

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Henking

Called to order: 9:25 AM

Attendees: Cindy Berg, Gina Pryor, Mark Walther, Donna Van Swol, Mary Patronik, Marcy Sotirchos, Letty Hawkes, Marguerite Cole, Jason Delgatto, Laura Horwitz, Neal Siegellak, Liz Skweres and Angela McCune

President's Report: Letty Hawkes

Letty shared the highlights of last week's PTA Council Meeting.

-Character Counts was highlighted at the meeting. The different clusters have a variety of ways of introducing the pillars of character and helping the children understand the principles. It was agreed that the children have a good understanding of the pillars and that it was parents who were not always clear on the concepts. Talked about ways to bring parents more into the process and help them understand the different pillars.

-As a whole the District 34 Schools did well on the NWEA and ISAT tests. At the December HE/HO PTA meeting at Hoffman on 12/11 we will have an opportunity to take the NWEA test.

-Communications to parents and families is very important. We discussed making a pod cast of PTA meetings so that more parents would have access to the meetings. Many schools in the area are going paperless and there is a push to send home all newsletters and permission slips by e-mail. (OLPH, Springman, and Attea) There will always be a portion of the school population that does not have access to a computer or will want the paper so there will be the option to get the paper copy sent home.

Treasurer's Report: Laura Horwitz

Laura handed out a copy of the budget and highlighted areas that had activity in the last month. The Taffy Apple sale generated \$616.90 in sales which was donated to the Debra Gelfand Fund. The Fall Carnival netted \$3249.09 and has become a second fundraiser for the schools. Spirit Wear earned \$243. The profit from the sale of the Green Bags was \$2079.10 and will be used for future recycling programs that the Environmental Team is considering. The bags are due to arrive in December. The taxes are done and teachers have begun to hand in receipts for reimbursements.

Principals Report

Mark Walther-Hoffman School

- Thank you for attending our last PTA meeting on Tues. 10/16 with the tactical officers from the Glenview Police Department.
- Character Counts week was October 22-26. There were 1600 entries for the poster contest, 485 of them were from Hoffman students! Thanks for all the food donated for the Food Drive.
- Thank you to the Room Moms for all their help with the Halloween parties and to all the parents who came out to see the parade. No problems with the food guidelines.
- Artist in Residence-Kevin Olis, a local artist, was at Hoffman the week of November 5th and is returning the week of December 3rd to help finish a fantastic art project that will be featured in the new addition. A big thank you to Marcy Sotirchos for all her help with this project.
- Student Board elections are complete; over 93 students participated in this process.
- The Local School Council has applied for a grant to fund their Parent Education Program.
- Thank you to Cheryl Hoker and Gail Arrigo for starting up a Year Book Club where 5th grade students participate in putting Memory Book together.
- IMEA Music Festival was on November 3rd and featured 10 5th grade Hoffman students under the direction of Mrs. Ross-Meredith.
- The choir practices every Tuesday afternoon after school. Over 180 students participate in choir.
- TCS (Test of Cognitive Skills) will be given to all 3rd grade students on 11/27.
- Holiday Helper is underway and pack up is scheduled for Saturday December 1st.
- Movie Night is Friday 12/7 and will feature “Cats and Dogs”. Thank you to Beth Boland and Meredith McKinley for heading up this event.
- Parents In Partnership was held on Saturday 11/10 and was a great success. Thanks again to the PTA for all your support!
- Happy Thanksgiving to all our HE/HO families!

Neal Siegellak-Henking School

- Thanks TO Susan Yanun for her help on Photo Day and Retake Day.
- Thanks to Marguerite Cole for heading up the Taffy Apple Sale.
- A big thank you to Gina Pryor for all her work in putting the School Directory together.
- Thanks to Liz Skweres and Jane Crouth for their leadership at the Henking Book Fair. Also, thanks to Linda Murphy for organizing Pizza Night.

