

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Henking School

Attendees: Ande Wells, Angela McCune, Marcy Pettersen, Bobbi Murokh, Meg Shepstone, Alison Olsen, Cindy Weickert, Mark Walther, Jennifer Kim, Ivy Sukenik, Maureen Pekosh, Marcy Sotirchos, Linda Distler, Jodi Hiller

The November and December minutes were approved.

President's Report – Mary Patronik

• Thank you to our Holiday Helper leaders of Marguerite Cole and Sue Haramaras. Along with Nina Malis, they coordinated a very well run program which helped nearly 100 families in our cluster.

PTA Council Report – Angela McCune

• This month's meeting was a review of the PLC (professional learning community) use in the schools, which is changing the way teams collaborate around student outcomes instead of processes. Dr. Rich (Pleasant Ridge) and Dr. Hinton (Westbrook) commended the way the teachers are learning this new approach to evaluating and delivering learning progress. More pertinent to the PTAs, we are working with the district on allowing PTA registration to occur along with school registration, with the goal of having the links ready by kindergarten registration in March.

Membership Report - Ande Wells

• If you are a committee chair, please review your volunteer requirements and update the descriptions on the volunteer form (which can be found on the website). Please submit any changes/additions/deletions to Ande by 2/12 so they can be included in the forms which are given out at kindergarten registration.

Treasurer's Report - Angela McCune

• Presented the current budget; Holiday Helper expenses are much lower than budgeted, so follow up will happen to make sure everyone is reimbursed for the food expenses. Recommended to leave the budget at \$2000 for Holiday Helper. AuctionPay (Greater Giving) fee is in its 4th year of a 5-year contract; this pays for the software used to run the silent auction.

Principal Reports

•Ivy Sukenik – Henking School

• New bilingual liaison position being filled by Alejandra Mendoza

- Outreach to Latino community
- Resources, home visits, PTA connection?
- PALMA/MAPA

• We are very excited about upcoming PTA sponsored events including:

- Hedgehog visit - Thursday
- Author Visit – Jim Aylesworth – February 4th
- International Fair – Friday

- Winter benchmarking scores are in, we are still in the process of comparing data but so far the growth has almost doubled over last year's growth. The growth in all three grade levels is very impressive. Such a testament to our hard working students and staff!
- We will be going next week to participate in the 7 Strategies for Assessment in order to bring our staff on board and follow in the footsteps of Hoffman!
- Kira Maar has been so kind as to connect us with one of the global language teachers in order to offer a class in Spanish for our staff. Kira herself is also going to start teaching a yoga class to staff after school!
- We are in the process of organizing a fundraiser to help support the Haitian people in the wake of the earthquake. Similar to the Giving Tree Fundraiser from last year in 1st grade.
- Facilities Committee update

Mark Walther – Hoffman School

- Happy 2010! Special thanks to all room mothers for their enthusiastic work at all of our classroom holiday celebrations on Dec. 18.
- Extra special thanks to our PTA and community for your support after the tragic death of Eric Utech.
- We've been busy with mid-year benchmark assessments since we returned on January 4. All students have taken NWEA assessments in reading and math, Reading CBM's and Math CBM's.
- RTI Leadership Team (19 staff and I) met on Dec. 10 and Jan. 11. We are developing systems for teams to analyze achievement data and provide systemic interventions for students needing support.
- 12 staff members and I attended an outstanding conference on Dec. 1-2 entitled "The 7 Strategies of Assessment for Learning."
- Classroom Spelling Bee's Jan. 18-22
- Hoffman School Bee Mon., Jan. 25
- District 34 Bee Wed., Jan. 27 @ Attea
- Latino Youth Night Wed., Jan. 20, 6-8 pm at Springman involving Henking/Hoffman/Springman Hispanic families – presenters will be 2 GPD tactical officers and former gang member
- All 5th grades have gone to Feed Our Starving children in Aurora – food for Haiti
- "Hoffman Helps Haiti" – Jan. 25 – Feb. 5. ELL students taking leadership collecting change in shoeboxes – all donations go to American Red Cross!
- After School Reading program (ARC) begins Jan. 25
- Mission Impossible/Climbing Wall – PE classes Jan. 11-15 – 229 parents showed up!
- Chess Club began for 40 students on Mon. Jan. 11
- International Fair – Friday, Jan. 29, 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Thank you Marcy Sotirchos, Lettey Hawkes, Denise Morgan, Beth Oyarzyun

