

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2009

The meeting came to order at 9:05am and adjourned at approximately 10:45am. Attendance was 30 members.

Co-Presidents' Report – Heather Goss

Heather opened the meeting and introduced her Co-President, Karen Dasey, and the PTC Treasurer, Kathleen DeMayo.

PTC Bulletin Board

Thank you notes that teachers have written to the PTC are posted on the PTC bulletin board, which is in the lobby next to Andrea's desk.

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

Faculty Representative

Mr. K introduced Peg Strakosch as the faculty representative for morning PTC meetings. Geoff Watts will represent the faculty at evening meetings.

Playground Budget

Mr. K thanked the PTC for the "new" playground budget. Instead of funding equipment for each individual grade, the PTC now gives one bulk sum that will purchase balls, jump ropes, etc...for all of the grades to share. Beth Warner is in charge of purchasing the equipment.

Traffic Meeting

There will be a traffic meeting next week Thursday at 9:15am in the cafeteria. Hillside neighbors, Officer Carl Johnson, and members of the Hillside community are invited to attend to share their concerns.

In general, Mr. K requested that parents be patient when waiting in drop-off or pick-up lines. He encouraged carpooling. The 5th Grade Sidewalk Detail advises parents to slow down and please pull all the way up to the curb before students get out of the car.

Walking to School

With respect to keeping traffic to a minimum, Peggy Strakosch announced that the Wellness Committee is looking for a parent volunteer to organize "walk-to-school" events, perhaps once a week. Interested people should see Peggy or Maureen Graham. It was suggested that this program may tie in with the PTC's Hillside Goes Green Committee, led by TraciLee Messina. October 7th is National Walk to School Day.

Connection Clusters

Mr. K announced that Monday, October 5 will be the first meeting of Connection Clusters. In this new program, each Hillsider in grades 1-5 will be matched with one faculty or staff member in multi-age groups of 11 or 12 students. There will be a total of about 30 groups that will meet

once a month for about 30 minutes. Children will stay in the same group through their years at Hillside to the extent that staffing changes allow. The intention of this program is to provide each student with a closer relationship with an adult on campus as well as to foster a greater sense of community by promoting friendship between students of different grade levels.

Needham Education Foundation – Anne Weinstein

Anne Weinstein is on the board of the NEF and is that group's representative at Hillside. Anne described the NEF's mission and listed some examples of projects they have funded at Hillside (the Lesley @Hillside Collaborative Internship Program, Learning Garden benches, Program on Disabilities presentations/performances, etc...). October 5 is the next deadline for NEF grants up to \$5,000. She encouraged anyone with innovative ideas that may be funded through a grant to speak to her. More information on the NEF can be found at www.nefneedham.org.

Committee Reports

Halloween Used Costume Sale – Noreen Finnegan

The first used costume sale will be held on October 6 in the gymnasium. There is a box in the school lobby for donations. They will be accepted up until the weekend of October 3rd.even at Noreen's house if that is easier for people. See the school bulletin for more information.

Spirit Wear – Heather Goss

Heather asked the present members if there is an interest in providing Hillside clothing (sweatshirts, t-shirts, etc...) this year, as we have not done so for the past few years. About half of those present expressed an interest. It was suggested that we offer water bottles or other items in addition to clothing.

Treasurer's Report – Kathleen DeMayo

Kathleen DeMayo presented the '09-'10 budget. By way of introduction, she explained that this budget remain fairly similar to last year's. There were no surprises last year, except that the Parent Social made more money than expected, and the skating party brought in less money than it typically does. This last shortfall was probably due to the timing of the party on a holiday weekend during bad weather.

Changes in this year's budget include bumping up the level of funds for Creative Arts and making Literacy Night an independent line item (used to be under Creative Arts). There is no money for the 4th grade field trip because they already have enough money to cover their trip in their school account (the school maintains an account for each grade that stays with them as they progress), and there is less money for the 5th grade than usual because we pre-paid part of a trip last year.

We have \$6000 in cash reserves above and beyond the \$14,000 buffer that we aim to keep in the bank.

The '09-'10 budget was approved unanimously.

Guest Speaker – Dan Gutekanst, Superintendent of Schools

Update – High Rock 6th Grade Center

Mr. Gutekanst was enthusiastic about the opening of High Rock this September. Many parents of 6th graders also expressed that their experiences there have been very positive. The building will be dedicated on October 25 at 2pm; the community is invited to attend (carpooling is encouraged). This project is currently about \$2 million under budget, although they still need to fence in the field area. The savings represent money that the town of Needham will not have to borrow, as opposed to money that is now available to spend on something else.

