

## **HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**

Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2008

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The meeting came to order at 9:09am and adjourned at 10:25am  
Attendance was 18 Members

### **Co-Presidents' Report – Jennifer Quinn and Heather Goss**

They welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this academic year.

#### *Standards Based Report Cards*

The new report card system was piloted last year with Hillside's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and is going town-wide to all the 3<sup>rd</sup> grades this year. Hillside will now be piloting the 4<sup>th</sup> grade report card system.

#### *NEF (Needham Education Foundation) Grants*

The deadline for the \$5000 NEF Grants is October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Principal's Report – Michael Kascak**

It has been a very smooth beginning to the new school year, marred with the vandalizing of Cody the Coyote (who is missing his head).

#### *Hillside Campus*

The parking lot and playground was repaved over the summer, and lines for the full basketball court and games were painted on the playground with town resources.

The Learning Garden is underway, and it will be a quiet area near the playground.

#### *MCAS*

The MCAS scores from last spring's testing will be sent out next week. There is not much difference in Hillside's scores from previous years.

#### *No School November 4th – Election Day*

Hillside is an election polling site, and because of concerns about their safety, students will not be in school. Teachers will have a professional day, but the training will be at the High School.

### **School Committee Report – Michael Greis**

Michael will be Hillside's School Committee representative this year. His daughter had been a Hillside student and Michael Kascak was her 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

#### *Superintendent*

Dan Gutekanst's contract has been renewed for three more years.

#### *School Facilities*

Infrastructure assessments of school buildings are now underway, and the town's new director of facilities, Chip Laffey, is getting things done.

Work was done all summer on Newman School's ventilation system, and for now, it is in good shape. The feasibility study on the entire system will be completed by the end of October.

The High Rock School construction project is on time and on budget.

The contractors will be done with the High School project by the end of October, although there will still be some work that needs finishing touches.

#### *Future School Needs*

The Selectmen have a Future School Needs Committee that projects student populations and makes recommendations. It is difficult to make projections more than five years in the future, and cannot take into account all the new families moving into Needham. Therefore, it is unknown if the elementary school population will continue to increase or plateau eventually. Unreliable numbers limits the size allowed for new school building proposals.

The School Committee has a five year plan that they give to Town Meeting. A yearly budget increase of 2 ½% is not sustainable considering the growing enrollment and staffing needs.

There are 75 additional children in the Needham Public School system this year.

Pollard Middle School is vastly overcrowded, and a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center at High Rock School needs to open September 2009.

#### *High Rock Operational Override - Question 4*

Overrides do not mean that a town is failing with its planning and spending. When a community needs more resources than what can be paid by current property taxes, overrides are necessary.

The override on the November ballot is for almost \$1.9million, and will add \$179 to the average household's taxes.

If the override passes, High Rock will become a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. It will not be used to house Newman students while its HVAC system is being replaced. The reduced population at Pollard would result in 12 empty classrooms that could accommodate some Newman students in a staged reconstruction plan. Or perhaps the KASE program could move into the empty modulars. Details still need to be worked out regarding transportation issues and how long middle and high school students will be on buses.

If the override does not pass, High Rock will open regardless, but with reduced programs. There will be cutbacks in all schools town-wide, teacher lay offs, and increased class sizes.

## **Committee Reports**

### *Used Book Drive and Sale – Rochelle Goldin*

For the past two years, the Media Center has benefited financially and with book donations from the Used Book Sale. It is being held this year on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Election Day). Donations of children and adult books, videos, DVDs, and CDs in good condition and of appropriate content are now being accepted.

### *Green Kids Needham / Hillside Goes Green – TraciLee Messina*

Representatives from every school and the Science Center are working with the Green Needham Coalition, and are planning numerous events. The Family Science Night will be held at Newman School on March 26, 2009, and will have an energy theme. They will also be celebrating Earth Day in April. The Science Center is planning curriculum projects and Olin College will be doing activities with Hillside students.

Hillside's enthusiastic staff and teachers are involved with green projects. Ms. Cicala developed the "Green Team" for students in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades to submit essays about going green. This has now been replicated in all the elementary schools. In addition, the Hillside Newsletter offers weekly green tips.