Circus Boy and Grandparents Evening were a big success. The Book Raffle earned \$600 for Debra Gelfand.

-On October 30, Neal traveled to McNair School and was Principal for a Day. McNair is the sister school of HE/HO and is located in the Austin area in Chicago. This school serves children in grades K-8. Stephanie Whisler, Val Spingola and Judy Zimmerman have undertaken this project of aligning our schools with an inner city school that has financial needs and would provide an opportunity for both sets of students to interact and learn more about each other. There will be a school supply drive in December. Neal felt very welcomed and enjoyed participating in this endeavor.

-Professional Learning Communities held a workshop on 10/18 and 10/19 and another is scheduled for 12/13 and 12/14. The goal is to use outcomes to make assessments to monitor and guide progress. The collaborative meetings begin in January; at Hoffman it will be during 2 hours after school and at Henking it is 1 hour before and 1 hour after school.

-Seven teachers are piloting the MAP; this test is administered in the fall and spring and provides a RIT score.

-The Facilities Committee met and acknowledges that Henking is at capacity with 539 students. Also, the trend is towards decreasing class sizes so the committee is looking at a variety of options to decrease crowding; mobile class rooms, move part or all of 2nd grade to Hoffman, or build another school which would house all of District 34's kindergarten classes.

-The pod casts with the 2nd grade have begun. He is looking at the possibility of video casts. Character Counts is the focus of these pod casts.

-Report cards go home 11/27 and conferences at Henking are scheduled for 11/30.

Committee Reports

Cultural Arts-Henking-Mary Patronik

Ricky Recycle did a presentation at Henking. The staff did not like him; they felt he was too loud. The material was good but he needs to work on the delivery. In January the students will see Charlottes Web and Mary is trying to schedule Chicago Boy Acrobatics for Spirit Day.

Cultural Arts-Hoffman-Marcy Sotirchos

Marcy gave a slide presentation to illustrate the art project that is ongoing at Hoffman. Kevin Olis, an artist, taught the children to draw their faces on a piece of wood which he will cut out and bring back for the children to paint. The faces are mounted in four levels on boards and will line the hallway in the new addition. Every current child at Hoffman will participate and their

faces will remain at Hoffman for years to come. A big thank you to Eric Utech for all his help and guidance. Marcy will need parent volunteers for the week on 12/3 to help with the painting. The entire cultural arts budget for the year is going towards this project.

Fall Carnival Recap-Angela McCune and Cindy Berg

The Fall Carnival was successful and they would not recommend any major changes. Cindy kept track of all the food and beverages used so that we have something to go off of next year. Big thanks to all the volunteers from the GBS Interact Club.

School Directory-Gina Pryor

The directory is done and 820 copies are being printed this week. The directories will go out before Thanksgiving. Gina was able to keep the directory under budget. This was a very labor intensive project and Gina thinks it can be done more efficiently. She designed a new simplified form and will check with Brett Clark to see if we can use the Power School Form that the parents fill out at registration. Then we would only need forms from people who have changed their information since the time of registration.

Henking Book Fair-Liz Skewers and Jane Crouth

The Book Fair generated \$18,500 in sales. The event was successful, added Grandparents Night on Thursday evening. It brought in many grandparents who were happy to purchase books for their grand children. It was suggested that next year they have snacks and cocoa. Also, talked about the possibility of moving this event to earlier in the day. It is easier for seniors to go out before it gets dark. Lastly, Liz asked if the PTA could add more money to the budget for the teacher's breakfast on Wednesday morning the week of the Book fair. Letty indicated that they would make the adjustment.

Butterfly Garden

Starting next week there is a bulb drive for families to donate bulbs to plant this month for the spring.

Holiday Helper-Marguerite Cole

The food is coming in and Marguerite has arranged for volunteers to help bring the food from Henking to Hoffman. At this time there are still families available to sponsor.

Adjourned at 11:32 AM