

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Henking
Called to order at 9:25 AM.

Attendees: Cindy Parker, Laura Horwitz, Karin Amaden, Mary Patronik, Cathy Cunningham, Bobbie Murokh, Michele Davis, Maureen Geiger, Jodi Hiller, Christy Vavloukis, Leslie Debes, Krista Rachiele, Lara Herbolsheimer, Odette Zebell, Mark Walther, Maggie Rogula, and Angela McCune

The February Minutes were approved.

President's Report-Ande Wells

Last week was Kindergarten Registration at Henking. Ande worked the PTA registration table and successfully signed up many of the families. She also held a meeting with the parents who were interested in being the parent representative on the Committee selecting the new Principal at Henking. There were a number of interested parents and in the end the selection was made by drawing a name out of a hat. There are two parent representatives: Maggie Rogula and Mary Patronik. They had their first meeting last Friday and will be sharing what transpired.

PTA Council-Angela McCune

The meeting this month began to explore a very important issue, especially for our cluster. We talked about the growing Hispanic population and the need to find new ways to reach out and work with them and to build relationships. The teachers and staff at the various schools have done a great job of meeting the educational needs of this particular group but the growing numbers suggest that we will need to do more to keep the success growing. A variety of groups came to this meeting to talk about programs that they are currently engaged in and what help or assistance they might need or want from the PTA. The social worker from Springman talked about the Latino Group at Springman, Mark Walther shared information about ARC (the reading club that meets after school sponsored by Title 1 funds) and MAPA (Hispanic parents and teachers work together to understand how to navigate the American educational System). Nancy Bloom shared information about a variety of programs run by Glenview/Northbrook Youth Services. Beth Primer, a District 34 Board member, has worked with B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim and Oakton Community College to provide English instruction to parents in the Michael Todd Apartments. Two areas of importance emerge when parents are asked what help they need; they would like to learn English and they want safe play areas for their children. Also, Dr. Mark O'Brien and several other staff members came from GBS to talk about what happens after the children leave District 34 and enter District 225. If they can keep these kids in school, they attend college at the same rate as any other GBS student. It was great to have all these groups together because we made connections and it educated all of us on what is happening in the Community. We still need to figure out how the PTA's can be of assistance. We don't want to duplicate efforts and we need to talk more about how to best use our resources. A very interesting meeting. Next month

the Middle School Task Force is reporting on their status. All are welcome to attend this meeting on 4/9 at 9:15 AM at the Administration Building.

Treasurer's Report-Laura Horwitz

Movie Night at Hoffman generated \$415. We are still waiting for expenses.
Pizza Night at Jake's pizza brought in \$300. Great job!

Principal's Report

Mark Walther-Hoffman School

- Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- ISAT testing is almost completed-make-ups will be done by Friday.
- 3rd grade Treble Choir performed Thursday March 12 before 1200 people at the IEA Representative Assembly at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences went exceptionally well the week of March 2-thank you for your attendance.
- Jump Rope for Heart was held Thursday February 19 in all P.E. classes and was highly successful.
- Institute Day Friday March 6-SIP, RTI, PLC Scavenger Hunt-great learning and fun for the whole staff.
- Pennies for Peace program will begin Monday March 23 thru April and May-Read "Three Cups of Tea" for specific information.
- Author visit-Dennis Fradin here on Monday, March 23, he will meet with all three grades.
- Officer Friendly will be here March 23-27. Third grade will discuss Bicycle Safety, 4th grade will talk about Child Abuse and 5th grade will talk about Drugs. This program will be discontinued next year due to Village budget reduction measures.
- MAPA will be back on Wednesday, March 25 from 7:00-8:30 PM.
- 5th grade currently studying Human Growth and Development. Robert Crown Health Center Presentations for 5th grade students and their parents will be from 7:00-8:30 PM on April 14 and 16 at Hoffman School and at Pleasant Ridge School on April 13 and 15.
- April 13-24 Drama Artist in Residence will be here working with our entire 3rd grade.
- Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Neal Siegellak-Henking School (provided electronically)

Movie Night: On February 27 there was a good crowd gathered to watch the movie, *Babe*. Thank you to Zoe Sundstrom, Linda Distler, and all of the parent volunteers for making the evening enjoyable for the students.

