

Hall-Dale Elementary School
PTO
Meeting Minutes October 12, 2010

Members Present: Thirty-two

Facilitators: Aimee Ellis and Maria Fuentes, HDES PTO Co-Presidents

The meeting began with a welcome from Maria Fuentes and introductions around the table. Principal Tom Leonard introduced the newly hired art teacher, Mr. Mike Hickey. He spoke of his background and how he came to HDES. He has been involved with children in the classroom as well as at Camp Kieve as a counselor. Mike Hickey spoke about his excitement to be on the staff at HDES and his ideas for the children and their artwork. He has ideas of involving the children with an art gallery in town and with Colby College. His enthusiasm was great.

Maria Fuentes went over a few announcements about the blue information folders that went out at the first PTO meeting and getting them to those that don't have them, and she also asked new members to sign the membership book ASAP. She also mentioned volunteering opportunities for the upcoming PSO concert and for the flu clinic this month.

Secretary's Report: Kelli Baker

The report was sent out via email. The minutes were accepted and passed with no questions or comments.

The flu vaccination was mentioned and it was suggested that parents be notified about the nasal version (if it is an option) if their child has had a reaction to the injected type in the past.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Pelotte

Kathy went over the budget handout –and also mentioned that she would like the bank to print statements of the PTO account at the end of the month and not the middle of it. This would work better for record keeping.

Thank you goes out to Dairy Queen for the school calendar magnets that went home with each HDES student!

The discussion then moved to the PSO concert and ticket sales. 128 families have responded to the order sheets, with 532 tickets sold. There is no real deadline for ticket sales as we will continue to sell them until we run out. Any remaining tickets can be bought at the door. Someone asked if the children that perform in the first concert, but have a sibling in the second, will have a seat in the audience? The answer was yes. Kathy Pelotte has done a great spreadsheet to track the ticket sales to make it convenient to send them home when it is time. There will be a table at conferences where the PTO will sell tickets, also. The treasurer's report was accepted as reviewed.

Kathy went over the 2010-2011 proposed HDES PTO Budget. Some of the items are plugged in from the past years and history, but many items remain as unknowns; they are estimates. All of the fundraisers are not included, but hopefully we can get the available balance higher. It is not expected that PTO will raise as much money as last year, since every time the PTO has held the Readathon, it has raised more money than in other years, and we won't be having a Readathon this year.

The discussion moved to teacher allocations for this year. Some of the ways teachers use their allotments is for magazine subscriptions for classes, field trips, dictionaries, books, supplies and much more. The amount that was recommended for teacher allotments was \$10 per student per class. There was a motion and second to pass the budget, including the teacher allocation. The motion prevailed.

Enrichment Report: Marella Averill

Marella discussed some of her ideas for enrichment this year. She mentioned Slapstick Science and having him return because the students enjoyed the performances so much. The gentleman is like a physicist and circus performer combined! He offers six different shows and HDES has seen four of them. The cost for his visit and performance last year was \$850. Also, the Theater of Monmouth was another idea. Their visit and performance cost \$650. There is a program from the City of Augusta, featuring a Mr. and Mrs. Fish that will come for no charge. Marella mentioned contacting Chewonki to see if they offer any enrichment programs. Also, maybe a gardening project? She has many ideas and would like others that may want to help plan enrichment or share their ideas, to contact her.

Community Outreach Update: Jim Wallace

Mrs. McGuire informed the group that rehearsals for the PSO concert are going well. The children are memorizing their songs and movements and are excited. There will be only one rehearsal with the

Portland Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet before the actual performance. She is using familiar songs that will be easily absorbed by the students. She usually does not do concerts in October with such short practice time! The practices with the quintet will take place Monday afternoon beginning at 1:30. The pre-K will have a chance to rehearse, too.

Jim thanked Nora Gray, who designed the beautiful poster and the programs for the concert. She did a fantastic job. He also asked that parents take advantage of the free child care that will be offered during the performances and to have smaller children sit on laps instead of taking up a seat.

Jim went over the planned upcoming community outreach events. KIA has agreed to do another skate day. PTO will pay \$200 to KIA so we can offer free rentals and skating on Saturday, November 20 from 5:30 to 7:30. You do need to bring a food item to participate. Last year, 160 people showed up to HDES skate event and we collected food also. There will be a Lost Valley Ski night in January with the RSU 2 with \$10 rentals and \$10 lift tickets. There will be a movie night with free admission and a snack concession in March. Also, Jim suggested a sports equipment sale which would be a fundraiser and a community outreach event. The proceeds can benefit the PE department. Volunteers will be needed to make the sale happen. Jim talked about his ideas of used sports items getting donated and selling the items at cheap prices. Someone mentioned making it a bigger sale to include more items such as books, baby items and toys. There needs to be a team that gets together to brainstorm and organize.

Aimee Ellis reported on the Super Raffle fundraiser idea. Getting large ticket items (mostly) donated, the students sell raffle tickets, and then at a spaghetti supper at HDES, the names are drawn for the prizes. Aimee is taking care of the paperwork that would be needed to use the school for a spaghetti supper, and Maria will organize the raffle. It is agreed that it is a good idea and the supper could be Friday, Dec. 3.

The Subway fundraiser was mentioned again. This is a night where HDES will get a portion of sales from a certain time on a certain date. It seemed easy and we should contact them again.

HDES will not be participating in the Barnes and Noble fundraiser this year. It was too much work and not enough profit.

There will be a Sea Dogs game on either May 6 or May 27. After a

bit of discussion it was decided that the May 6 date works best. Kelly Byron is willing to give up the task of coordinating and organizing the Sea Dogs fundraiser. If anyone is interested, please contact Aimee Ellis or Maria Fuentes.

Star of the Week Update: Sherie Lizzotte

Everything is going well.

Playground Update: Ellen Freed

HDES PTO does not have to pay for the balance on the labor done to the playground. The one remaining invoice will be for the mulch, etc. The children are happy to have the new additions to the playground.

Fundraising Ideas

The Original Works fundraiser is in progress. Thursday, Oct. 21 the art will be mailed out and then on Nov. 8 the magnets should come. The discount/coupon cards were mentioned for the spring. The Spring Art show is also being planned, and Mr. Hickey is game to participate. Someone mentioned a silent auction. This will be a normal year for fundraising, where last year exceeded expectations, due to the Readathon.

Kristin Aiello will be looking over the bylaws and if anyone would like to be on an email committee to review bylaws, please let Maria know.

Someone mentioned the Lego Robotics and getting that into HDES for the 4th and 5th graders. Maria said that Rabbi Sue had purchased a Lego Robotics kit and donated it to the HDES After School Program, but the hope is to have it be part of the curriculum.

Maria asked new members sign the Membership book. Mrs. McGuire thanked the PTO for their support in the process of the PSO concert. Jim mentioned that the KJ is going to write a piece for the paper on the event! There will be posters available for those that may have a place to advertise and generate excitement for the concert.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

The next HDES PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at 6 p.m. in the library.