

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, September 16, 2008  
Henking

Called to order: 9:25 AM

Attendees: Lindsay Barrett, Melissa Walsh, Holly Jehle, Laura Horwitz, Angela McCune, Gina Pryor, Linda Bolotin, Jennifer Egen, Neal Siegellak, Denise Morgan, Jodi Hiller, Mary Patronik, Ande Wells, Marcy Sotirchos, Abigail Lee, and Mark Walther.

**President's Report: Ande Wells**

Ande welcomed everyone and thanked them for giving up their valuable time to participate in the PTA. She stressed that everyone is welcome and she is open to hearing about any new ideas. She is excited about stepping into the President's role and that she had participated in almost every PTA sponsored event at Henking and Hoffman.

**PTA Council- Angela McCune**

Angela is the PTA rep for HE/HO on the PTA Council. The Council is made up of representatives from the 4 PTA's in District 34 and this is a venue for the PTAs to share information and to learn and work with District 34 Administration. All parents are welcome to come and participate at any Council meeting. This past month the School Calendar was the main focus. Over the summer a survey went out inquiring parents about whether they wanted to have the school year start later. They received 500 signatures which indicated to the council that there is interest in this issue in the Glenview Community. The Council has decided to write and administer a survey of all of the District families to get their input on this issue. The survey should be out within the next couple of months. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Thurs. 10/2 at 9:15 AM at the Administration Building. All are welcome!

**Treasurer's Report: Laura Horwitz**

Laura distributed a copy of last year's budget and the budget for the current year. She highlighted events that brought in money last year such as the Auction, Fall Carnival, Escrip and Market Day. Cultural Arts, Parents in Partnership, Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Visiting Authors and Teacher Gifts (each full-time teacher receives a \$100 to reimburse her for classroom expenses, part-time teachers receive a comparable amount) are some of the main programs that PTA supports. To pay for our entire PTA sponsored programs we need to raise approximately \$26,500 for 2008-2009. Currently, we do not have an Auction/Fund Raising Chair and can not count on funds from that event. The PTA has adequate funds to support programs this year but if we do not have a fund raiser we will have to make cuts in programs next year.

**Principals Report**

**Mark Walther-Hoffman School**

-Curriculum Night-Thanks to all who attended. Mark asked for feedback regarding the format for the evening. He wants to make sure parents have the opportunity to meet classroom teachers and also hear from the Fine Art's teachers. Ande Wells suggested

that the Technology Department help put together a video presentation that would be shown in each classroom as part of the classroom teacher's presentation.

-Parking lot is much improved. Drop-off and Pick-up is much easier. Mark encouraged people to also use the entrance on Central.

-NWEA testing is now complete. The students took tests in Math, Reading and Language Arts. The results will be shared during parent/teacher conferences in October.

-Character Counts poster contest information was sent home with each child. It is a Principal Assignment that each child must create a poster but they do not need to actually participate in the contest if they do not wish to. This assignment is due September 26.

-Band/Orchestra lessons began for 4<sup>th</sup> grade this week.

-Vision/Hearing Screenings are done this week.

-First LSC Meeting of the year is today. They received a grant from GEF to provide parent education opportunities. In mid October they hope to sponsor a Dinner/Theatre session where kids and parents will have dinner together and then participate separately in a group dealing with the issue of Bullying and Teasing. The two groups will then come together to share skits. Gina Pryor suggested that babysitting be offered for preschool age children. Mark will look into that. Stay tuned for more information!

-Mark distributed a "PLC Pearl" which demonstrates quite clearly why reading 20 minutes a night is important. This hand out showed mathematically that if one child read 20 minutes a day from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and another child reads for only 4 minutes a day by the time the children have finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade the first student will have read the equivalent of 60 school days and the second student will have read the equivalent of 12 days. Who do you think is prepared to be a better student?

-Rotary Run is this Sunday September 21.

-Parents in Partnership is scheduled for Saturday November 15.

-Thanks to all the Room Moms and to Liz Skweres for coordinating the Room Moms at Hoffman.

-HE/HO Fall Carnival is scheduled for Friday October 3 at Hoffman. Thank you to Cindy Berg, Sue Mack and Angela McCune for chairing this event.

-Linda Kraft's and Carol Dubois' 5<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scout Troops are working on various Service Projects at Hoffman. If there is any more Scout Troops looking for Service projects please see Mr. Walther.

-Character Counts Food Drive is scheduled for the week of October 20-24.

-The guidelines for Halloween were distributed to this group.

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

#### **Teacher Representative-Linda Bolotin**

Linda Bolotin will attend the PTA meetings that take place at Henking. We are putting the "T" back into the PTA. She will share various themes and curricula items occurring at each grade level at Henking. Linda emphasized that the children at Henking are very young and that the beginning of the year can be quite a challenge for them. The routines and structure at the start of the school are so important. Kindergartners are learning about the structure of the classroom and are attempting to assume a little responsibility. The focus for the 1<sup>st</sup> graders is on getting them to work more independently so that the teacher can work with small groups when doing the reading blocks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are

experiencing another new adult to listen to and respect. Routines are still very important at this age.

Mobile Classroom Switch: Hygeneering conducted air sample tests on both double-classroom mobile units. Mobiles 1 and 2 had been used for two second grade classes. Although Hygeneering did not recommend that students be moved out of the mobile, District 34 decided to take the precautionary step of moving students to the new double-classroom mobile. District 34 will work on mobile classrooms 1 and 2 for three weeks, replacing the roof and making improvements to the ventilation system. However, the two second grade classes will remain in Mobile Classrooms 3 and 4. Mobile Classrooms 1 and 2 will be used for primarily for office and meeting space once the work has been completed.

