

Hall-Dale Elementary School
PTO
Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2010

Members Present: 35

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

The meeting began with Maria Fuentes welcoming all in attendance and beginning introductions. Attendees introduced themselves and said their children's names and ages, teacher, etc. Aimee Ellis introduced the HDES PTO Green Book that members need to sign to be able to vote at the meetings. In order to be a voting member, each person must sign it every year. Aimee then reviewed the packet of information that was in the PTO folders that were handed out as people arrived which included: an agenda, contact information of the Officers and Committee chairs, mission statement, PSO Concert Ticket form and bylaws of the HDES PTO. Someone pointed out that the bylaws say MSAD 16 instead of RSU 2. There is still some paperwork that still needs to be converted to the new title. Kristin Aiello mentioned that we can vote to change the bylaws of the PTO and that we can put the discussion on a future agenda.

Secretary's Report: Kelli Baker

The minutes for the June meeting were emailed to members and they were accepted as reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Pelotte

Through August 31 there was not much activity in the PTO account. A question arose as to whether the teacher allotments for the fall have been given out. (It was explained that the teachers get "mini grants" from PTO to help fund classroom expenses or field trips, etc.) In May the teachers were given a second allotment of \$5 per child, due to the successful fundraising year. PTO will be giving the teachers their 2010-2011 allotments in early fall.

A member also asked if the principal received his discretionary fund and the answer was yes. The \$750 was given to Mr. Leonard in May.

Jim Wallace gave an update on the Children's Concert with the Portland Symphony Orchestra PSO Concert and says that it is all on track for October 25 at Cony High School. He explained that the location was

needed for the acoustics, amount of people that may want to attend and parking needs. All the plans are complete, other than selling the tickets. Andy Malloy from the Kennebec Journal will come in and do a photograph with a write-up to promote the concert. The PSO will accompany all the grades, with children in PreK – 5 singing, and the PSO Brass Quintet doing a few songs on their own.

Also, on the back of each concert ticket will be a coupon for a free kids meal or appetizer at Texas Roadhouse or free skate rental/time at KIA or \$5 off a ticket for the PSO Magic of Christmas Show. Ticket holders will have those three choices to choose from.

Jim said that the goal is to do something like this every year and have it become a self-sustaining event. Therefore, if there are any revenues over and above the costs to put on the concert, they will be reserved for a future musical event like this one.

Maria went over the yellow ticket concert sales form from the folder. Kathy Pelotte, PTO Treasurer, will create a spreadsheet to track ticket sales. Mrs. McGuire has already begun rehearsing with the children. There are 912 physical seats, and 250 are to be reserved for the children. There is a strong response to be expected with a performance of this nature.

Star of the Week Update: Sherie Lizzotte

Sherie said that it's week two of Star of the Week and there has been an overwhelming response to the need for volunteers to help with this ongoing task. She explained that there needs to be a bit more organization and job delegation so that more than one person is not signing up to do the same tasks.

Maria explained the program to those members that are new and unaware of HDES and its Stars of the Week. The children are chosen and they receive a ribbon, poster on the wall and a \$.50 credit to spend at the school store. It is an honor that each child gets to experience at some point during the school year.

Enrichment Report: Marella Averill, Chair

Marella introduced herself and thanked Ellen Freed for the work on the playgrounds and getting the swings finally installed. Thank you, Ellen! Representing the Kindergarten group, Mrs. Pinard thanked the PTO for increasing the number of swings that were desperately needed for the younger kids' playground. Marella talked about what types of enrichment programs have happened at HDES, such as the Monmouth

Theater, Slapstick Science and a few others. She is in the planning stages of enrichment for this year and announced that she welcomes ideas, comments and any volunteers that may want to be a part of the committee.

Ellen Freed gave an update on the playground improvements. The slide was added to the front playground, as well as the swings. There is a need for more mulch which Mr. Murray, maintenance director, is supposed to be taking care of. Two feet of mulch is what is considered a safe amount. The sand is also going to be delivered soon for the sandbox. The total amount of the improvements has been estimated at totaling \$2800 which is \$2100 for the slide and installation and \$700 for the mulch and sand. Mr. Murray has asked what the PTO can add to help with the cost of the work because the budget is tight. The discussion takes place about the idea of there being no knowledge that PTO would have to supplement the RSU 2 Buildings and Grounds budget. When PTO originally estimated the amount that we would give for the playground it was \$5200, so there are unused funds, but it was suggested that it is not a good idea to be helping make up for items in the RSU budget that traditionally are taken care of by the school. It is also noted that the teachers asked for the swings for a long time and no one really tried to get them put at the new school. Choate was hired to do the land work and labor, so that is the person that still needs to be paid for the job. Someone suggested that Mr. Murray was responsible for installation. The PTO will help and the amount will be decided on. Someone also said that the PTO is supposed to enhance the budget, not repay it and that a revisit to the policy on repaying the school budget may be needed. More research is needed to be done on this topic. Ellen Freed will talk to Mr. Murray and report back to the PTO.

Programming Report: Aimee Ellis

Aimee explained the idea of programming, that it is when someone from outside the school or within the school brings a topic to present to the students/faculty. Bullying was a good topic that was included last year. Members of the programming committee are needed.

A question is asked by a member about the RiSC implementation and the PTO's ability to explain it more or give the members an update. The response is that Mr. Leonard will be having a parents' night to inform all those wanting to know about it soon. The PTO is not ahead of anyone in the knowledge of the ways the RiSC model is being used in our school.

Kelly Byron gave an update on the Original Works Fundraiser, as coordinator of that fundraiser. She explained the art/fundraiser program

to the new members of the PTO. The new art teacher's name is Mr. Hickey and he is familiar with the Original Works, which makes it easier and the children have already begun their work! Kelly explained that in previous years HDES has done the "See Before You Buy" magnets and they were really good for helping people get an idea of what the art will look like. They have opted to do it again this year and it was said that with the magnets, profits seemed to go higher in previous years than when they didn't do the magnets. Kelly did say that the orders will be ready for Christmas and if anyone would like to help Kelly with data entry, spreadsheets, folders and other organization tasks associated with the Original Works Project, to contact her. A member mentioned that there are parents that would like to volunteer for PTO and do work at their homes. This would be a good opportunity for that.

Maria Fuentes begins to talk about other fundraisers. She begins with The Barnes & Noble Program. She explained the basic idea of it and then explained that for a lot of work, there was little profit. Maria spoke to the B&N manager and those present at the meeting declined to participate this year. There are people that want to be on the Fundraising Committee and if others are interested, please let the PTO officers know.

The Subway Fundraiser is another way to support HDES with little effort, and that is still an option. One night, certain dinner hours, vouchers, and a percentage of sales go to HDES PTO. Someone mentioned a raffle of maybe a \$500 L.L. Bean gift certificate. Also, Mr. Leonard has had luck at other schools with a Student Art Show and Ice Cream Social. Another one mentioned is the Discount Cards that are used by other schools in the area. There are many ways to raise money to enrich our school and with the right teamwork from PTO volunteers, it will happen! It is mentioned that the Longaberger Basket Bingo had too many regulations and the police had to be present. Not a good fundraiser for this year. If anyone has ideas about other fundraising opportunities or events, feel free to let an officer know, or the next meeting on October 12, 2010.