



HIGHLANDS PTC MINUTES

November 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:03.

The written minutes were reviewed by the members in attendance. Joan Metz mad a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting and Barb Lack seconded it.

The meeting opened with the following reports:

Assistant Treasurer Report

Jeni Moore reported a total of \$3,744.53 is the balance of her checkbook and that .31 cents of interest was earned in her account...and also that she has received one receipt for the Halloween parties to be reimbursed and she has received one PCard request.

Treasurers Report

Karen Materick reported on the following transactions:

Art Smart Middle School—we spent \$1,000 for Middle Schoolers to attend a production at the Paramount in Aurora.

E-scrip Rebate—we received \$202.15 from October's Escrip rebate.

Gym Bags—at the end of October, we are reporting an income of \$515 from the sale of gym bags.

Hot Lunch—we paid \$2,370.00 to Ledo's Pizza for the Elementary School's hot lunch in October.

Original Works—we wrapped up the Original Works fundraiser in October, netting \$326.51

LTHS Parent University—we made our annual contribution in the amount of \$500 to the LT High School Parent University.

Market Day—we received \$297.31 from Market Day this month.

Little Caesars Pizza Days—we netted \$385.00 from the Little Caesar Pizza Days fundraiser.

Spiritwear—we received \$2,963.00 from the sale of Spiritwear.

Wish List—we paid \$1,121.02 toward wish list items in October.

Wrapping Paper—we received \$11,301.00 from wrapping paper purchases in October.

Corresponding Secretary

Stacy Kafka reported she is working on the winter luncheon. She will announce the date as soon as it is confirmed. Her goal is to have the luncheon at the church again this year.

Student Council

Zachary Prince reported on behalf of the Student Council. October 22nd, the Student Council held the first Pack the Place of the year at the last home basketball game against

Willow springs. Games, snacks, and give-a-ways were provided. He reported Red Ribbon week was held Oct 26-Oct 30. Wrist bands and ribbons were distributed to all students to promote being drug free. Each day during the week was dedicated to a different theme. Monday was wear red day, Tuesday was wear your clothes backwards day, Wednesday was put drugs to rest day, Thursday was crazy hair day, and Friday was clash day. Each homeroom also participated in a door decorating contest.

Zachary announced the Halloween Party was held from 6-8pm on October 30th.

Admission was \$4.00 at lunch and \$5.00 at the door. Pizza, chips, fruit snacks and soda was sold during the dance. Activities during the dance included a movie, Wii for games and prizes for best costumes.

He concluded with the assembly announcement on November 11th for Veterans Day. He reported that they will invite the veterans to attend the assembly, the Show Choir will sing and the band and orchestra will play a set of songs. The idea has been shared for things to give to troops in Iraq.

School Supplies for 2010/2011

Susan Henkle reported on her updates with the 2010 school supplies research and findings. In the past, Highlands has used a company called EPI. The program from EPI offers many challenges for the PTC. Susan has reached out to another company, one she has used from her Naperville School program called School Kidz to get more information on their program.

The improvements using School Kidz are as follows:

- Better pricing...up to \$1.00-\$1.50 less on many items.
- Packaging with School Kidz offers time savings for the PTC as all boxes come already labeled with child name and classroom.
- Offer 9% discount to sign up in 2009/2010
- Both Elementary and Middle School offices receive a \$200.00 Kidz pack with office supplies for the office.
- Order Form
 - More professional
 - On front cover it clearly indicates when orders are due
 - Detail list of items for each classroom on the form
 - Optional items School Kidz offers
 - Backpacks, water bottles, lunch boxes, and book socks.
 - Additional supply lists for Middle School classes

Questions that were asked of Susan:

- Irene Callam asked if families just order book socks. Susan replied, yes!
- Dr. Powers-Richard asked when the contract has to be signed with School Kidz. Susan replied February.

Susan left on the table a sample School Kidz pack out for every to look through. She pointed out the items are brand name supplies such as crayola and not generic.

Superintendent

Dr. Armanetti reported that the H1N1 packets have gone home. Early December is the target for the school children and families to get vaccines at the school as long as the vaccine is available. She explained the distribution of the vaccines were by zip code. Dr. Armanetti reported that in order for the children to receive the vaccine, parents need to sign the consent form. If a parent does not have, or cannot find the form, extra consent forms can be found on-line on the district web site. She shared that the district is tracking absences very close and they are gathering details to the absences such as looking into the illnesses for flu and flu like symptoms. She noted that reported illnesses have been a very clear pattern through families and if you have a child sick at home, please consider keeping siblings home as well. She confirmed H1N1 is in the community and many cases are not confirmed because doctors are not doing the testing as a routine. However, the school continues to do its best to have kids cover their mouth when coughing, asking the children often to wash hands. Each classroom has Purell dispensers and special wipes and there are Purell dispensers in lunchroom. Dr. Armanetti also mentioned that the school has contracted with custodial to perform very heavy cleaning in the classrooms with extra services to ensure classrooms are that much cleaner.

