

Hinsdale Middle School PTO General Meeting Minutes--October 13, 2010

Call to Order: Co-President Julie Liesse called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Secretaries' Report: September's minutes were circulated by Co-Recording Secretary Nancy Hamp. Co-Corresponding Secretary Janet Meyer moved they be approved, seconded by Co-President Lynne Bloomfield. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Magazine Sale Co-Chair Ginny Lorenc reported that the magazine sale has been a success and that estimated profit to date is \$17,300. Fifty magazine donations were made to the VA Medical Center and 35 were donated to the HMS Media Resource Center. Treasurer Annette Phillips thanked the magazine sale committee, also co-chaired by Linda DeMolder, for doing an excellent job.

Some members reported that the fundraising company this year offered incentives for the students which were well received—fun and less about trinkets.

There were some problems with teachers' handling of excusing students to go to the magazine sale incentive parties. Principal Ruben Peña had encouraged the teachers to excuse the kids who earned the reward.

Mr. Peña asked whether the PTO would like to donate a party of inflatables/bounce toys to an underprivileged city school. It would cost approximately \$1250. He would like to see HMS move toward outreach to a "sister school" or needy school, and has identified one with the aid of staff input. Julie said the Executive Board will discuss and consider this item at their next meeting.

Conversation with Dr. Reneé Schuster, CCSD 181 Superintendent: Dr. Schuster was welcomed and introduced by Julie. One of the current issues is the District's \$700,000 budget deficit for the current year. She hopes by the end of the year the District and CCSD 181 Board of Education will find ways to finish the year under budget.

ISAT results were in the top 5% for the State of Illinois, with 98% of students testing as proficient in tested areas. The District is committed to improve performance in the subgroup of students receiving reduced price or free lunches, which was not as proficient.

The District is developing a Strategic Plan. Please attend one of the Public Engagement Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, October 20 at HMS, and Tuesday, October 26 at CHMS, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each night, in order to provide input to the District on your priorities and concerns. There will be small group discussions and note takers to consolidate feedback for administration and the Board of Education.

The activities fee of \$40 per student for clubs, and "pay to play" athletic fees were discussed. Concerns about the high cost of basketball were raised and discussed. Options to reduce fees were discussed, including eliminating busing and having parents organize their own car pools, developing an Athletics Booster Club to raise funds, or having a special meeting with the athletes' families involved to brainstorm a solution. Re-evaluating the competition structure of the teams was suggested. The consensus of those present appeared to be to eliminate busing.

Dr. Schuster reiterated that interested individuals should attend one of the Community Engagement Meetings listed above. In response to a question by Julie and CCSD 181 Board Member Yvonne Mayer, Dr. Schuster indicated that CHMS families will have to pay the sports fee before participating as HMS families have. However, based on the possible solutions above, rebates may be issued if costs for sports are reduced.

Goals for the District include improving student learning, re-evaluating the Language Arts curriculum, continuing to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress toward student achievement as mandated by State and Federal guidelines, re-developing the foreign language/cultures curriculum, continuing to withdraw from LADSE to control our own Special Education services delivery, improving community involvement and transparency, such as through the audio podcast of CCSD 181 Board of Education meetings, and continuing to invest in top quality staff.

Presidents' Report: Four new clubs are being formed at HMS. They include Humane Society Club, Dance Club, Equestrian Club, and Cooking Club. The Rotary Run is this Sunday. About 48 students and 8 staff from HMS are already signed up. There will be a group photo at 8 a.m. At the PTO Presidents' Meeting our Facebook account for HMS and HMS PTO was announced. Feedback to the CCSD 181 administration was given about wanting a single page summary of all of a student's class grades available on the Parent Portal. A majority of the school board will be up for election next year and candidates are being sought by the Hinsdale Caucus for them to vet and endorse.

Vice Presidents' Report: Vice President Sue Shupe reported that the first of the parent mixer parties will be held on November 1 at Zak's Place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The first one is for parents of 6th graders. Mixers for parents of students in other grades will follow.

Principal's Report: Mr. Peña said that teachers will be meeting regarding the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip next week. Parents are wondering about the trip details. That information will be forthcoming.

The PTO vending machine has received a lot of use by 8th graders between 4th and 5th periods, when many teachers let that grade have a snack due to late lunch period. Also the musical rehearsal schedule results in many snack purchases lately.

Adequate Yearly Progress will require 85% of students to be "Proficient" on the ISAT next year, but the percentage will increase after that to 100%, and Mr. Peña and Dr. Martha Henrikson, Assistant Principal, are committed to helping HMS students achieve that.

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned by Julie at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by Co-Recording Secretary Nancy Hamp 10/18/10, revised 11/5/10