

Hemmeter Parent Teacher Council

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

6:00 p.m. Staff Lounge

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Jennifer Jaffe.

In Attendance: Jennifer Jaffe, Jaime Huffman, Jenny Boelter, Sarah Jane Deibel, Jim Bailey, Jill Rummler, Sarah Burke, Julie Weisenberger, Lisa Starke, Rebecca Wong, Becky Mosher.

President's welcome - Jennifer Jaffe:

Erin Casey did such a great job on the Book Fair –thank her when you see her. Leuenbergers did a great job on the homecoming float. Dana & Doug Hawes may be able to lead the float next year. Will need storage for the float: the trailer is okay outside, non-weatherproof items are stored in garage until parade day. Jaime Huffman may have a place to store it.

Secretary's Report - Sarah Jane Deibel reported:

- We received a thank you note from Kelly Hendrick for celebrating her birthday.
- May meeting minutes were submitted and accepted as written.

Financial Report - Jenny Boelter reported:

- Updated financial report was shared. October deposits: Book Fair: \$1,231.76 (also used earned credit for coin counter). Papa John's Sept/Oct: \$439.00. Timbers and Beef O'Brady's: \$246.19. SCRIP profit \$2,827.36.
- October expenses: \$595 DI registration. \$202.49 Homecoming Float. About \$300 for school technology. Fieldtrips (3/K/5): 329.44, \$135.64, \$195.00. Lego Club Robotics kit \$644.95 (Nexteer used to purchase it, now they donate \$300 annually. New EV3 robot will last many years.) \$930.94 library books.

Principal's Report - Jim Bailey reported:

- Upcoming Author visit on December 2: Kelly DiPucchio will be doing 3 presentations, k-1, 2-3, 4-5. Her most popular book is Grace for President. School has ordered at least 15 books for teachers to use with classes in advance, then they will be added to the library.
- Second grade will be doing an author Skype with Debbie Ohi on December 7 She will be doing illustrating with the kids through Skype (she is in Toronto). Kids love her books.
- On October 23, Hoover Herrera from Math in Focus did some math development with teachers. He reminded us that Math is about problem solving: sometimes people ask when they will use it in real life: Every day you will have problems to solve, even if you do not use the formula. While it is easy to focus on a number result using a quick algorithm, math should instead focus on the process of reaching your answer. Students need to understand the thinking process first, or when they try to use a formula, they will stall out when it does not make sense to them. Long division is a great example: why do you subtract in division, and what does "number-goes-into" mean?
- Art classes by Julie Viele: great feedback from families. Everyone who signed up got into a class. 72 1-3 graders signed up for 6 weeks in 3 sessions. 4-5 grade is on the second painting with another (almost) full class. She will do the canvas-mounted board for all students in the future, since that was almost all people wanted.

Faculty Report: Jill Rummler reported:

- *Kindergarten* will participate in a sharing feast to celebrate Thanksgiving. Students will make placemats and Pilgrim and Native American hats.
- *First grade* had a successful career study throughout the month of October. Many parents came in to discuss their careers with the class.

- *Second grade* is celebrating National Picture Book Month. A picture book will be read each day to the class. Parents have been invited to read their favorite picture book to the class this month. Author Visit – Second grade will Skype with author Debbie Ohi on December 7. Second grade will visit White Pine Middle School next Friday, November 13th, to see Seussical the Musical.
- *Third grade* started their Native American unit in Social Studies. They are very excited about having 2 Native Americans visit their classrooms this month (this is the first year). The boys and girls will learn about their culture, learn a dance, and see several artifacts.
- *Fourth grade* students are preparing for their annual Hartley trip, Dec 2-4. The boys and girls are very excited! They will participate in the author visit, then head out to Hartley.
- *Fifth grade* students raised \$346.00 for the Make a Wish foundation selling decorated pumpkins. Thank you to Hemmeter’s Market and Mrs. DeCaire for donating pumpkins. Nicol Howald is planning a geo-cache event on Hemmeter’s property for her students.
- *Thank you to HPTC* for the Staff dinners provided for Math night and for conferences.

President’s update - Jennifer Jaffe reported:

- *Book Fair* will return in spring with an ice cream social. “Ice Scream for Books!”
- *School Store* – Will be doing a Christmas order – more info to come later.
- *Spending down our balance:* We are moving to an “earn & spend” financial model to benefit the children whose parents donate. Jim Bailey is putting together a committee with parents (some lower and upper elementary parents) and teachers to decide how to spend the \$31,000 surplus. Teachers have been brainstorming: alternative seats/desks in classes, Chromebooks, playground, projection screen for gym, sound amplification in classrooms (all students hear equally), new books/march madness books, iPads for classroom, sound system and stage for gym. Hold parent meeting before the end of 2015.
Sarah Burke question: Many teachers spend out of their pocket – what happens here? *Jim Bailey:* Some do. Last year we collected Box Top money in VISA cards to allow staff to purchase little supplies without a reimbursement process. Our music teacher was able to use this to purchase chairs at an auction (\$1/each) when the district could not pay for it. Remind staff to use the gift cards.
- *Square1 art* due next week. To be delivered on Dec 3, distributed on Dec 4 (Jen and a few people will sort). Ordering online is great. Teacher chooses a project for lower elementary class, more freedom in upper classes.

New Business:

- *Fun Fair (March 12) - Becky Mosher:* first planning meeting November 18 at 6:00pm at Kokomos: will make all the main decisions: which company and games, who will do what, if doing extras like photo booth or caricatures. Then people will start planning and organizing with easier future meetings. Will advertise meeting via Facebook and paper prints. Need many people for this year and new committee chair for next year. Jill will ask other teachers in lower L to get recommendations of who to invite. Have 15 activities (smaller projects) for different people to lead.
- *Auxiliary staff Christmas gift - Jen Jaffe:* Every December – HPTC collects money for auxiliary staff, then divides it into gift cards from SCRIP. Jen will send out a letter at the beginning of December.
- *Kids Run the Nation - Jaime Huffman:* Request that HPTC donate up to \$100 for bananas for the Reindeer Run on November 21 held in conjunction with Girls on the Run. Second by Sarah Jane Deibel. (Everything else– hot chocolate and cookies – is donated by others). Passed unanimously.
- *Battle of the Books - Jen Jaffe:* Are we doing it this year? The author visit at Midland library should be soon. Jim Bailey to send out a note determining interest.
- *Junior Lego league - Julie Weisenberger:* Sending a request tomorrow for parent volunteers and managers for K-1 session. (2-3 grades will be headed by Julie and Mary who are also heading other committees). Sign-up Genius has the dates: Parents of participants should volunteer to assist at some club meetings, and willing managers can sign up there as well. Jill Rummler will have the K-1 teachers include a request in their weekly newsletters.

· *Rebecca Wong: Usborne book sales:* Can the school invite a Usborne consultant to do a book fair in the school (there is a kickback for the school)? Or do we have to only use Scholastic book club? Usborne has a different style of book from Scholastic: different type of educational books, hardback, higher prices but appropriate for the quality. *Jen Jaffe:* We have done things besides Scholastic. Barnes & Noble did a book show with display books you could order (less successful). Now we do an in-store fundraiser in January at B&N). We can consider it: look at percentage back make sure the timing won't place it in competition with our other book fundraisers. Since it isn't direct sales, we should try to go with a Hemmeter parent who is a consultant.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Staff lounge