

Henking/Hoffman PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
Henking

Called to order at 9:20 AM.

**Attendees:** Mary Patronik, Mark Walther, Donna Van Scoal, Marguerite Cole, Letty Hawkes, Laura Horwitz, Tammy Langas and Angela McCune.

**Presidents report: Letty Hawkes**

Letty was unable to attend this month's PTA Council Meeting but Marguerite was there and reported on what transpired. The Council tabled the discussion on on-line registration because many Council members were not in attendance due to illness. The Middle School Task Force is up and running. There is a need for a new school due to the increase in student population, 600 additional students are expected in the next five years. District 34 received an Aaa bond rating, only 1 of 3 school districts in the state to receive that rating. LY/PR has started a pilot program to recycle milk chugs. It is going well but it is expensive. If this pilot program is a success it may be expanded to the other clusters.

**Treasurer Report-Laura Horwitz**

Laura provided us with a current budget. HE Movie Night generated \$592.56 for the Debra Gelfand Fund.

**Principals Report**

**Mark Walther-Hoffman School**

-Jump rope for heart took place in PE classes on Feb. 20. There is no emphasis on raising money and yet there was \$1700 in donations. A matching gift from the American Heart Association allowed Hoffman to donate 30 jump ropes and 17 basketballs to McNair School.

-ISAT testing is almost complete. Today is the last day of testing and make-ups will be given this week.

-Thanks for all your support for our all-school winter program musical "Once Upon A Dream".

-Thank you Market Day Volunteers!

-Thank you to all who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences.

-Class size policy approved by the School Board. Grades 3, 4 and 5 are capped at 24 students. Next year Hoffman will have 545 students. This breaks down into 9 sections of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 7 sections of 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 9 sections of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

-The interviewing process for new staff has begun; there are a total of 13 positions to fill.

-Construction on the new addition is on schedule and all of the rooms will be utilized next year.

-Looking for 2 new LSC members for next year, a Henking parent and a Hoffman parent for 2 year terms.

-Congrats to Carly Spina who had a baby boy, Tyler Jerome, on Feb. 23.

-Waste Free Lunches April 21-25 during Earth Week. Therese Kinsley is working on this endeavor. The weekly newsletter will have tips about cutting down on waste. Will

try this more extensively next year. Also, there is an effort to recycle gym shoes at the same time.

-Cultural Arts Ideas for 2008-09. Next year was thinking of taking the Cultural Arts budget and perhaps having a visiting artist, musician or some one with a drama background to do a more extensive program with the students. It would include all the Fine Arts and would involve the different grade levels. For example, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders could do a PE program. Need to explore this some more.

### **Neal Siegellak-Henking School**

#### 2008-09 Planning:

The BOE has approved two double-mobiles for Henking and Westbrook Schools. The Henking mobiles will be located on the blacktop path that joins the east basketball blacktop with the smaller blacktop. A task force will be assembled for the district to determine the configuration of a ninth school that the BOE has approved to be built.

LSC University: The LSC is looking for an early April date for a presentation about coping with bullying.

“A Child’s Voice” at Henking: On April 2, Bill Buczinsky will visit. There will be a 50 minute poetry assembly followed by classroom visits.

Movie Night: Thank you to Laura Cushnie, Julie Loeber, and Michele Davis for their time and effort.

Bus Evacuation Drills: Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

Waste-Free Wednesday: Takes place the first Wednesday of the month. Thank you Melissa Walsh, for coordinating this important event. Students can earn stickers for bringing a waste-free lunch.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Local School Council**

-Focus of LSC is on parent education opportunities. Typically an expert comes in and speaks on an issue. Attendance tends to increase when children attend with their parents. With the topic of bullying/teasing, the LSC was contemplating having a workshop from 6:30-8:00 PM where both the parents and child will participate. Trying to figure out when the best time of year is to hold these educational sessions.

#### **Auction Update-Tammy Langas**

The program book has gone to Ande and should be available for on-line viewing by Spring Break. Michele Sklena and Cindy Berg did an awesome job selling ad space in the program. They sold 27 ads for \$2950. Please thank the businesses when you use them. There are 44 classroom gifts and 40 staff donations. A big thanks you to staff for helping in this effort. Please send in your responses.

**Web Site Update-via Gina Pryor**

Over 200 people have registered on the PTA web site. Letty is planning on sending out an e-mail blast this Friday to remind people to get in their RSVP's for the Auction. The blast will also remind people about Market Day pick-up on Monday and there is a blurb about Janet Conlin's new book.

**New Business**

-Donna brought up making the school pick-up lanes Cell Phone Free Zones. She has seen many incidents where parents have almost gotten in accidents when picking up their children and talking on the phone at the same time. Mr. Walther will look into signs for this.

-The Glenview Announcements printed in last weeks issue that students in District 34 had to go one more day at the end of the year to make up for the snow days. However, **NO** decision has been made by the Board regarding this issue.

Adjourned at 10:50 PM.