Officer Friendly Visits: During the week of March 9 Officer Carver from the Glenview Police Department visited Henking classrooms. She reviewed and expanded on information from her visit last fall:

Kindergarten: Introduction to Officer Friendly

Discussion about what the job is (protect and help); ways to identify a Police Officer; different vehicles Officers may use; discussion about the tools on the tool belt. Students are provided with a coloring form where they need to identify the individuals who can help them.

First Grade: 9-1-1 Emergency

A play phone is used to demonstrate and discuss how to use the phone in dialing 9-1-1 for emergencies.

A brief animated video is shown. The video story follows a family of telephones, Emer, Gen, and Cy on their adventure to rid their home of monsters Danger, Fire and Injury. This video teaches about emergencies, when to call 9-1-1 and who will respond for help.

The video has catchy songs to which the students enjoy singing along. At the conclusion, the students received a coloring page with a phone to color and a 9-1-1 maze.

Second Grade: 9-1-1 Emergency with Descriptions

A play phone is used to demonstrate and discuss how to use the phone in dialing 9-1-1 for emergencies. The students think of emergencies and describe situations that might occur where contacting 9-1-1 for help is needed. The students participated by reporting the emergency with the play phone. Officer Friendly responds as the dispatcher receiving the call so they learned what happens when 9-1-1 is called. The students are tested on their knowledge of their address and phone numbers. At the end of class each student received a form to color showing how 9-1-1 works and a place to identify their address and phone numbers.

Mosaic Dedication: Took place March 4. Take a look at the display in front of the *Learning Resource Center*. Candice Wu, Mary Patronik, and *Artist-in-Residence* Chris Zonta did an excellent job providing this experience for the students.

HAWK Reading Club: Provided by Title I funds, the HAWK Reading Club began on February 9. The student-teacher ratio is 3:1 and the Club meets from 3:45-4:45 on Mondays and Wednesdays. The time is spent with *Fountas and Pinnell LLI* materials and students' reading skills are given a boost. Mrs. Uhler, Mrs. Collins, Ms. Litwin, and Mrs. Beyer are organizing four evenings for parents to help in *Navigating the American Educational System (NAES)*. The evenings will be coordinated with Hoffman School's, called *Maestros Alumnos Padres Avanzando (MAPA)*.

Kindergarten Registration: Took place March 12, from 4:30-7:00. There are currently 135 kindergartners at Henking for the 2008-09 school year. This does not include the 27 students in the two bilingual Spanish classes. The projected number of kindergartners for 2009-10 is 134 and 30 bilingual. After having had Registration Night on March 12, there are 135 students already registered (59 morning; 57 afternoon). There are an additional 19 bilingual students registered thus far.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Thank you for meeting the week of March 2 with teachers to discuss your child's progress. The two conference times during the school year are valuable opportunities to continue partnering to help children reach their full potential.

Teacher Institute Day: On March 6 Henking teachers met to discuss math resources that can help students grow in this area. The Institute Day activities were centered on the School Improvement Plan. A representative from *Math Their Way* visited Henking and

shared strategies that teachers can use with students to supplement the University of Chicago math materials.

Bus Evacuation and Safety Drills: . . .will take place on March 18.

Empty Bowls: Families are invited to donate their time and give to the Northfield Food Pantry. Soup will be served from 6:00-8:00 on March 19. A bowl of soup and a piece of student-sculpted pottery is only \$10. There will also be a Silent Auction for select items.

Gang Awareness and Prevention: Officers Sheehan and Sanchez from the Glenview Police Department will visit Henking at 3:30 on March 19 to present information to staff. This is a similar presentation to the one attended by parents in October, 2007 through the Local School Council.

Mother Goose Visits Kindergarten: . . .on March 24.

Spring Break: . . .begins at the end of the school day on March 27. School resumes on April 6.

