



## HIGHLANDS PTC MINUTES

December 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:08am.

The written minutes were reviewed by the members in attendance. Mrs. Eskra made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting and Mrs. Gamester seconded it.

The meeting opened with the following reports:

### **Assistant Treasurer Report**

Jeni Moore reported on the remaining budgets for the holiday party. No more receipts for Halloween parties are being accepted. There is a balance of \$6,922.98 for covering both pcard requests and the remaining party dues. Jeni has received 2 card requests to date.

### **Treasurers Report**

Karen Materick reported on the key transactions made during November.

- Book Fair made a profit in November.
- The directory printing was paid in full in November.
- A profit of \$216.73 was earned with Escript rebates.
- McDonald's hot lunch was paid in November.
- PTC paid a deposit for the 3rd Grade Native American program.
- PTC paid Innisbrook for purchases in November.
- PTC ordered prizes and incentives for the RAH reading program in November.

Karen can provide additional details on all transactions per your request.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Stacy Kafka reported the Winter Appreciation Luncheon will be held Jan 27<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-2pm. The event will be held at the Highlands Presbyterian Church where a lunch will be catered and the middle school Show Choir will perform. Invitations will go out the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Stacy shared many thank you notes that were received.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers and Students for their PTC/Art Smart sponsored trip to the Paramount Theater.
- Ms Andrea Scheiwe for the lunch and the books ordered for her classroom.
- Middle School staff for lunch
- Elementary staff made a banner for the Teacher Appreciation lunch

### **Student Council**

Angela Madjer, secretary of the student council, reported on behalf of student council.

Her report read as follows: In November we did not have many events going on for Student Council. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the student council held an assembly in honor of Veterans Day. Local veterans were invited to be our special guests for the program. In attendance were veterans from World War 2, Vietnam, and the Korean War. David Moskos, a former Highlands student who served in Iraq was also present. The veterans were honored by the orchestra playing "The Star Spangled Banner"; the show choir sang a version of "My Country Tis of Thee". Boy Scout Troop 216 presented the colors of the flag and Michelle Siamis read her contest winning essay, "Why do we celebrate Veterans Day?" The assembly was an emotional and educational experience for our middle school.

Angela reported the next Student Council event will be the winter dance on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30-5:30. This time is a change from the 4-6 time printed on the PTC calendar.

### **Superintendent**

Dr. Armanetti shared a Happy Holidays wish to all. She reported on how wonderful and heartwarming it is during this season. Dr. Armanetti shared her memories of many years ago when she was instrumental in starting the event at Chalmers and how proud she is that it has taken on a life of its own. She shared her experiences of how the students love the event because they get to bring gifts to others, they get to perform and the students get to make it a special holiday for other kids who wouldn't otherwise have such a day of celebration. Dr. Armanetti was proud of how the spirit of giving is really wonderful and a big part of the highlands community.

Dr. Armanetti announced the January board of Education meeting has been rescheduled to January 20<sup>th</sup> from the 19<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was moved to allow more members and participants to attend a speaker on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Internationally recognized author and speaker Barbara Coloroso will deliver a presentation, entitled "Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right - From Toddlers to Teens, Teaching Kids to Think and Act Ethically," The presentation will focus on raising kids who have the courage to stand up for others and against injustice, who care deeply, share generously, and help willingly. She will address the three characters in the bully circle and what families can do to help kids break the cycle of violence. She reported the speaker will begin at 7pm, at the Lyons Township High School North Campus Reber Center. Admission is free. This event is being sponsored by District 101.

H1N1 vaccines will take place at Highlands. Dr. Armanetti has all of their information into the Cook county dept of health, several emails on the date for the flu shot have been going back and forth. Dr. Armanetti is trying very hard to get the county in before break. More information is coming so look to your emails and the students' backpacks.

Dr. Armanetti reported on the Highlands student patterns of absenteeism with flu like symptoms. The district is in a turning point as not as many children have been out of class as compared to 3-4 weeks ago.

Lastly, with winter upon us, Dr. Armanetti reported how committed she is with the LT superintendents to ensure the schools are prepared to discuss and report on possible school closings. She explained that with weather storms and school disruptions, each morning begins with a 4:30 wake up call, followed by a conf call with all deciding parties to discuss snow conditions. She is pleased to share that everything is in place with the communication systems to notify local radio, news, and the school phone system. Dr. Armanetti reported that last year she did not have to close school for snow day. Administration is very hopeful for the best this winter season as well.

## **Elementary**

Dr. Powers-Richard reported that fire safety continues at the elementary and she has received great support from the fire department with drills and education for the students and faculty.

Dr. Powers-Richard was pleased to announce the first music program of the year took place for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and it was wonderful. She shared how wonderful the program was with rich, diverse music and that Mrs. O'Reilly tops herself year after year.

Dr. Powers-Richard announced that Dec 18<sup>th</sup> will be the holiday sing. She wanted to share that it will be standing room only for the guests. She announced it is a great kickoff to the holiday season for the students and faculty and all the guests who can attend. She was pleased to announce that the faculty will be up again to sing a song along with many songs from the students.

Dr. Powers-Richard announced a guest speaker, Linda Kurtzman who came in for the friendship assembly. She, along with middle school puppeteers, spoke and performed the topic of how to be a friend and to get along with others to the elementary students.

