

Hollywood School PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 4, 2008

Introduction: The meeting was called to order at 9:10am in the Hollywood School Library. The PTA board members in attendance were Laura Tracy, Denise Notz, Sue Gersch, Jennifer Perry and Kierith Kurth. Maureen Rurka was unable to attend.

Recording Secretary Report: The minutes from the November 6, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for November 2008 was reviewed and approved.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Thank you notes were sent to those families who purchased a brick paver for the sidewalk in front of the school. No other correspondence for November.

District News: Dr. Jon Lamberson presented the district news.

- The district is reviewing the residency validation process for all students. Residency validation is going to take place every year for every family. Each family may choose one of two ways to validate residency. Either the "traditional approach", which includes submitting appropriate documentation to the school in person, or a "community-based" approach, which includes a residency affidavit signed and approved by a "Residency Authenticator", a copy of a parent/guardian's driver's license and one utility bill. The affidavit may be mailed in to the school or presented in person. Final authorization to enroll is given by the school principal in both cases. All new families to the district would need to follow the traditional approach. The Board of Education is anticipated to make a decision regarding the revised process in either March or April 2009. No other area districts are following this process so there is no benchmark for comparison. The district anticipates the need for 50 Residency Authenticators, which will require more administrative work on the front end. The reason for the change in process is to decrease the time and money spent relative to residency validation. In addition, the district is considering using retired Oak Park police officers as Private Investigator's to follow-up on any residency issues.

- Enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year is expected to exceed 1500 students district wide. Kindergarten is likely to enroll over 190 students. Due to the down turn in the economy it is anticipated there will be an increase in the number of students moving from private schools to public schools.

- As the district continues to deal with space issues, Dr. Lamberson suggested a potential to move the Early Childhood Education Program from Blythe Park to Hollywood. This would not occur for the 2009-2010. A parent suggested the possibility

of a separate storefront location for the program. Dr. Lamberson indicated it is quite expensive to enter a new space due to all the code requirements for a school facility.

Dr. Lamberson opened the floor to questions.

- A parent questioned the survey of preschools that had apparently been performed by the district in order to obtain a better idea of the number of incoming kindergarten students. She advised she did not think the Brookfield Park District, Grace Lutheran Church (LaGrange, IL) and Little People preschools were included in the survey. Ms. DeVylder said she would follow-up with those locations. Dr. Lamberson advised the district will be doing a community-based survey to establish an overall picture of expected enrollment.

- New furniture for the Hollywood School library is being considered for the 2009-2010 school year.

- Another parent mentioned a concern regarding the process of communicating sensitive information to parents/guardians. The question was related to the sexual assault communication/police report sent home on December 1st. The letter was given directly to students to include in their backpacks. For students who were able to read, the letter caused some distress for the students. A request has been made to ask that material of a sensitive nature be both folded and stapled or placed in an envelope and addressed to the parent/guardian.

School News: Ms. Vicki DeVylder presented the school news.

- Thank you to the PTA for the staff dinner the evening of Parent-Teacher conferences, November 24th.

- Students from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades were invited to participate in the Parent-Teacher conferences with parent/guardian approval. Of the families who participated, Ms. DeVylder received positive feedback from both the parents and children on the results of the conferences.

- Report cards went well.

- The teaching staff has been working on updating their website pages and including more student activities.

- The collection for the food drive and the Angel Fund will continue through December 12th.

Committee Reports: Founder's Day

- Laura Tracy advised the Founder's Day dinner is scheduled for February 5th, 2009 and will include a short PTA meeting. She has put out a request for volunteers to help organize the evening.

Other Business:

- A question from the floor was posed regarding the role the PTA takes in presenting individuals running for the Board of Education. In the past, the PTA has invited all candidates to come to a PTA meeting to discuss their position and answer questions. This will be considered prior to the upcoming election.
- The yearbook staff has requested pictures be submitted to include in the yearbook.
- A Family Reading night is scheduled for February 11th. More information will be coming, soon.

Announcements:

- 12/08, 12/11, 12/15, 12/18 – 4th and 5th grade basketball
- 12/12 – DARE graduation
- 12/11 - Wee deliver
- 12/12 – Food drive ends
- 12/04, 12/11, 12/18 – Fun lunch
- 12/16 – Holiday concert at 7:00pm
- 12/16 – BOE meeting – Hauser LRC at 7:30pm
- 12/19 – Early release at 11:30am
- 12/22 through 01/02/09 – Winter break

The PTA meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Susan Gersch, Corresponding Secretary.