Dr. Armanetti reported that there has been more conversation pertaining to the hot lunch program. The recent conversations were focused on avoiding any conflicts with the fund raiser lunches. Irene Callam has suggested a meeting prior to any commitment to the hot lunch program and dates and times have been shared with Mr. Tom Henshaw to ensure there will be no conflicts moving forward with hot lunch fundraisers.

Elementary

Dr. Powers-Richard thanked in advance the PTC for the upcoming luncheon scheduled for Nov 9th. She reported Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up on November 10th with Kindergarten and November 11th-12th for remaining K-5th grades.

She announced the first music program is scheduled for Nov 19 for the 4th and 5th grade chorus students.

Dr. Powers-Richard made a correction to the newsletter, it was stated in the newsletter wreath pickup will be held on Saturday Nov 22nd; however, Saturday is the 21st. Pick-up will occur on Saturday the 21st and not on Sunday.

Dr. Powers-Richard shared the Halloween parade was a success and the classroom parties were wonderful. She extended her thanks to the PTC for planning the parties and for funding the parties.

SOS begins November 30th and will run through December 4th in the elementary.

Cultural Arts committee is planning in January on hosting a mobile planetarium theatre.

The mobile planetarium will be an educational dome where teachers will be able to schedule their classes to visit the dome to learn all about the planets.

Dr. Powers-Richard concluded her report with the announcement on Friendship Club. Friendship club is in full swing with the kickoff in October. Friendship Club is where middle school students assist children in grades 1-5. The middle school students go to recess with the little ones and engage the younger children with games and aide in the classroom.

Middle School

Mr. Papierski reported on how quickly the quarter went. End of the quarter was October 22nd. He reported that report cards will be mailed home prior to any and all conferences. He shared that the Halloween dance very successful with many students attending.

Mr. Papierski reported Nov. 11th-12th teacher conferences will be held. He shared that if parents have not heard from the office and they would like to attend a conference with one or more of their child's teachers, please give the office a call. He wanted to make it clear for new Middle school parents that not all parents are asked to attend conferences. The middle school will call parents of certain students that a meeting is requested. Therefore, if you did not receive a call and want a conference, the parent must call the school to arrange a conference.

Mr. Papierski reported that on October 29th, the 7th Grade Snowflake (parent program) was held. Thirty parents attended and it was a nice turnout. He reported the presentation was good, however, not great. The key note message was to stay involved with your children. It is his goal next year to improve on the message for parents and how best to work with middle age students.

Mr. Papierski reported that the Cook County States Attorney came to meet with the 7th and 8th graders to discuss youth empowerment. The message was that it really does matter who you hang out with because "accountability" is a new law in Illinois.

Mr. Papierski made comment that the 7th graders lost interest in the presentation, however, the 8th graders engaged in conversation with the States Attorney. He attributed the student reactions to possibly a maturity factor.

Mr. Papierski reported on the middle school trying new traffic flow out front resembling more of a funeral style to prevent cars from backing up onto Plainfield road. However, they do realize there is also an issue is getting onto Plainfield road when leaving school. All in all he reported they are quite successful moving cars through drop off and pick up when you consider over 400 cars pass through in roughly 10 minutes twice a day.

Mr. Papierski concluded his report by encouraging parents to stop using their cell phones. Parents on cell phones are a big concern while going through pick up and drop off as they are not always aware of their surroundings.

Elementary Teacher Report

Mrs. Gamester reported on Red Ribbon week and that everything during the week went great. Wednesday, October 28th was wear red day and the elementary participated as well. The week was centered on making positive choices.

She reported November 11th is the book fair and everyone is excited. She announced that with conferences occurring on the 11th, she was encouraged more parents could attend with their children.

Mrs. Gamester announced upcoming events, November 16th-20th, Art Smart will be held in classroom and on November 23rd, School Store will be held.

Middle School Teacher Report

Mrs. Eskra reported on behalf of the middle school the success of the Girls 7th-8th grade basket ball teams season. She reported that the Boys 7th-8th grade softball teams also finished their season with wins, however, their tournament was rained out.

Cheer and Pom both begin this week.

Mrs. Eskra reported on Oct 19th the Student Government sponsored a motivational speaker. Oct 29 was Snowflake for 7th grade. LT students led in the activities. Making healthy good choices is the theme for the 8th grade moving on up.

Committee Reports

Art Smart (ES): Irene Callam reported on behalf of Cathy Grundke and Lena Walent that so far things are going well with Art Smart. The only issue that has come up is with the 5th grade. The 5th grade does a project using Tone bar soap. In the past it was part of the school supply list. However, it was left off the supply list the past 2 years and this year it was very difficult to find enough bars for each student - not to mention costly. It took about \$115 of the Art Smart budget to fund. It is recommended next year the Art Smart committee send a note home to the 5th grade parents to supply a bar of Tone soap for their child prior to the activity beginning.

