

# PTA MEETING NOTES

## December 14, 2015

### Attendees:

David Adelman, Sue Nickles, Glenna Deekle, Beth Benoit, Sunny Zhao, Momina Malik, Regina Brown, Amy LoPresti, Melissa Daniels, Amy Mitchell, Amy Rice, Danielle Rao, Kelly Green, Ashlei Pinkham, Christine Case

### President's Welcome

### President's Update – Beth Benoit:

- Special thanks to all the committee chairs upon the completion of their fundraisers: Debbie Wood for Spirit Wear and Danielle Rao and Tonya Sigalas for Square 1 Art, plus Melissa Daniels for staff conference dinner.
- New Chair for PTA Lobby Showcase: Ashlei Pinkham will be assuming the role.
- School Directory update: The directory was distributed on 12/2/15. Only a few mistakes have been identified so far. Amy LoPresti said there were actually several corrections. Andrea Ullrich did the initial support for the directory. Terry is correcting the family file to fix the errors for the families who did not check the directory box. There is also a link for parents to give feedback about the directory process. Beth will send a blast after the first of the new year to parents and ask them to check for needed corrections. She will also write to HCPSS and ask if a corrected copy of the file can be sent to us.
- Potential SkyZone fundraiser (liability, 3:1 update). Leaning toward saying no due to liability issues. Attendees voted to skip it.
- Fundraising update for next year: We are considering one potential large event. A meeting with administration is scheduled next week. Amy will share that our fundraising campaigns are earning much less than in past years, which is worrisome to meeting our budget.
- Shutterfly reward program reminder: It is a year-round event and we have earned an estimated \$175 as of a week ago.
- Volunteer needed for Staff Appreciation Week: Amy Mitchell volunteered to help Tonya. Amy will recruit help as needed.
- Homewood School update: Some people are personally supporting the special "treasure sale" by donating items (the purchase of treasures are earned through good behavior bucks by the Homewood students). As a PTA, we will help with something for staff appreciation week in May.
- Dr. Foose has requested members for the 2017-18 Academic Calendar Committee. Heated discussion underway.
- Fit Family Night information sent to Beth. A flyer came through HCPSS. The event would be at no cost to the school. Flyer says that the event will include wellness and movement opportunities and focuses on the role parents play in food and movement. We will not do it this year given many other events and opportunities.

### Principal's Report: David Adelman

Thank you for the wonderful dinner during conferences. All of our families came for conferences. We are thankful for our strong community. PARCC results are out. The data is a baseline. No PARCC night here at Ilchester. There are four PARCC nights being offered by HCPSS. Please share the advertisement about the PARCC nights: January 5 at 7-8pm Atholton ES Cafeteria, January 6 at 7-8pm Steven's Forest ES Cafeteria, January 11 at 7-8pm Clarksville MS Cafeteria, January 12 at 7-

8pm Oakland Mills MS. PARCC test was shortened a little bit this year. Standard testing goes through tweaking just like the SAT and other standard tests. Kids should be proud! Teachers did a great job. Kids were emotionally prepared and protected. Happy holidays!

Assistant Principal's Report: Sue Nickles

Thank you for dinner during conferences. COGAT testing was held the week of 12/3/15 for all students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (for 4<sup>th</sup> grade G/T placement) and 5<sup>th</sup> grade (for 6<sup>th</sup> grade placement). The students took three sections of the test in 30 minute increments, with a total testing time of 90 minutes. Parents of children tested will get reports. 5<sup>th</sup> graders get the report earlier. May 6 for Mom's on campus is still TBD because further testing dates have not yet been chosen.

Teacher's Report: Amy Rice

Thank you for dinner. Ex-parent/teacher here.

Executive Committee Updates:

Momina Malik:

- Talent Show went well. Set-up of stage with children coming from the back worked well.
- Family Cultural Fun Night: International night dividing pods into continents. Food in the gym area. Open to all families. First meeting went well. Two parents for each committee plus teachers on each committee. Once we come back from the holiday we will convene again. Teachers will reach out to subcommittees and will meet and report back. The next meeting is February 12, 2016, where we really need to "get going" on plans.

