

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Henking

Called to order: 9:22 AM

Attendees: Laura Horwitz, Linda Bolotin, Ande Wells, Mark Walther, Neil Siegellak, Marcy Sotirchos, Judy Zimmerman, Mary Patronik, Lindsay Barrett, Dr. Avi Green and Angela McCune.

President's Report: Ande Wells

Minutes for the October 2008 meeting were submitted and approved. District 34 raised \$15,000 for the Telethon. This money is for Youth Services to help pay for their new building.

PTA Council-Angela McCune

The main topic of the October PTA Council Meeting was Food Service. Kim, the Director of Food Services, presented to the Council. She explained the guidelines and answered any questions. There was some concern over the amount of food that students waste and a Council member asked if it is possible to have the children return their unopened and unused food (ex. fruit cups). Kim was open to this idea and was going to check back with the individual schools. Some schools have already been collecting unused food. The only other complaint about lunch was that it was too short and that the children needed more time to eat, especially children who are at the end of the serving line. Feedback was given regarding the Calendar Survey that went out in October. Basically, most respondents felt the calendar was fine the way it is. However, people did want the start of the school year to be as close to Labor Day as possible and they liked the idea of possibly adding 5 minutes to the school day in order to eliminate three attendance days. The results of the survey will be shared with the calendar committee and the School Board.

Treasurer-Laura Horwitz

Laura distributed a copy of the current budget. Taffy Apple sales earned \$670 for the Debra Gelfand fund.

Principals Report

Mark Walther-Hoffman School

-On November 4, the staff from Hoffman participated in an Institute Day. Dr. Avi Green came today and presented RTI-The Illinois Response to Intervention Plan. (see attachment)..

-Conferences were well attended.

-Mural went up in the new hallway. It looks great.

-This year Cultural Arts funds will be used differently. Fifth grade will use their money to put on a play in February, 4th grade will do something PE related and 3rd grade will do Metropolis in Residence.

-Guatemalan National Children's Choir came and performed at Hoffman

-100 students ran for various offices. The election was held on November 3 and the class representatives will be elected next week.

- The Student Board is walking in the Holiday Parade.
- District 34 collected 6,000 items of food for the Character Counts Food Drive.
- 10 students performed at IMEA
- Parents In Partnership was well attended. Thank you to Lisa Wortsman, Angela McCune and Laura Horwitz.
- Present LSC to School Board, will be having a Math Night in January
- Two 5th grade classrooms took on a service project where they sent letters to homes on Harrison offering to rake leavers. They will rake leaves in 8 yards!
- Third graders are taking the TCS next week and make ups are on December 1 and 2.
- Thanks to everyone helping with Holiday Helper. The Packing Day is on Saturday, December 6.
- Band and choir will have a concert on December 11.

Neal Siegellak-Henking School

Local School Council University: Math Night is tentatively being scheduled for late January or early February. Initial ideas include having stations that parents can rotate through. Parents can take activities home to use in support of their child's education. The LSC will meet today to continue to plan the details, with communication being sent home to parents soon.

Mosaic: The Mosaic Committee had its first meeting with artist Chris Zonta on November 6. The Committee discussed placing the mosaic on the red brick wall that currently holds pictures of past "Visiting Authors". The pictures would be moved to the white wall opposite the mosaic. The Committee is looking at a theme with a blue-hued background and three figures in the foreground, representing the three grade levels. The school mascot, a hawk, may also be incorporated into the project.

School Improvement Plan—Student Achievement Goal: Students will improve in the area of *Number Sense* using a RIT score of 195 as a target on the 3rd grade NWEA assessment. The goal is aligned with the common assessments and data that teaching teams are working with during collaboration times.

School Improvement Plan—Climate Goal: *Increase the school's positive climate leading to a higher level of quality in education among students, staff, and community members.*

The climate goal is based on Organizational Health survey data that has identified optimal shared-decision making and problem solving as areas of focus. Activities include incorporating the *FISH!* philosophy into how students and staff work together. The four tenets are *Choose a positive attitude, Play, Make Their Day, and Be Present.*

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF: Henking families raised over \$1100.00 for UNICEF.

Book Fair: Thank you to Jane Crouth, Nicki Dale, Debbie West, and the parents who coordinated the Book Fair events. The Safari theme was creative and the decorations were fantastic. Most importantly, the Book Fair improved many classroom libraries and at-home libraries.

The Giving Tree: The first grade team is coordinating this activity in which first grade students can earn donation tickets by being responsible at home (doing chores, etc.). Then, the students can bring their donation ticket to purchase a book that will be donated to our sister school, McNair Academy.

New School Task Force Update: The task force charge has been sub-divided into two parts. Phase I involves determining if a new school is necessary. This phase involves investigating how our current facilities are being utilized and how programs are servicing students. Subcommittees will research potential district program changes and space options before making a recommendation to the Board of Education by March. At that point Phase II, if necessary, will involve making a recommendation for a new school and its configuration. The next New School Task Force meeting will be held on December 2 at the Administration Building and it is open to the public.

Response to Intervention Leadership Team: The Illinois State Board of Education has set a timeline for all schools to have a plan to address students' learning needs. This is called *Response to Intervention*. District 34's plan must be submitted to the state by January, 2009 and the plan must be implemented by September, 2010. The plan will address how District 34 schools will use assessments and specialized instruction to monitor progress of students who have difficulty in reading, math, writing, and social skills. The District has assembled a leadership team that has met on April 29, September 15, October 20, and November 17. The next meeting is December 16.

Committee Report

Cultural Arts-Mary

Empty Bowls is a hunger relief fundraising event in which art students create handmade ceramic bowls (food safe!). After discussing world hunger, poverty, and peace, students will discover that helping to feed hungry people can create peace. A simple meal of soup and bread will be served on the night of the event, March 19th. Guests will keep the bowls as a reminder that there are always Empty Bowls in the world and proceeds will be donated to the Northfield Food Pantry. We will be making bowls in Art Class throughout December and glazing them between January and March. If you would like to help coordinate, please check out Ms. Wu's website (http://he.glenview34.org/Fine_Arts/CWu/Empty_Bowls.html). For more ways to participate and to RSVP please look out for your invitation in January.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.