carlo Ojha, Dana Zdancewicz

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from November 12, 2013 were approved.

Principal's Report – Diane Cohle (Not Present)

Committee Report – ISC Update (Lindsay Andreuzzi)

- There have been 2 meetings thus far this year.
- The results of the Keystone Exams (taken by Middle & High Schools)
 - 3 tests needed for each student to pass
- PSSA results: 3rd Grade Hillside
 - 98.8% proficient in reading
 - 100% proficient or advanced in math
- PSSA results: 4th Grade Hillside
 - 94% proficient in reading
 - 96.6 proficient in math
 - 98% proficient in science
- Essential Skills Program – each lesson taught must provide one of the 4:
 - Social responsibility
 - Critical thinking
 - Creative thinking
 - Digital
- Lindsay needs to present to ISC in March regarding a project at Hillside – for example, a fundraiser for charity. It was suggested a presentation on Hillside's school store – last year was the first year the proceeds were donated to a charity. And the charity was chosen by the 4th Graders.

PTO Email Blasts – Sian Keating

- The PTO spends \$356.16 per year for the email blast service.
- This is regardless of the number of blasts.
- There was a question regarding the procedure of getting an email blast approved. Dana will investigate. It is not understood why it has been perceived as difficult to get them approved in the past.
- There was discussion by the attendees that they would not mind an email per week. Would this be too much for some families?

VP Fundraising – Ann Davidson

- Holiday Shop:
 - Sales were very good. There were too many kids at some times, but overall it was ok. Some students needed more guidance.
 - It was suggested that perhaps Math Teachers could chaperone the students and use it as a math lesson.
 - It was also suggested that Conestoga's Key Club could be utilized – however, the new daytime hours would be a problem for the high school students.

- There was some feedback that the much of the selection was “junk” – some parents not happy.
- Bake Sales – Sian Keating, Chairperson:
 - Some fundraising events have been running their own bake sales and doing very well. \$250 at a recent event.
 - There was a motion to for more of the PTO events to host Bake Sales – it was seconded and the Board voted – motion approved.
- Kid Stuff Books:
 - The sales were down this year. It was discussed that although not sending sample books home was easier, it affected sales negatively. It was discussed that when books are sent home, parents can review the coupons and decide wither to keep &/or buy additional books.
- Parent Social Update:
 - Venue has been booked for Jan. 31st.
 - The committee has sent out a request for donations from within the Hillside community, they are not soliciting outside of Hillside.
 - The silent auction will be small and not the focus.
 - There was discussion on whether we should have the Class Baskets or save them for Spring Fair.
 - There was a discussion around photographs of students to ‘auction’ off – perhaps just one grade (4th Grade). Dana has been discussing with SAS Becker. Dana will follow up with SAS.
 - Tickets will cost approximately \$40-\$45.

VP Social Functions – Marcy DelOrefice

- Marcy needs to coordinate with Mrs. Cohle for the January Staff Breakfast.

VP Cultural Arts – Carla Ojha

- Author Visit went well – Kelly Pugliese did a wonderful job.
- Talent Show was very successful –Christa Amos did an outstanding job.
- Upcoming events:
 - Master Cheng
 - Mother Goose
 - Betsy Ross
- Theme Week plans are starting for next year. Darcy McGroarty offered to organize for next year. The calendar needs to be set by April.

Treasurer – Sian Keating

- Hawky campaign is up to \$3359.00
- Bake Sales will be broken out into separate events so that they can be tracked better.
- Book Fair raised \$3010.00
- Maura Harley has reworked the budgets to make them easier to understand and updates have been sent out to VPs.

President’s Report – Dana Zdancewicz

Old Business

- Feedback is being solicited by the Core Parents Committee to further analyze the success of using the ‘allergy’ friendly baker. She was used by some grades for the Halloween Party and will be used by another for the Winter Party.

- Questions to be answered:
 - Was the food acceptable to parents of kids with allergies?
 - Given the cost – how does the PTO resolve providing a snack & craft at parties?
 - Perhaps other foods (Oreos, as the Kindergarten is using for all parties, are a more cost effective food option)
 - Perhaps we use the allergy friendly baker at 1 of the 3 parties – not all; thus, relieving some pressure on the budget?
- Kim Zahlaway and Jenn Howell are working on this and will get back to the board.

New Business

- Darcy McGroarty mentioned the confusion around food and birthdays. Darcy suggested that the policy has not been consistent across grades and even within grades. Mrs. Cohle will be asked to follow up.
- Birthday coupons for the school store have previously been approved by Mrs. Cohle – Michelle Barton will work with Colleen Mullin to put something together.

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