Amy LoPresti:

- Budget  
Fundraising is complete. Innisbrook still coming in but is \$4,000 less than budgeted. Molly said the number in the budget might reflect how much the total spent rather than earned so it might be inaccurate. We usually bring in \$11,000 and we made \$7,000. Restaurant nights have done well. Pazani did well at about \$400. Spirit Wear total is not in. Square 1 Art total is not in. Most expenses not until the end of the year with plays and events. We have spent about \$1,000 in program enhancements. Grade level enhancement is paid at about 40% which is normal. We beat our budget in membership numbers. Many people picked one fundraiser instead of doing them all this year. We have to front load our fundraising to fund the year so we know how much we have. There is a benefit to spreading them out, but it is difficult to budget and plan this way. The funds would have to carry over to the next year. The rule is that 20% of our annual budget for can be carried over. We don't know the exact calculation and dates. We should discuss this again in January. We are exploring the one big event because we need to do something different than the 5-6 fundraisers we keep doing. Shutterfly was new and year round. Do we ever ask for money mid-year? It may be something to consider saying we didn't make budget. There may be families that forgot about it.

Glenna Deekle:

- Pancake Breakfast fundraiser: Tbonz was holding January 23<sup>rd</sup> for the pancake breakfast but that is a bad date due to the staff party. Glenna will discuss alternative dates with Mary Leigh Marsden. Glenna will also poll the staff on their interest in being servers.

Sunny Zhao:

- PTAC Update

○ Understanding PARCC Home Reports

- The HCPSS has scheduled four Parent Nights to help understanding PARCC home reports. Two sections are for elementary students and two sections are for middle school students in January 2016.
- A live broadcast will be given on December 22. Parents can ask the panel questions live or through Twitter and email.

○ Nominations for 2015-2016 Awards

- Nominations are open for The Washington Post Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards.
- Application deadline is Friday January 8, 2016.

○ Proposed 2016-2017 Academic Calendar

- The Board of Education (BOE) was given two proposals from the Calendar Committee on 11/19.
- One proposal is similar to last year. Another proposal is that schools would be closed only on state-mandated holidays, which means the two Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, would be removed from the school calendar. End-of-school date will be 2 days apart for two options.
- They put out a call for no-school holidays to consider, which created a debate that winter break includes Christmas and spring break includes Easter. People asked if professional development could be on holidays. Chinese Americans will be attending the hearing to advocate for no school on the Lunar New Year. Year round schooling was a cost issue but several parents would like it.
- School always starts on the last Monday of August. State mandated holidays can't be changed. The calendar also must include 12 professional days.
- Public hearing will be held on Thursday 12/17/2015 at 7:30pm. E-mails to BOE can also be counted as testimonies.
- 2017-2018 Calendar Committee is looking for members. It took a year to get the final proposal.

○ PTAC Technology Survey

- HCPSS's Policy 8080 (Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media) is currently up for review. PTAC is looking to better understand the parents' opinion about the current policies.
- A 9-question survey was developed for HC parents. After three weeks, 1045 individuals had responded.
- 60% of respondents do not support cell phone use in the middle schools. 66.5% do not support the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy in middle school. Nearly 80% parents do not support the HCPSS's plan to include elementary schools in the current BYOD guidelines.
- In 2013, the school system piloted the BYOD policy at three high schools. In 2014, all 12 high schools and one middle school implemented the policy. In 2015, the policy was expanded to all middle schools. HCPSS's Vision 2018 plan will include elementary school (grade 3-5) in the policy.
- PTAC is asking the local PTA's feedback about the survey and the actions PTAC should take for next step. PTAC will ask the Superintendent to release the BYOD pivot data to the BOE,

then the public. Public hearing for this policy will be held on 5/12/2016. PTAC will have another meeting to discuss this policy before the public hearing.

- Some PTA attendees felt that BYOD puts a lot of pressure on parents financially and would create peer pressure.
- What do they use the phones for in middle school? Research for science and other subjects including vocabulary. They have the option to use it with a friend. They are also being used with kids with special needs. Spanish is using phones in class and they share with a friend. No photos or video allowed. No google. Teachers implement classroom policies with kids. Momina subbed and the kids had phones and took pictures. Not a strict enforcement in all schools. Some attendees felt that those kids that can do it responsibly shouldn't be penalized.
- How are parents finding out about HCPSS? Parents need to read HCPSS newsletters.