Dr. Powers-Richard reported that the second cultural arts event, the dome theater, will take place in January. The organizers of the dome are able to adapt the presentations for each class according to the age and length of time they have signed up to explore the globe. She shared that there will be four separate programs conducted. The dome will be at the school all day and classes will be exploring the dome throughout the entire day. Dr. Powers-Richard is really excited and she expressed her thanks to the PTC for the many fundraisers that make this event possible.

Dr. Powers-Richard concluded with a big "Thank you" to the PTC for all that the PTC does.

## **Middle School**

Mr. Papierski reported that he was excited to be leaving with the middle school show choir to perform at Chalmers. He reported that the middle school choir was participating in several performances this year. Mr. Papierski reported that they are still looking for a few secret Santa's to sponsor highlands children. Mr. Papierski reported December 4<sup>th</sup> ends mid-quarter. He reported that the food drive still going on through Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

He concluded with his thanks to the PTC for the cultural committee events.

## **Elementary Teacher Report**

Mrs. Gamester reported on the following club activities:

- The SOS club is collecting food.
- The Business Club is successfully running the student store.
- The Guitar club is officially underway after school.

She reported on behalf of the elementary staff, thanks for the books for our classes and students and thank you to all the parent volunteers who help throughout the year in the classrooms and with the bulletin boards and photo copying and all is going really well.

## **Middle School Teacher Report**

Mrs. Eskra began her report by extending a thank you from all the middle school staff for the faculty lunch. She reported that Boys basketball, cheerleading and pom poms are all in full swing and are going great. She announced that Bowling Club for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is beginning at Willowbrook Lanes and will be held every Wednesday from 4pm-6pm. She reported an estimated 50 students have been attending. She reported the 8<sup>th</sup> grades are participating in a mock trial at John Marshall. Mrs. Eskra concluded her report by building on the participation of the middle school peer leaders during friendship week in the elementary was exciting and well received.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Art Smart (MS):**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. A design has been chosen for the mural. The committee is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Maureen Blaber or Sheila Benson.

### **Book Fair:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the book fair committee. They are working with the Bookery now on the final bill. Everyone was very complimentary about the book fair-particularly the selection and the fact that we were there in the evening. The teachers are particularly happy with the selection. We hoped to have the teachers' books to them before Christmas if we can straighten out the bill quickly. Right now we have \$3,000.00 worth of teachers' orders. The ladies from the Bookery were very impressed with the titles purchased by our students, especially the middle school kids.

### **Fannie May:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. They had 36 forms returned which resulted in an order total of \$4,945.48 and is significantly less than previous years, just a sign of the times. The school receives a 25% profit from sales. All orders were shipped this past week.

### **Fortnightly:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee that the mailing was just sent last week to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Holiday Gift Shop/Poinsettia Sale:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. A total of 34 plants were sold this year, down from last year. Last year, Barone's ordered a large amount and they were not interested in placing an order this year which certainly affected 2009 total sales. Total checks received: \$534.00, total cost: \$405. A profit of \$129.00 was recognized.

### **Holiday Shop:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. Despite the overall lower quantity and lesser variety of inventory supplied by Fun Services this year, the Holiday Shop was a success. Michelle Mahoney has volunteered to co-chair this committee next year.

**Hot Lunch:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. The second hot lunch of McDonalds cheeseburgers was very smooth and enjoyed by all the students. Our next hot lunch is Tuesday, January 26th, Ledo's Pizza. We would like to thank all the people who have helped us at school during hot lunch. It is because of all help that it is running so smooth.

**Market Day:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of Jill Bonfiglio and Martha Berg. Sales of \$451.22 with 62 customers were reported. School year to day Market Day has raised \$1,183.18.

**Variety Show:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. The "Welcome Packets" have been copied and each child participating in the show should receive one in his/her backpack this week. Large Group Rehearsals started last night and will finish up tonight. All music cd's (for each act using music) must be turned in to the Elementary School office by Dec 18th. An email was sent to the contact person of each act reminding them about the CD deadline. Any questions re: the Variety Show, please call Michele Tabachka 784-0023 or Tami Zepnick-Holzhueter 246-1222.

**Vern Groers/Shop-N-Share:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee:

Activity in the past month

We received checks for both of our recent fundraisers:

Vern Goers raised \$127.92.

Jewel Shop-n-Share raised \$228.38.

Upcoming Activity

We have our second Jewel Shop-and-Share fundraiser next week - Monday thru Wednesday, December 14th -16th. Flyers will be distributed (electronically) later this week.

**Wrapping Paper:**

Irene Callam reported on behalf of the committee. I just wanted to report that everything went very smooth. No last minute substitutions or missing items in the orders this year. We made around \$6,0000 and that amount can increase if people would like to order online. Just go to [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com) and put in our school code 102359. It's as easy as that and the items will be shipped to your home.

**Old Business:**

Irene Callam reported on Little Cesar's orders are due today. Liz Wilp shared a concern with the order quantity and delivery requirements. Liz was looking into whether the kits would be delivered. If there was a problem, Liz will contact Jeanne Rozner for assistance.

**New Business:**

Irene Callam reported on Jewel Shop-n-share will take place on December 14-16.

Market Day pickup is tomorrow, Wednesday, December 9.

Elementary School desert day has been rescheduled to Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was called at 9:53am.

**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	Jeanne Rozner	Elisa Freimanis
Barb Lack	Liz Wilp		