

Hemmeter Parent Teacher Council Meeting
September 21, 2016

In attendance: Sarah Burke, Jenny Boelter, Jennifer Michelson, Katie Schanz, Bobbi Allen, Kayte Weiss, Jamie Barnes, Julie Weisenberger, Charlene Zollinger, Jamie Huffman, Jennifer Jaffe, Jim Bailey

Financial Report: Jenny Boelter reported:

- Presented budget from last year, new budget for this year.
- Jen Jaffe went over uses for HPTC budget (SPARK day, libraries, author visits, assemblies, field trips).
- Jen also explained the surplus funds; we want to spend it down to use it during the current year. Current surplus is \$13,636.00. This will be spent on \$100 gift cards for teacher libraries (one per teacher) and new set of chrome books. Jim commented about Donalyn Miller's visit last year. She was impressed with our culture of reading at Hemmeter, but also suggested the classroom libraries were maybe out of date, and so maybe we could get new books and improve libraries. Also, teachers requested more chrome books for the classrooms. Teachers value the inquiry learning, but need more resources for this. Teachers also value working in google docs and the connection they can form. We have partnered with classrooms in different states using the chrome books. Currently we have 2 sets of 36. Chromebooks have come down in price, and we were able to order enough chromebooks to get 4 carts of 30 using the surplus funds.

Upcoming Dates: Jen Jaffe reported:

- ½ day on the 27th--Skyzone fundraiser. Potential of earning \$2000 for the school if 90 kids participate.
- Homecoming parade is September 30. We don't have a float this year, but we have a truck and brownie troop to represent Hemmeter. Candy is being collected.
- Book fair is October 24-27 during fall conferences.
- Fun fair is November 5. Lots of fun for students with games and food. There will be an auction as well for parents to enter to win items that have been donated by area businesses.
- SCRIP: Julie Weisenberger said that scrip made \$56 over the summer. Team is the same as last year. Order forms have gone out for the first month and we have already made over \$150 so far. Our goal is to raise money by participating in fundraisers doing things you do anyway. Julie plans to have a contest for the kindergarten group next month. Kindergarteners can win extra recess by bringing in orders and competing against the other class.

Grade Level Reports:

- Mrs. Rummmler couldn't be here, but she reports that she sent the Square One art to the teachers. This is a fundraiser where you can order items with your child's art on it. We are in need of someone who can make a bulletin board advertising the fundraiser.

Principal's Report: Jim Bailey reported:

- Jim said tomorrow the Buddy Bench will be implemented September 22, by using a current bench near the playground. The students will decorate it with their own thumbprints, and will make a pledge to be a good friend. A buddy bench is a place to go if someone doesn't have a friend on the playground. It's an opportunity for making friends. The rule is if you sit on the bench and someone comes up to ask you to play, you have to accept their offer. Before you sit, look around and see what you can join in on. If you can't find anyone, sit on the bench and wait for a friend to come ask you to play.
- Salad bar option has been added at lunch. People have been requesting a healthier option at lunch. It's been very popular. Currently it is available for 3-5th grade and 25 students have been utilizing it. In the coming weeks, the younger students will be able to order it as well. We want to make sure we go slowly to get correct numbers of salads prepared so we don't waste produce. We also want to give the staff time to get a new system down.
- News from Saginaw TWP. Community Schools Foundation Grant program: Mrs. Rummmler and Mrs. Senkowski wrote a grant for wiggle seats and were approved for \$350. This was a little less than what they needed, so HPTC covered the rest of their grant amount so they could order the seats. Jim applied for a grant to buy the March Book Madness books. This is a program where students read books and vote for a winner. He received the grant. Mrs. Hendrick wrote a grant for engineering box subscriptions, which she received. Mrs. Kelsey wrote a grant for \$700 for sphero robots which she received. Mrs. Howald received a grant for Information Investigators for \$200. Mrs. Smith wrote a grant for alternative seating and open seating. (Mrs. Smith has a unique classroom set up in learning spaces and the kids decide where they would like to sit.) Stand up desks are going to be purchased. She already has bucket seats and pillows on the floor. Research suggests kids learn best when they are comfortable. She has had good feedback so far with the changes.
- Jim wants to thank all the families for a great, smooth start to the year. Open house and curriculum night have gone so well. Even the road construction hasn't created as many issues as was anticipated. Thanks to everyone for their patience and remembering it will take a few minutes to drop off in the morning. *Jamie H. asked about the police officer presence in the morning. Jim said he was filling in for a crossing guard.
- Michigan legislature passed a 3rd grade retention law. If a student is not at a certain level for reading in 3rd grade, he/she will be retained. There are some

exemptions. Jim has signed up for a committee to see what the specifics are for Hemmeter. As we know more, we will update.

New business:

- Jamie Barnes mentioned that she has noticed a lot of playground equipment has been left out at the playground. Jim and the team will look into this and see what needs to be done. Jim reinforced that if anyone sees anything like that, please let us know.
- Julie Weisenberger asked if there was a volunteer sign up form that went out. Jim explained that we had a lot of coordinators that had volunteered already for a lot of the events. To keep it simple, we will ask for volunteers closer to the actual event dates, as opposed to everyone signing up so far in advance. Have all the coordinator positions been filled? For the most part, yes. Jr. Lego still needs coordinators. Jamie Huffman noted that the form was hard to manage, and we have gone on to Sign-up Genius under HPTC gmail account. Teachers will be getting their own room parents this year, and we won't be collecting names for those roles.
- Jamie Barnes had feedback that running club was very well organized.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52

Next meeting is October 10, 2016, 6:00 pm