

Hinsdale Middle School General PTO Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 – 9:30 A.M.

Minutes

1. Welcome – The executive committee and committee introduced themselves.
2. Secretary's Report
 - a. Robin Thrana motioned and Molly Hughes seconded the motion to approve the May General meeting minutes. All agreed and minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report – Laura Gambla reported that this year's approved budget is about \$39,900. Laura also reminded the committee that all purchases are exempt from paying sales tax and the form is found on the website under PTO resources. Also, the check re-imbusement form is online and can be left in the Treasurer's box in the main office.
4. President's Report
 - a. Robin Thrana motioned to approved Deborah Kloubec as Co-Vice President, Karen Choi seconded the motion and it was approved.
 - b. Nancy Hamp was thanked for a successful Back to School Day. The goal next year is to have more help (we were 10 people short). Nancy noted a glitch in that some school supply kits that were ordered after the first deadline were not being noted as paid in the system. A suggestion was made to have gym uniforms on hand for those who may want to purchase at the Back to School Day. Jan Burr and Laura Glenn have agreed to take on the job again next year. Liz Sant has also offered to help recycle the supplies at the end of the year. The re-purposed kids look identical to the new kits. Kathy Adelman said that at the district-wide co-Presidents meeting the group will discuss consolidating efforts for buying supplies across the district.
 - c. The Newcomer Coffee was organized by Jean Mau and was well attended by newcomers and Ruben and Martha mingled with those who attended.
 - d. The Activities Fair was organized by Ann Lorenz and Betsy Bruns and ran smoothly. It was mostly 6th graders and it was suggested that it could be shortened to about an hour.
5. Vice President's Report
 - a. Above the Line program. Deb explained that this is where students, teachers and parents can recognize their teachers who are going above and beyond their typical expectations. It can be a one-time situation or an on-going example. The names submitted enter into a quarterly raffle for a gift card. Nomination forms are online.

6. Committee Reports

- a. eBlast. Robin explained that you can subscribe to the blast from the PTO website if you are not receiving it currently. It's a great vehicle to submit information on events and upcoming news.
 - b. Magazine Sales – Sharon Theoharus is getting help from Jane Callas and Leslie Besecke while she is out of town. The first turn-in date yielded \$15,000, which is \$5,000 greater than last year's initial turn-in.
 - c. Directory – Parents need to verify their information online. An e-mail was sent and the directory chairs are awaiting the verifications.
 - d. Newcomers – no chairs present
 - e. Book Fair – we need a co-chair for the Book Fair in March.
 - f. High School Liason – a helpful resource to the middle school.
 - g. O'Neia Washington from the fundraising committee discussed she is planning to partner with Dips'nDogs, CornerBakery, Homemade Pizza Co, and Kramers for future shopping/dining events.
 - h. Misc. – Several committee members received e-mails for a Skyping Coaching service in Equador. It was recommended to ignore them.
7. Title 1 Report – Martha Hendrickson reported that we are not yet sure if we are Title 1. It depends on how many kids we have who qualify. We have qualified for the past several years. The money covers books, tutoring and other academic fees, which help eliminate the learning access gap that may exist. Ruben discussed that it's handled very discretely.
8. Principal's Report – Dress Code. Shorts must be at finger-tip length or longer. Athletic shorts are a grey area that Ruben tries to navigate carefully. "Shoulder to shoulder" modesty is a term used for girls. Ruben is working on getting WIFI extended to the outdoor classroom. It's a great hangout for the kids and the plan is for Eagle Scouts to help with plants, etc. MAP testing is next week and all students are encouraged to do their best. We are beginning SELAS Day planning for the year.
9. Misc – Kathy discussed that guest speakers will be coming to future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.