- String Concert Thurs., Jan 28, 7 pm @Attea
- 5th Grade Musical – “SNOOZE” 2/11 9:30 – Hoffman, 2/11 1:00 pm – Henking, 2/12 9:30 – Public performance
- Valentines Day classroom celebrations 2/12 @1:45 pm

Hoffman Cultural Arts – Laura Horowitz

•Laura Horowitz was unable to attend but sent in this report: Visiting Author: Jamie Gilson, who wrote 13 Ways to Sick a Sub and 26 other childrens books, will be at Hoffman on Tues, Feb 23. She will be presenting to each grade level about her books and how she got her ideas. She got a lot of her ideas from Central School in Wilmette where her kids attended school (with me). She is a friend of Laura Horowitz's Mom.

Henking Cultural Arts – Jodi Hiller

•Confirmed that the hedgehog will be visiting Henking's kindergarten classes this Thursday. Mother Goose has been booked for 3/24 and the Disc Dogs for Spirit Day (6/8). Work is still in progress for a music workshop for 1st and 2nd graders in February.

International Night -- Marcy Sotirchos

•Everything is going as planned for the great event (Fri 1/29). More help is always needed in the rooms and cafeteria, so if you can sign up for a shift (6:15-7pm or 7-7:45pm or 7:45-8:30pm) please contact the volunteer coordinator, Denise Morgan at dmorgan244@gmail.com.

Henking Movie Night -- Linda Distler

•High School Musical is the G-rated selection for Feb 26th. Details and opportunities to help out will be sent in the February school newsletters and PTA website.

Environmental -- Maureen Pekosh

•Hoffman is beginning a Terracycle bag brigade, where Frito Lay bags are collected and redeemed (2 cents per bag). Student Council is designing posters to announce the efforts. Henking will soon follow along, thanks to help from Sandy in the Cafeteria. Next month, potential lunchbox sales will be presented (fall 2010 fundraiser idea for the green team).

Benefit – Alison Olsen

Everything is going along great so far. Business donations are down, but so far 70 staff offerings have been put together. Kaki Voss will be leading the neighborhood team to come up with larger packages. Zoe and Matt Sundstrom are building a chipping green for an event-night activity. One \$300 hole sponsorship is still available, so please contact Alison if you or a business you know is interested in the sponsorship. Room parents should turn in their class gift descriptions by 2/14. If you'd like to stay up-to-date, just join the Facebook Group!

New Business

Coupons for Education, Cindy Weickert -- Cindy presented "Coupons for Education," a new program approved by the National PTA. (Cindy works for Concept Shopping, developers of the program.) Representing major consumer product groups (such as Sara Lee, Dial, Unilever, Quaker), these coupons work like regular coupons for the consumer plus they have special barcodes to send rebates to the PTA. Packets of grocery coupons are distributed by the PTA to families on a scheduled basis (every 2-3 months).

Everyone felt it is worth a try, and this complements the Shop & Share and eScripts fundraising efforts we already participate in. Although there is ability to record individual packet numbers if a grade-level report is desired (such as for a pizza party contest for greatest redemptions by a grade), we do not plan to go to that level of detail. Coupons are due to be available in late March and would be distributed to all classrooms. Thank you to Molly Heshenhouse, who is the PTA coordinator for Shop & Share, for offering to help with this program.

College Nannies & Tutors -- Laura Horwitz (Hoffman parent & managing director) has provided coupons for families who would like to try out their new tutoring service. The PTA is appreciative of their willingness to share discounts for our PTA members, and so you may find the offers in the PTA mailboxes at either school.

Thank you to everyone who attended. Meeting adjourned at 11am. Next meeting is 2/16, 9:15am, Hoffman.