



HEREFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

PTA MINUTES
December 2nd, 2008

DRAFT

I. CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Webb called the Executive Board meeting to order at 6:00.
In Attendance: Catherine Webb, Cindy Kobbe, Suzette Nozick, Cindy Sheffield, Brenda Thompson, Pat MacNabb, Deb Westwater, Jennifer Belgin, Joanie Schmalenberger, Marcia Petrochko-Bosley

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

The November minutes were reviewed by members and approved.

MOTION: MARCIO PETROCHKO-BOSLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND JOANIE SCHALENBERGER SECONDED IT.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- o Deposits to the account in November totaled \$ 1,315.40
- o Checks and payments for the month totaled \$2,487.02
- o No additional Direct Donations were received during the month.
- o The current balance as of November 11th is \$33,754.42

MOTION: A MOTION WAS MADE BY CINDY KOBBE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT AND JOANIE SCHALENBERGER SECONDED IT.

IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Brenda Thompson delivered the Principal's Report for Mrs. Walrod

- o They were amazed by the outstanding parent participation during American Education Week. The Hospitality Committee did an incredible job providing

refreshments during the week and provided a large quantity of quality-baked goods that were presented very nicely to welcome the visitors. Everyone appreciated the Hospitality Committee's efforts as well as the refreshments provider by the Guidance Department on Friday. The administration was also delighted by all of comments provided by the parents. They noted that all of the comments were positive with the exception of those regarding parking. Unfortunately the parking situation is unlikely to change.

- o As mentioned at the last PTA Meeting, the upcoming Concert Series will be held on the following evenings: December 10th for Band, December 16th for Strings and December 17th for Chorus.
- o A Vertical Team Meeting has been scheduled. This meeting allows representatives from each school within the Hereford Zone to get together and talk about a variety of factors within each school, and how various programs impact students' overall education experience. This meeting has improved communication between the schools and allowed each school to enhance the overall education experience for their students.
- o The School is requesting help with replacing the Welcome Mats at the front doors of the school. Mrs. Thomas presented one possible vendor, who is acceptable, to make these maps. A couple of suggested designs were offered however she also suggested the PTA could choose any design they wanted. The price quote from this particular vendor was estimated at \$400-\$500 per mat. Mrs. Schmalenberger suggested she also knows a local businesswoman who may be able to provide the PTA with a good price for the mats. She will investigate that possibility and report back to the PTA.

V. TEACHER'S REPORT

- o Mrs. McNabb delivered a thank you note from the Art Department. They thanked the PTA for "...granting our wishes for 2 new laptops and LCD projectors..." and reported they are already in use!
- o Mrs. McNabb received the list of teachers who paid PTA dues, however upon initial review and investigation she learned the list was not accurate. Jennifer Belgin acknowledged that Mrs. McNabb had been provided with a list from the OMDR system, and this system had flaws within it. Mrs. Belgin will provide detailed information on several problems encountered with the OMDR system later in the meeting.
- o The T-shirts for the Turkey Trot arrived in the nick of time. Several PTA members commented on how the runners wear these t-shirts as a symbol of their pride for participating in the race.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- o Mrs. Webb had no agenda items except to remind folks that the board decided to discontinue “Dinner and a Show” last year for a variety of reasons. Families are encouraged to patronize some of the local restaurants as a possible alternative.

V. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- o Mrs. Kobbe noted that some of the Incentive Campaigns for PTA Membership were not used this year. During last summer's PTA Leadership Workshop it was noted these types of campaigns send mixed messages to the students about community participation and volunteerism. Additionally they tend to only award students whose parents participate and it was pointed out, that not every child has control over whether their parent participates.

A few alternative suggestions were discussed: “Dress Mooie the Cow” use an “Office Valet” or have a “Scavenger Hunt.” The idea behind the scavenger hunt is to identified items and services that have been provided by the PTA, as a result, of the Direct Donations Campaign or volunteer participation. Student participants would receive a reward such as an ice cream, a pop, or a special pencil.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- o **Membership Committee:**
 - o 757 Families have joined the PTA for a 45% participation rate
 - o 45 Teachers have joined.
 - o Direct Donations equal \$45,750
 - o There are several problems with the OMDR System
 - The site was down for two weeks at one point
 - It seems to be down at peak times such as 8 pm – 10 pm
 - It provides incomplete/inaccurate download information
 - There isn't a back-up system
 - It requires administrators to sort memberships by hand, which is extremely time consuming
 - It does not link parents names with student or their room numbers, making it almost impossible to send membership cards home with students.

- Mrs. Belgin provided several suggestions for next year:
 - Reconsider using the OMDR next year
 - Create a back-up system
 - Find a way to link parents names with children and their homeroom numbers.
 - Send membership applications out with 5th Grade Orientation Packets.
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- Mrs. Belgin will be sending Thank You notes to all of the parents that contributed to the Direct Donation Campaign via Pay Pal.

Volunteer Committee:

- Mrs. Schmalenberger has sent e-mail requests to fill volunteer positions and she has gotten a few responses.
- Mrs. Schmalenberger stepped in and coordinated the Reflections Competition this year, on short notice. There were 35 entries. Most fell into the categories of Photography and Art. She was able to arrange judging the same day judging was completed at Sparks Elementary School. Each participant will receive a \$2 gift certificate to Rita's. Ribbons will be awarded for various categories. Mrs. Schmalenberger requested money for these items and it was noted these expenses are line items in the current budget.

Hospitality Committee:

- Mrs. Petrochko-Bosley reported she was pleasantly overwhelmed for four days with donations from 80 different bakers. The presentations were beautiful and everyone was very impressed. It was a very successful American Education Week and she is very grateful for all of the help and donations from the volunteers.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Westwater announced the Book Fair would be held December 15th through the 19th. Family night will be held on Thursday from 6-8 pm. Students will be allowed to visit the Fair a couple of times that week during their Language Arts class. Deb is looking for volunteers to help out during the week and on the evening of December 18th. She is also investigating the possibility of having morning hours available for the students.
- No additional New Business was presented.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was discussed

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:45
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6th, at 6 pm in the Hereford Middle School Teacher's Lounge.