### *METCO – Marian Slavin*

The METCO / Hillside pizza picnic held on the recent early release day was a very successful event. People who want to become more involved with the METCO students are encouraged to sign up to be a "Family Friend". This will match Boston students with Needham buddies for ½ day and other events. Activities are also being planned with the other Needham schools.

## **Treasurer's Report – Kathy DeMayo**

The Hillside PTC has a current balance of \$39,544 in its bank account. Income from the 2008 Spring Fling exceeded the projected budget. Last year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade card fundraiser, organized by Anne Weinstein, with the full participation of the art teachers, earned \$2419.

Box Tops for Education will be coordinated by Clare Cole this year. The newsletter needs to remind families to save their box tops. The donation box is currently missing from the lobby.

There will be a change in the 2009 Spring Fling, with the elimination of the Silent Auction. Instead, the Silent Auction could be a separate event or part of the Winter Social.

The PTC is contributing funds to an anti-bullying program, which is also offered at Mitchell School

The Learning Garden will receive PTC funding and is also applying for a \$5000 NEF Grant.

Every September, the PTC gives teachers \$200 apiece to buy supplies for their classrooms.

The 2008/2009 Hillside PTC Budget was approved by unanimous vote.

## **Enrichment Grant Proposals**

### *Owl Pellets - \$118*

Mrs. DeCicco submitted a proposal to purchase owl pellets that will be dissected by all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in science class. The request for \$118 passed unanimously.

### *BlackJack Seats - \$340*

Mrs. Petrovich requested funding for 10 BlackJack seats. They are designed for children who need a back rest when they are sitting on the floor. The request for \$340 passed unanimously.

### *SmartBoards - \$3258*

Mr. Kascak wants to add two more portable SmartBoards to Hillside classrooms. This proposal is for the boards and speakers; the school already has the necessary carts and projectors. One SmartBoard is for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, and will be passed on in subsequent years to the next grade. The other SmartBoard will be shared between Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The request for \$3258 passed unanimously.

### *Playground Checker and Chess Pieces and Storage Cart - \$714*

The playground has a newly painted checker/chess board, and students are already playing games on it. Mr. Tatro submitted a proposal to buy large checkers (approximately \$190), chess pieces (\$300), and a storage cart (\$189). The request for \$714 passed unanimously.

### *Telescope - \$140*

This proposal was tabled until more information is submitted.

### *UNICEF Clean Water Books - \$110*

This proposal was tabled until more information is submitted.

## **Communication via the PTC Email System**

The Hillside PTC and Hillside School have separate email systems. The PTC can send out email notices to parents, such as political information, which are not allowed on the school's system.

By majority vote, the PTC will be sending an email notice regarding the High Rock School operational override, with information about the OpenHighRock.com website and upcoming meetings, to help parents make an informed vote on November 4, 2008.

## **Hillside PTC Endorsement of Yes on Question 4 – the High Rock Override**

By majority vote, the PTC endorsed the passage of the operational override, and will state their endorsement in a PTC email.

## **Minutes from the May 21, 2008 Meeting**

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

PTC Minutes are posted on [www.hillsideptc.org](http://www.hillsideptc.org).

Today's Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kim Marie Nicols, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**  
Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2008

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The meeting came to order at 7:05pm.  
Attendance was 19 members.

**Co-Presidents' Report - Heather Goss**

She welcomed all to the meeting and referred all in attendance to various handouts including the meetings agenda.

**Principal's Report – Michael Kascak**

Thanks to Jen Sexton for learning garden - looks beautiful  
MCAS results discussed at school committee meeting, Headlines: Needham students performed well, 91% of students in grade 10 passed. Middle school is biggest problem area in Needham and around MA. At Hillside, grade level teams met to discuss MCAS results and ways to improve scores. Teachers have software that allows them to see MCAS question by question to see which specific areas need improvement. Fourth Grade teacher Mrs. Mangan stated that they are working as a team to improve skills needed to answer open response types of questions.

**Special Topic Discussion** – Elizabeth Vaccaro from Hillside Media Center discussed book suggestions for elementary age students. Elizabeth presented several selections from the Scholastic Book Fair which was in full force at the time of the meeting. She left book suggestion handouts for all to take. The best way to get in touch with her for suggestions for your child is by email ([Elizabeth\\_vaccaro@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:Elizabeth_vaccaro@needham.k12.ma.us))- can set up an appointment to meet with her; also can look at the Hillside website ([hillside.needham.k12.ma.us](http://hillside.needham.k12.ma.us))-Hillside Media Center and the link for parents for more information.