Art Smart (MS): Maureen Blaber reported that Tuesday, November 10th will be Art Smart Hot Lunch fundraiser. She announced that the 8th grade mural is taking place this year in the fall, in past years it was in the spring. She concluded with highlighting the 6th-7th grades have not made any requests for money, the 8th grade has requested money to attend four plays.

Book Fair: Irene Callam reported on behalf of the Book Fair committee, the date of the book fair is November 11th during school and in the evening during conferences. Volunteers have been called and scheduled and please remember to support the Book Fair on November 11th. If sending a check with your child, please make it payable to the Highlands PTC.

Brick Pavers: Joan Metz reported that order forms keep coming in and they will be placing the order. They hope to have the center hornet in soon.

Cultural Committee: Irene Callam reported on behalf of Heidi Dellibovi, that research is underway to have a mobile theatre planetarium on-site for the next assembly. The date will be Wednesday, January 13. The planetarium will be on site for the entire day and all grades will have access to scheduling their classrooms including the Elementary. This "mini-dome" serves as a theater of sorts to display stars, planets and other astronomical objects. The dome was developed in association with NASA, Rice University and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. A movie plays for 20 minutes while the children are inside the dome. They are completely surrounded by the sights and sounds of immersive education. There are several programs to choose from - including Passport to the Universe - introduces the Black Hole and Secrets of the Dead Sea, Cosmic Collisions, etc. Teachers may choose from any of these programs - age appropriate. Cost is \$1,525 - approved by Dr. P-R (website - dometheater.net)

Desert Day/Pizza Days (Music): Mary Carnevale reported the elementary has enjoyed two desert days' thus far, ice cream sandwiches and ice cream cups. Middle School has

had one Pizza Day. There was some confusion regarding the hot lunch/Pizza day on the calendar. It appears that more hot lunch instructions need to be sent home to 6th grade families next year on payment and instructions. There is a transition from elementary hot lunch to middle school hot lunch and next year more detailed explanations need to go home so the students are not confused or put in the middle.

Directory: Irene Callam reported on behalf of Robin Irie and Ann Marie Watts, the directories were delivered - unfortunately, the printer picked up last years staffing page instead of the one she revised. PTC Blast sent out the correct information. This year printer cost was \$1997.00.

Fannie May: Irene Callam reported on behalf of Jennifer Kehle and April Musick, the order forms were sent home. Orders will be shipped directly to the seller's home like last year. Parents do not have to come to school to pick up their orders.

Holiday Gift Shop/Poinsettia Sale: Irene Callam reported on behalf of Noelle Kostecki, Poinsettia sale order forms have been copied and are in the school office waiting for distribution. Eric Callis has also been notified to place the order form on the front page of the District 106 Website throughout the order time frame. A reminder form will go out 2-3 days before the order form due date (Nov. 19th). A Blast will also be made with the reminder. Fun Services has been contacted with the dates of the holiday store. Holiday Store announcements are scheduled to go out for distribution Nov. 23rd-24th (after Thanksgiving break).

Hot Lunch: Irene Callam reported on behalf of the Hot Lunch committee, the first hot lunch ran very smoothly! Our committee was very pleased with how nicely the new laminated tickets worked. We are saving the earth plus feel we have a better handle on who ordered what. The next hot lunch is scheduled for Nov. 17th and we expect it to run just as smooth.

Social & Hospitality: Barb Lack reported the first PTC Teacher appreciation lunch will be held on November 9th. The elementary lunches were posted on the PTC calendar so the middle school changes their dates to match the elementary.

Spirit Wear: Janet Mitchell reported there is still some inventory left and they will be trying to sell it during home sports events and through the PTC blast they will make announcements. Sizes are a first come, first available basis.

Variety Show: Irene Callam reported on behalf of Tami Holzhueter and Michelle Tabachka that the committee met Monday morning. They are in the process of scheduling the time for each act's try-out which is to be held Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 9th and 10th. We will call the contact person of each act early this week with their scheduled time. The contact person is responsible for communicating the information to each member of their act.

The charity for this year's Variety Show is The Garden Center Services - they grow dignity and independence for persons with disabilities. The show will be held on January 16th and 17th.

Old Business

Irene Callam reminded everyone Market Day pickup is today, November 3rd.
Esript sign up during conferences will be attempted.

New Business

No new business to discuss.

Meeting was called at 9:59am.

Attendees of the November meeting included the following:

Dr. Armanetti	Mr. Papierski	Dr. Powers-Richard	Lisa Gamester
Karen Materick	Jeni Moore	Shannon Wojcik	Beth Eskra
Stacy Kafkes	Irene Callam	Joan Metz	Phil Palmer
Barb Lack	Mary Carnevale	Zachary Prinz	Susan Henkel
Maureen Blaber	Janet Mitchel		