Special Report-Henking Principal Search Advisory Committee

Mary Patronik, Maggie Rogula, Karin Amaden and Mark Walther are representatives on the Committee that is working to select a new principal for Henking School. There are other members on this Committee that were not present at the PTA meeting. They had their first meeting this past Friday from 9-11 AM at the Administration Building. They will meet this Wednesday (3/18) from 1-3 and on Friday 3/20 from 9-12. They will interview candidates on Thursday 3/26 from 7:45-4:00. There is a perception that what was done in the last Principal Search did not work and some changes have been made to address these issues. Parents and staff were invited to provide feedback in the form of a survey. The group plans to look at the survey results and to use these results to form the interview questions and also use it to help guide them in their selection. Almost every staff member at Henking filled out a survey. However, only 30 parents took the time to give feedback. The group has talked about the importance of open communication and that the Committee represents all of the parents and staff of Henking. Parents at the PTA meeting stressed the importance of finding a candidate who would be responsive to the diverse needs of Henking's population. This group will try to communicate with parents through the PTA website to keep us up to date on the process.

Currently there are 135-140 candidates who have applied. Through on-line screening and using local and national consultants this pool will be filtered down to a more manageable level of 35-40. This group will be screened by Drs. Hill and Engel and this will leave final 4-8 candidates to be interviewed by the committee. If none of these candidates are deemed to be appropriate then the team will look at interviewing more candidates. Hopefully, a good candidate will emerge in the first go around. The plan is to also conduct a site visit at the candidate's current workplace in early April. This group will then give feedback to Dr. Hill. The candidates will also be interviewed by

Administration, the Cabinet, and the Principals. Dr. Hill will then make a decision and present his choice to the School Board for approval on 4/20.

Committee Reports

Spa fundraiser-Michelle Sklena and Bobbie Murokh

A Ladies Night Out is scheduled for Thursday April 9 from 6-8 PM at Pascal's in the Glen. Interested women can schedule appointments for manicures, pedicures and some select hair services. Pascal's is discounting their fees and they are also kicking back a portion of the proceeds to the HE/HO PTA. If you don't want a service but still would like an opportunity to socialize with friends there is an opportunity to pay a \$10 fee to enjoy some wine, appetizers and good conversation. Various businesses have made food donations and donations of items for Raffle Baskets. They are looking at the possibility of doing a second night because 4/9 is the first night of Passover. Information will go out in the newsletters and through an e-mail blast. Also, fliers will be put in the teacher's mailboxes to encourage them to attend.

Book Fair-Lara Herbolzheimer and Krista Rachiele

Krista and Lara are new to the Book Fair this year. They have a meeting scheduled with Mark Walther and will talk with the Chairs from previous Book Fairs. The Book Fair is scheduled for May and will take place during Hoffman Open House. Briefly discussed the issue of the TV Turn Off Books. During TV Turn Off Week in April every child at Henking and Hoffman receives a book as a gift from the PTA. The books come from Scholastic and we use book credits that we have earned at the Book Fairs to pay for these books. Feedback has been given that the children do not always appreciate these books and it was suggested that perhaps it would be better to use this money to give to the LRC's at Henking and Hoffman or try to build the classroom libraries. The PTA Board will discuss changing this process next year.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

The Teacher Appreciation Lunches are scheduled for tomorrow at Henking and Thursday at Hoffman. Liz Skweres and Marcy Sotirchos are running the lunch at Hoffman and Cathy Freidinger and Mary Garvey are leading the effort at Henking. Both groups are looking forward to the day and they have a delicious lunch planned. In May, Laura Horwitz and Bobbie Murobu are planning a special week to honor the teachers at both schools. For example, they plan to have massages at lunch, a snack day, small plants as gifts, door decorations and a breakfast. More information will be available in April.

Empty Bowls-Mary Patronik

Empty Bowls is this Thursday, March 19 at Henking School. Currently, 200 people are signed up to attend and that number is expected to increase. The participants will be eating soup/bread and will get a ceramic bowl made by one of the Henking children. All proceeds from this event will go to the Northfield food pantry. This event was written up in last Friday's Tribune (3/13).

Motion to Close 11:15 AM.