

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2007
Hoffman

Called to order: 7:05 PM

Attendees: Tom Sochowski, Daniel Calvillo Chavez, Laura Roche, Chris Drimalla, Jim Drimalla, Gerarda Sanchez, Jconcepcion Torres, Cathy Cunningham, Karen Ornduff, Rhonda Heublein, Cindy Weickert, Jeff Paul, Lisa Paul, Laura Sapperstein, Kelly Mihelic, Tresee Koers, Michelle Sklena, Jamie O'Connor, Scott Frerichs, Luz Trujillo, Ann Schaefer, Francis Marasieb, Tim Patronik, Mary Patronik, Dave Hayes, Mary Hayes, Katie Cox, Francisco Contreras, Maria Contreras, Shirley Gaumont, Maureen Hugo, Ester Sanchez, Roger Hermann, Marcy Sotirchos, Letty Hawkes, Laura Horwitz, Angela McCune, Mark Walther, and Neal Siegellak

Welcome Everyone

Neal Siegellak greeted the attendees and welcomed them to the first combined PTA and Local School Council (LSC) Meeting. He invited parents to Reading Night at Henking on October 25. The primary teachers will present information related to reading and there will be breakout sessions.

Laura Horwitz is the treasurer of the PTA and a member of the LSC. For the next two years the goal of the LSC is to put together a LSC University where different issues that are important to parents are showcased at evening meetings. Tonight the Glenview Police department is presenting information about gangs, drugs, and graffiti. Another session is scheduled for January and there will be a third later in the year discussing math and issues related to helping your child with math. So far people have expressed an interest in wanting information about internet safety and bullying. A survey was sent home last week to assess which issues parents want to get more information on. Three more University sessions are planned for the 2008-2009 year.

The September PTA minutes were approved.

Treasurer' Report: Laura Horwitz

A copy of the PTA budget was provided to the attendees.

Upcoming Events

The Henking Book fair is scheduled for 11/7 and 11/8. Pizza Night is on that Wednesday night (11/7) and Circus Boy is the featured act.

Parents in Partnership is on Saturday 11/10. This is an educational seminar geared towards parents in the Glenview community. The keynote speaker is Michael Staver and he is followed by three breakout sessions where parents have the opportunity to attend a variety of presentations. Childcare is available for children 3 and older who are toilet trained.

Glenview Police Department Presentation

Officers Sanchez and Shennan work in the tactical unit of the Glenview police department. They work with juveniles and deal with gangs, graffiti, drugs and other types of crime. There are gangs and drugs in Glenview and it is a problem but not a major problem. They emphasized that it is important to ask your children questions, be aware of what is happening in their lives. They also reviewed signs that might indicate that your child is in a gang. In order to recognize the signs that your child might be involved with a gang they discussed some ways gangs identify themselves.

There are two major gang factions; People vs. Folk. There are some independent groups but most fit into these two categories. Typically gangs in the two factions do not fight each other they tend to fight members in the other faction. The two major gangs in Glenview are the Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples. Key identifiers for the Latin Kings (People faction) are black and gold colors, symbols and hats that go to the left, a five point star, an upside down pitchfork. The Gangster disciples (Folk faction) wear black and blue colors, symbols and hats are towards the right, they use a 6 point star, the number 6, an upright pitchfork. Another group is the Surenos 13, an independent group, believed to operate with the Mexican mafia. Their colors are any combination of blue, the number 13, clothing with the word South (ex. South Side, South Pole) and spider web tattoos. If the police encounter a gang member wearing clothes that indicate they are in a gang they will confiscate the item. It is not illegal to be a gang member but to allow them to wear these items invites attacks by rival gang members. At the high schools students are not allowed to wear any clothing indicating gang affiliation. Many area stores sell this type of clothing and it is targeted towards gang members.

The officers went over areas in and around Glenview where gang members live. Many of these areas are in unincorporated Glenview where the rent is less and section 8 housing is available. Areas they referred to are Michael Todd (Latin Kings), Sunset Village (Latin Kings, various others), Greenwood Apartments (Latin Kings, various others), Golf terrace (west of Milwaukee on Golf Rd., Surenos) and Dearlove Rd. (Gangster Disciples, various others). There are gang members that hang around The Glen, specifically the movie theatre but the police are aware of it and they are very proactive in dealing with these teenagers. They emphasized that The Glen is very safe and that there are many kids in the Glen on the weekends who are not gang members just kids hanging out.

Tagging was briefly discussed. Typically kids involved in tagging are not gang members. They tend to be more of your skate board kids who hang out at the parks. They engage in graffiti. This is still a problem because they destroy property and often are involved with drugs.

The Officers spoke about drugs at Glenbrook South. Drugs are definitely an issue and they wish they could do more to limit the availability of drugs in the school. They would like to put in drug sniffing dogs but others in the school have been very resistant to this idea. The three predominate drugs in Glenview are marijuana, heroin and cocaine. They reviewed the warning signs of drug abuse. At home your child may show a loss of interest in family activities, disrespect for the family, withdrawal from responsibilities, verbally and physically abusive. You may see an increase or decrease in appetite and they may spend a lot of time alone in their rooms. Valuable items and money may be missing. They don't tell you where they are going and don't come home on time. At

school they may be cutting classes and grades may slip. If they suddenly change friends, have inexplicable mood swings and overreact to criticism they may be involved with drugs. Need to be involved in your kid's lives, know their friends, ask questions and supervise! It is important that your child know the consequences of using these illegal substances. You may not be able to stop them from trying the drugs but stay involved in their lives and they may only try it once and realize that the consequences are too enormous to continue using.

Adjourned at 8:30 PM