Curriculum Night: Thank you for attending on September 4. A schedule change for this year was implemented to reduce overcrowding in the Gym. There were two presentations in the gym and parents alternated by grade level.

Local School Council University: October 13 (Henking) and October 15 (Hoffman) are the dates set for Bullying Prevention evenings with Judy Freedman. The evening is organized for both parents and students.

Literacy Coach: Mary Sue Smith has been working with individual teachers to look at student work samples and data. The teachers will use the data to determine on which areas of literacy to focus. Mrs. Smith will observe, team-teach, and work with individual students. Mrs. Smith will also work with groups of teachers. The focus of the small groups will be strategies to use to support each other, with all teachers accepting responsibility for the learning of all students. The ELL team is one group that will work with Mary Sue Smith. Mrs. Smith is also planning to provide professional development opportunities related to literacy.

Bilingual Program: District 34's bilingual Spanish students are attending school at Henking. There are two afternoon sections with a total of 30 students. The morning bilingual *Early Intervention Kindergarten* class is at Henking. Henking students have the opportunity to attend the *Early Intervention Kindergarten* classes at Lyon and Westbrook Schools. The changes in program delivery has several benefits: 1. Bilingual Spanish students will have different classmates each year, as is the case with all grade levels at Henking, 2. Students at Lyon and Westbrook can benefit from the bilingual program, 3. Materials and resources can be consolidated for ore efficient use, 4. Bilingual teachers are in the same building and they can collaborate together more frequently.

Instructional Coaches: Ivy Sukenik and Frank Rottman are District 34's *Instructional Coaches*. Mrs. Sukenik has taught at Glen Grove School. Mr. Rottman has taught most recently at Attea Middle School. They are charged with supporting teachers in their first and second years of teaching. They meet once each week with teachers to help teachers reflect on their practices and provide instructional support.

Baby Steps: Henking has begun recycling plastic and commingling recycling materials. The milk chugs, for example, have been recycled since September 3. The recycling is going well.

Emergency Drills: Fire and Tornado Drills are taking place the week of September 15  
Bus Evacuation Drills are September 17

Officer Friendly: . . .will visit October 6-8

Firefighter Visit: October 20

Picture Day: September 23

Reading Night: October 1

## **Committee Reports**

### **Henking Health & Safety- Mary Patronik**

Thank you to committee members for helping conduct lice checks at the start of school and also helping update the emergency folders for all of the rooms. (Names were listed in Henking newsletter.)

### **Henking Cultural Arts –Mary Patronik**

Attended the Performance Arts Showcase in Skokie to view dozens of potential performers. Scoping out a school-wide visual arts project in January as the main cultural arts activity this year. Smaller, grade-specific programs would be booked as budget and schedule allows.

### **Web-Site Update-Gina Pryor**

Gina has updated the web-site but wants to make it even more user friendly. She thinks the technology committee should be broken into two jobs. The first is someone to maintain the web-site and the second would be someone responsible for electronic communications.

### **Membership-Marguerite Cole**

Marguerite was sick today and unable to attend the meeting. She will have the membership numbers for the next meeting. All of the PTA's are reporting that the membership numbers are down and think it's related to the new on-line registration.

### **School Directory-Gina Pryor**

The forms went home with the children giving the families the option to opt out of the School Directory. If the form is not returned the family will be included. The directory will be ready to go to the printer next week. Great job!

### **Hoffman Fall Carnival-Angela McCune**

The Fall Carnival is scheduled for Friday October 3 at Hoffman School. The festivities will be from 6:30-9:00 PM. Pre-ticket sales will take place at both schools starting Wed.

October 1<sup>st</sup> before school starts and continue through Friday October 3rd. Parents can send money with their children and the tickets will be sent home in their back packs. A fun evening is planned; there are approximately 25 games, Karaoke, Color Me Mine and delicious food. We are still looking for volunteers. Please e-mail Angela at [Momseg123@aol.com](mailto:Momseg123@aol.com) if you are available to help out!

### **Market Day-Angela McCune**

The first Market Day is next Monday September 22 at Hoffman School. We welcome anyone who can come and help with the sale at Hoffman from 1:00-2:30. Call Angela McCune at 657-6442 if you are available to help. Pick-up is from 3:00-4:30.

### **Auction/Fund Raiser-Ande Wells**

Currently, there are no Committee Chairs for the Auction. In the near future an evening is being planned to discuss the Auction or other possible fund raisers. We are looking for one or more individuals to take charge of this area. Innovative and creative thinkers are wanted! All of our PTA sponsored programs depend on these funds.

### **Environmental-Melissa Walsh**

Melissa suggested that the PTA invest in "No Idling" signs for both schools so that drivers in the car lines will turn off their cars while waiting in line. Once the bells ring they can turn on their cars and proceed. The cost is approximately \$75 but she is getting other estimates. She will look further into this matter and will report back at the next meeting. Also, Melissa introduced the Environmental theme for the year which is REDUCE. The start-up goal is to reduce the number of plastic sandwich bags that are used for snacks and lunch. One idea which LY/PR has initiated is a special plastic cup which could be used and reused for snacks. This could reduce the use of sandwich bags by 5000 a week. The LY/PR PTA is going to give one to each of their students and then have more to sell. The approximate cost for 1000 is \$250. Melissa had a sample of the cup which she showed to all present. It was agreed that it was not the ideal size for a snack and that there could be problems with the lids. Everyone agreed the concept was good and like the idea of reducing waste. Melissa will get more info from LY/PR and present next month.

Adjourned at 11:15 AM