**Committee Reports**

**Treasurers' Report: Kathy DeMayo**

Innisbrook fundraiser brought in less money than last year but not terrible. May consider an alternative fundraiser for next year. 113 students participated (141 last year); made \$11,161.00 (\$12,187.00 last year).

Dues down slightly, parent challenge- same as last year

Creative arts- spent money on David Coffin

Literacy night cost \$500.00

Learning Garden brought in a lot of money- already placed order for benches paid through donations; applied for NEF grant for further monies for this great project.

**Literacy Night:**

Tomorrow night - workshops on bookmaking.  
K-2 begins at 6:30  
3-5 begins at 7:00  
Hope everyone will be there.

**Used Book Sale: Rochelle Goldin**

Need volunteers- contact Rochelle Goldin if you are interested in helping out  
Still taking donations of books  
Nov. 3,4,5- coincides with election day to get outside community members to buy books  
Books cost \$1.00 or \$.50 for paperbacks  
Elizabeth will have first look at the books to put new books directly into circulation.  
Teachers are also encouraged to take books for their classroom collections. Money raised from the sale goes toward buying new books for the Hillside Media Center. (Extra donated used books go to charity).

**Family Fall Fun Night: Ann Keegan**

Pajama night  
Art projects- beads, jewelry, tattoos  
Pizza and ice cream for sale  
Needham High School girls dance team members and DJ teaching dance steps  
Nov. 7 from 6-8pm  
Need volunteers

**Winter Social: Jillian Ardos**

Parents only evening event-fundraiser  
Spring flings auction moved to this event  
Tentatively scheduled in March  
Need volunteers, especially someone to head up the party part, Jillian will head the auction part of the event

**Cafeteria: Heather Goss for Michelle Kalamovokis**

Plug for cafeteria duty volunteers - need people to head up cafeteria volunteer coordinator for next year. Great way to get involved without a big time commitment.

**Yearbook: Heather Goss**

Yearbook - need volunteers from each classroom to take pictures- easier this year- all online; yearbook will be in full color; utilizing 5<sup>th</sup> grade helpers

**Enrichment Grants:**

- 1) Mr. G. and Mrs. Cicala- buddies, water program \$120.00 for books: PASSED
- 2) Mrs. Cicala- telescope kit: \$217.80 PASSED
- 3) 3 third grade teachers- \$600 support materials for the classroom to help kids with MCAS prep- Allowance board game, problem solving books, Rounding Off: PASSED

**Minutes from September 2008 PTC Meeting:**

The minutes from the September PTC meeting were unanimously approved.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Zaff, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary

## **HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**

Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2008

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The meeting came to order at 9:05am and adjourned at 10:08am  
Attendance was 26 Members

### **Co-Presidents' Report – Jennifer Quinn and Heather Goss**

They welcomed everyone to the meeting, announced that Principal Michael Kascak and School Committee representative Michael Greis were unable to attend, and introduced the guest speaker.

### **Guest Speaker – Margaret Petrovich, Hillside Guidance Counselor**

*“Friendships at the Elementary Age”*

Ms. Petrovich first solicited questions and topics that parents wanted to discuss.

Social / emotional learning is just as important as academics. Teachers have received training from consultant Rachel Hollander. The Kindergarten classes use the Second Step curriculum which helps children develop problem solving techniques in various situations. Sometimes children have difficulty reading social cues or making appropriate responses, and problems can be addressed in ‘teachable moments’. The staff uses the buzz words “Double D”, meaning dangerous and destructive, to help the students identify when they need to get an adult in conflict situations. They are encouraged to first speak up for themselves, stating specifically what they want, using “I statements” and not just saying “stop it”. If the peer does not listen, they need to repeat themselves, and add a warning that they will go to an adult for assistance. If there is still a problem, then they should get adult help.

Parents should also encourage social / emotional growth. Play dates are an opportunity for children to practice their social skills, and there was discussion on how to make play dates more successful. The issue of exclusion was a large concern, especially in the older grades. When there is an element of meanness, parental and school interventions may be needed. Ms. Petrovich will add a literature resource list on the website.