#### Committee Updates:

Leslie Silverman: After-School Programs

Shannon Kraft: Back-to-School Bingo / Reading Program (w/Preba Devamanohar)

Christine Case: Box Tops for Education: Winter contest starts right after holiday break and ends February 15. Mr. Adelman will do prize of fun-in-the-gym with him in January for the Fall winners. Fun with Ms. Nickles in the Gym was proposed for the spring prize, and she agreed.

Christina Rosendorf: Coke Rewards Program

Momina Malik: Committee Procedure Documents/Talent Show/FCFN

Terri Jones: Crayola ColorCycle Program- Don't forget to send in your markers to donate.

Kelly Green: Cultural Arts: We received our grant from Hoco Arts Council to do the rest of our assemblies! Kevin Martin will bring steel drums for all students and special instruction for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with a culminating performance. It starts January 4, 2016. Mrs. Maglocchi and Mr. Martin know each other and Young Audiences has everything we need. February 2 hip hop performances through Young Audiences. February 18 assembly for instrumental students "Do I have to practice?". Kelly will confirm that Mrs. Baker is OK with steel drums set up on the stage. January 26 is beginning band and strings concert. Advanced band and strings concert is this week.

Heather Tom: Giant A+ School Rewards / Junior Cheetah Day

Kim Drake: Health, Wellness & Environmental Friendliness

Melissa Daniels: Hospitality: Missed dinner due to illness but had a great group of helpers, including her Husband, who stepped in to help. Mr. Adelman was impressed with the organization. Everyone was served in 14 minutes! Parent donations were wonderful. Everyone had a hot meal. PTA paid \$394 and parents donated \$325 in gift cards. May need a meal for February 4<sup>th</sup> conferences. Last year they were canceled.

Molly Kuehl: Innisbrook: If we do it next year we need a new Chairperson as Molly is stepping down.

Ginny Zimmerman: KidStuff Coupon Books

Ashlei Pinkham: New PTA Lobby Showcase Chairperson.

Tina Hill: Membership/Donations

Carole Veihmeyer: Moms/Dads on Campus

Restaurant Nights: Mary Leigh Marsden- Fuddruckers tomorrow night!

Amy Mitchell: Room Parent Coordinator / Food Policy: Questions were raised about appropriate amounts for teacher holiday gifts. There is a policy for total amount for gifts. Room parents should ask for an optional contribution not a certain amount. The other option is to do a personal gift which some classes are doing. Many room parents asking for a lump sum at the beginning of the year for the parties. The key is to not make the teacher feel uncomfortable. Amy is making sure every class has a room parent.

School Directory: Andrea Ullrich

Debbie Wood: Spirit Wear: \$2181 deposit but we don't know profit.

Danielle Rao/Tonya Sigalas: Square 1 Art: Almost complete but the shipments from the company have been delayed so many items didn't make it for Hanukkah. 40% participation. Expecting an estimated \$3,500 profit. Gift cards from the company are coming for the Art teachers for supplies.

Tonya Sigalas: Staff Appreciation Week / D.O.G.S. Program / PTA Bulletin Board / Ink Cartridge Recycling: Newsletter article about recycling certain ink cartridges at Ilchester for a PTA profit.

Karen Frankovic: Workbooks

Things to think about for future discussion:

- 1) Give-away/sale of something at next Back-to-School nights (financial outlay, parents were looking for items this year).

Questions ?

- Beth asked about taking and displaying pictures of students. Nothing on Facebook or our web site? Pictures can only stay in the school? Teachers can make bulletin boards but not electronic images. Another elementary school's web site contains photos of students – why can't we? For example, it would have been great to have been able to post pictures from the Talent Shows. At a public event parents who take photographs are permitted. A personal Facebook account can but not the PTA page? The difference is between a concert and a school day event. For a field trip it would be safe to take pictures of the children you are chaperoning, in case you need to ID a child who gets lost. The pictures would be deleted at the end of the field trip. Mr. Adelman will ask about the exact rule.
- Annual review of staff members question: If a parent sends a complimentary e-mail to Mr. Adelman about a staff member, he shares it with that person and keeps it in a file. However, it technically does not factor into performance reviews. Mr. Adelman will ask permission to share the e-mail so he suggests you send to the teacher/staff member directly and copy him and Ms. Nickles.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – 7:00pm – Media Center

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Adjourn