In February 2009, there will be several workshops for teachers and parents on anti-bullying, presented by Elizabeth Englander from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC). The children will also be taught how they have a part in a positive school climate that prevents bullying.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Innisbrook Gift Wrap*

The success of this fundraiser continues to decline. Perhaps there needs to be a different fundraising product next fall.

#### *Fall Fun Night*

Although there was a smaller attendance this year, it was a very fun event.



*School Committee*

The agenda for tonight's meeting includes district values, the numbers for the Middle and High Schools, and Special Education.

*Used Book Fair*

Books donated for the Used Book Fair sold well among the Hillside community and during Election Day. The Media Center was able to glean a lot of new books and is financially strong.

**Treasurer's Report – Kathy DeMayo**

Selected items on the latest PTC Income Statement were reviewed.

**Fundraising Ideas**

Several fundraising ideas were generated:

Used Sporting Goods Sale

Costume Exchange in the beginning of October

**Minutes from the October 22, 2008 Meeting**

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

PTC Minutes are posted on [www.hillsideptc.org](http://www.hillsideptc.org)

Today's Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

*Kim Marie Nicols, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary*

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**  
Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2008

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The meeting came to order at 7:09pm and adjourned at 8:07pm  
Attendance was 20 Members

**Co-Presidents' Report – Jennifer Quinn and Heather Goss**

The PTC is selling New Year's Needham pins, and is able to keep a percentage of every sale.

**Principal's Report – Michael Kascak**

The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is seeking volunteer parent representatives. The commitment will be over three Wednesdays.

Carol Ann Hurley and Raylene Roberts are looking for volunteers for the book room.

The Youth Commission is coming in March to discuss body image issues.

The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) is doing various trainings in February. There will be a faculty training on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a parent training with Mitchell parents on February 11<sup>th</sup>, and a 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade workshop. The speaker and program has been highly recommended by the Eliot School.

**Winter Social**

The Winter Social, chaired by Jillian Erdos, will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>, with a St. Patrick's theme. The venue and menu are still to be determined. The auction is looking for big ticket items, such as sport tickets and vacation homes. Perhaps students will be contributing art to the live auction also.

**Treasurer's Report – Kathy DeMayo**

In this time of economic uncertainty, the investments are going well - \$7 in interest was earned this past month. ☺.

**Enrichment Grants**

*Table Skirts - \$162.45*

The table skirts will be used for display space outside of the cafeteria, and items could be stored hidden under the tables. The proposal passed unanimously.

*Cart for Playground Chess Pieces*

Currently the chess pieces are being stored in large cardboard boxes. Rob Tatro needs to submit a new grant proposal to buy storage carts.

**Minutes from the November 11, 2008 Meeting**

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

*Meeting adjourned into two separate groups:*

**Guest Speakers on the Transition Planning to High Rock –**

**George Johnson** – Former Director of Student Development

**Sue Bonaiuto** – Director of Community Education and Planning

They gave a power point presentation about next year's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center at High Rock School, answered questions, and asked for focus group ideas.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Report Card – Michael Kascak**

Parents discussed the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade standard's based report card system that began last year.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

*Kim Marie Nicols, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary*

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**  
Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2009

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The meeting came to order at 9:07am and adjourned at 10:03am  
Attendance was 12 Members

**Guest Presentation – Mr. Goneconto’s and Ms. Cicala’s Classes**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade buddy classes made a multi-media presentation about water, using song, art, drums, and video. This was prepared for a UNICEF fundraising campaign for clean water access in underdeveloped countries. They are recruiting area restaurants to request a \$1 donation for tap water during the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Further information will be on the Hillside website.

**Media Center – Carol Ann Hurley**

All the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy books throughout the school are being consolidated together and will be stored in the paper room near the cafeteria. A data base will list titles, authors, reading level, and number of copies. Volunteers are sought to input the information into the data base.

**Principal’s Report – Michael Kascak**

Parking has become an issue again. There was a recent problem with a Hillside neighbor, whose car was blocked on Hasenfus Circle during the afternoon pick-up time. In retaliation, the neighbor blocked the buses from getting onto the school property. Car pooling and respect for the area’s residents are encouraged.

There was also an issue with the recent evening concert at Hillside. Some children were extremely disruptive and parents were not keeping them quiet or even in their seats. Part of the problem is that concerts are performed in Hillside’s gymnasium. After generating a variety of ideas it was concluded that future concerts should be held at a school with an auditorium or performance space.

**Co-Presidents’ Report – Jennifer Quinn and Heather Goss**

Bingo Night will be on February 6<sup>th</sup> and it will be different this year.

The Winter Social will be on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and donations are still sought for the silent auction, especially sport tickets.

The recent Skating Party at Babson will break even, but since it was held over the holiday weekend, there was a low attendance. It is not easy to schedule dates at Babson and alternative venues will be considered next year.

**School Committee Report**

A public hearing on next year's school budget is being held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Hillside will be reducing teachers because there will be less students in the lower grades. This year there are four kindergarten classes, and next year there will three 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes and three kindergarten classes. An aide may be added to the ELC program.

Superintendent Dan Gutekanst works extremely hard! The Needham Times can be unfairly harsh reporting about the schools.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

*Kim Marie Nicols, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary*

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**  
Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2009

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The meeting came to order at 9:05am and adjourned at 10:07am  
Attendance was 10 Members

**Co-Presidents' Report – Jennifer Quinn and Heather Goss**

There was no February PTC meeting due to the joint Anti-Bullying Workshop with Mitchell parents.

The Used Book Sale held on Election Days has been very successful. Jen Sexton offered to co-chair the next sale with Rochelle Goldin. There will not be a sale during the Town-Wide elections in April, but perhaps a sale could be held at the Spring Fling in May.

The Spring Fling, chaired by Marian Slavin, will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. There is discussion about having a used sporting equipment sale at the Spring Fling. Marian will contact Andy Shapiro to see if he is willing to run it.

Open PTC positions for next year include:

- Cafeteria Volunteers
- Permits
- Creative Arts
- Spring Fling
- METCO
- Co-Secretary

**Principal's Report – Michael Kascak**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Thank You Committee will be meeting on April 8th from 12:20 – 1:05. They will need a list of who should receive a thank you note (written on stationary donated by Leslie Lindell).

Applications for the Leslie University Internship Program are coming in now, and Hillside will have at least 8 interns next year. If there are additional qualified applicants, some interns could be placed at Eliot and Newman. A future goal is to have the program expanded to the Kindergarten level, and go beyond grades 1 – 6.

The Needham Youth Commission may have Katy Colthart speaking at the April PTC meeting on “Media Messages and How to Talk to Your Children”.

Hillside parents need to do more car pooling for the drop off and pick up times. Raising the bus fees have resulted in more cars arriving at the school, creating dangerous situations and minor damages. Neighbors are complaining more and perhaps some of the streets will have to be converted to one way during certain hours. Incentives are needed to increase car pooling efforts.

Instead of Invitational Coffees, there will be Invitational Classroom Visits for grades 1 -3 this year. They will be held from 9 – 9:45am so cars can be parked on the playground.

### **School Committee Report – Michael Greis**

The Space Committee is reporting to the School Committee tonight. It is hard to predict student numbers more than 5 years in advance. Select schools and specific grade levels have some space stressors. Hillside and Mitchell are of most concern because they are older buildings without storage and undersized classrooms. This is complicated with federal regulations about minimum square footage per student. Solutions could be:

spot redistricting or,

more modulars (but planning needs to be at least one year in advance to be added to the town's capital plan) or,

adding another elementary school instead of a second middle school.

Even if there was state funding for a full day Kindergarten, there currently is not enough classroom space for them in Needham.

The class size policy is 21 years old and is being reviewed. The policy states that there should be no more than 26 students in a classroom. However, the goal is to have smaller class sizes, especially in the younger grades. Next year, Hillside will have an additional 10 students coming into Kindergarten, so there may be a classroom space issue. The current 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is a 'bubble year' across the district, with a total of 469 students.

The Needham School System is committed to the METCO Program. It has been very successful for both Boston and Needham students, creating diversity and expanding cultural understanding. Needham only takes students at the Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade level, and Hillside is accepting 2 new METCO Kindergarteners next year. Hillside has 30 METCO students, the largest population in any Needham elementary school. The METCO funds (amounting to less than \$4000 per student) help pay for some teachers. However the Governor is cutting METCO funding, and a Lobby Day is scheduled at the State House tomorrow.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Spring Fling***

Volunteers are needed for the Spring Fling on May 17th, and a meeting is scheduled for next week. There will not be an auction this year, which is making the planning easier. Sub-committees include Art, Games, and Food, and there may be a Raffle.

#### ***Winter Social***

The Winter Social will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> (technically the first day of spring) at the Village Club in Needham. It is a PTC fundraiser, with a live and silent auction. Tickets are still available.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Kathy DeMayo**

The recent PTC sponsored events, Bingo Night and the Ice Skating Party, had smaller attendances this year but were lots of fun. They both may have lost a little money.

Enrichment Grants will be discussed at the April PTC meeting. One item will be a \$2600 sound system for the gym.

**Minutes from the December 2008 and January 2009 Meetings**

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
*Kim Marie Nicols, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary*



## **HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**

Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2009

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The meeting came to order at 7:10pm and adjourned at 7:47pm.

Attendance was 7 Members

### **Co-Presidents' Report – Jennifer Quinn**

Co-President Heather Goss and Treasurer Kathy DeMayo had schedule conflicts and were unable to attend this evening's PTC Meeting.

Next year, Karen Dasey will be Co-President with Heather.

### **Principal's Report – Michael Kascak**

The Anti-Bullying Training for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>, following up on the training already offered to parents and teachers. They will be divided into same-gender groups of ten students, and will not have any homework that night, other than sharing with their parents at least one thing they learned. All the other grades will also be discussing bullying on that day. This program will be put into next year's schedule too.

A Mini Green Assembly will be held on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The students will be encouraged to wear green, and walk or bike to school that day. There will be a 'green' lunch that will not require using plastic utensils. The assembly will include going outside and dedicating a tree.

The Learning Garden dedication celebration will be held on Hillside Day on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and conclude with slush. Each grade will contribute something to the Learning garden and buddy classes will have ½ hour time slots to show off their donations.

The local Election yesterday caused chaos and concern. The gymnastics equipment had to be temporarily moved out. Lobby doors could not be closed off because access to the bathrooms cannot be restricted. The police were unable to help with parking issues.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bike Rodeo will be held in Mid-May.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Health Unit curriculum had a great parent orientation by Rob Tatro. Despite doing it in conjunction with Mitchell School, there was a low turnout.

The stage portion of the 'gymnasium' will be cleaned out in time for the annual Talent Show. The Town is setting up a shed for the storage of voting booths and other equipment.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Staff Appreciation Lunch***

The Luncheon will be on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and lots of food and almost all of the staff and classroom coverage has been pledged. The gifts look great and it will be a lot of fun.

### ***Spring Fling***

The Spring Fling will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 12-4pm, and more volunteers are sought. The Spring Fling Committee changed game companies, and saved \$800 and got better service. Something new this year is the Big Daddy remote control track, where 6 kids at a time can compete. They have contacted Center Automotive to be a sponsor. In addition, there will be a used sports equipment sale organized by Andy Shapiro. The raffle prizes include Red Sox and Boston College football tickets

### ***Winter Social***

The Winter Social was a very successful PTC fundraiser, breaking even through early ticket sales. The auction netted over \$7800, and further profit was made from at-the-door ticket sales and alcohol. Planning for next March's Winter Social has already begun with Jillian Erdos and Michelle Lawrence as co-chairs. It will be at the Village Club again, hopefully with the donated special lighting, and new names and themes for the event were suggested. Disappointingly, school staff was invited to come free of charge, but none attended. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be sending thank you letters to the donors and sponsors.

### **School Committee Report**

There is no report from our School Committee liaison, Michael Greis, who was unable to attend today. The School Committee has two new members, Heidi Black and Bill Paulsen, replacing Don Gratz and Laura Flueckiger.

### **Enrichment Grant Proposals**

There is \$3509 available in the PTC budget for Enrichment Grants.

#### ***Gymnasium Sound System - \$2650.85***

Michael Kascak submitted a proposal to purchase a sound system for the gymnasium / auditorium usage. If an additional microphone is needed, he will purchase it from the principal's funds. The grant request passed unanimously.

#### ***5<sup>th</sup> Grade History of Rockets and Space Flight Presentation - \$250.00***

Raylene Roberts requested funding for a science program for all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The grant request passed unanimously.

### **Minutes from the March 17, 2009 Meeting**

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
*Kim Marie Nicols, Hillside PTC Co-Secretary*