Update – Hillside

Mr. Gutekanst spoke about Hillside, which he described as a building that needs attention. The town meeting has funded a wiring/technical infrastructure study at Hillside, which has begun. Of course, many building projects that have been going on and are currently underway in Needham have cramped the budget, but still Mr. Gutekanst said that he's keeping an eye on Hillside and Mitchell so that we keep our space on the docket. He frequently visits the schools and takes note of the cafeteria, kitchen, bathrooms, etc...so that he can stay informed as to the conditions at each school.

Discussion/Questions

A parent pointed out that there are several deficiencies at Hillside that have not been addressed for some time (for example: lack of locks on bathroom doors, inoperable clocks in classrooms, inefficient/ineffective heating system, broken playground structure...), and he expressed concern that the Newman project, with its ever-growing list of add-ons, is going to be yet another project that pushes Hillside to the end of the line. The parent expressed a concern that Newman is more vocal or perhaps more affluent and that is why they seem to be getting more attention. Mr. Gutekanst replied that certainly bathroom doors and clocks should be looked after soon, but larger issues are in the domain of the Director of Facilities Operations. He explained that there has been a turnover in that position, and the new Director, Chip Laffey asked for and received \$400,000 for maintenance of school buildings last year, and he will likely do so again this year.

As for Newman, Mr. Gutekanst explained that that building was identified in the 1990s as needing a new heating system. The town apparently chose not to do anything until the health concerns arose at Newman in the last two years. In the meanwhile, there have been many state code changes (Americans with Disabilities Act, space requirements, fire suppression requirements, seismic requirements) that all have to be addressed if any work is to be done on the heating system. Many of the add-ons are necessary in order to conform to the building code. Doing over the fields has also been mentioned as being added on to the project because Newman fields have drainage issues and tend to be very wet through the spring. The MSBA had said that they will not reimburse any amount related to the fields or to the modular classrooms that may be used to house students during the construction.

Another parent asked what will happen if the override does not pass. Mr. Gutekanst replied that the MSBA will tell Needham how much they are willing to reimburse the town for the Newman project on Sept. 30. The town will then have 120 days to approve the balance of the project. If

the town does not do so, the project will be scuttled. Newman heating system will still have to be replaced/repared, but totally at the town's expense.

In defense of the condition at Hillside, Mr. K pointed out all the improvements that have occurred here since Chip Laffey took over as the Director of Facilities Operations: the freezer was fixed, there are ACs in all the classrooms except kindergartens, installation of two storage sheds, roof was fixed, playground/parking lot resurfacing and painting. He also said that there are plans in place to fix the bathrooms, lighting, doors, and windows. Mr. Gutekanst said that while all that was great, he doesn't want to continue to do things piecemeal; building upkeep should be addressed systemically, which is just beginning.

A parent commented and many agreed that the school committee should make the override dollar amount as small as possible. She expressed a concern for future school needs and a corresponding reluctance to vote for an override that appears to have extras included. Fields and smartboards were mentioned as examples of things that could be funded from separate sources and therefore should be left out of the override.

Dan Gutekanst encouraged all members to speak out about their concerns with respect to the Newman override to school committee members.

Another parent pointed out the losses in programming that we've suffered in the past few years (gym, art, music...), and she expressed regret about the focus on physical plant. Mr. Gutekanst said that unfortunately, the operating budget for next year looks grim too, and he said that Needham won't have the money to continue business as usual. He acknowledged that an operational override in the current fiscal climate is not appropriate, so he's hoping that the schools and the school committee can be thoughtful and creative so that we can hold onto as much as possible. He said that Needham may have to consider having larger classes to accommodate a growing student population without a corresponding growth in resources.

Again, Mr. Gutekanst and Mr. K underscored how important it is for parents to speak out, particularly to school committee members. It is possible to reach them by phone, email, or speak out at a meeting. Heidi Black is the school committee's liaison for Hillside.

While things are bleak, Mr. Gutekanst pointed out that Needham is generally in better shape than many Massachusetts towns. Many other towns have suffered lots of cuts and layoffs, which hasn't been the case here. Needham was fortunate to receive national stimulus money that was used to offset the cost of special education "circuit breaker" money that the state stopped providing. The problem is that stimulus money is for one year only.

Mr. Gutekanst announced that he's been working with Town Clerk Teddy Eaton to get the voting out of Hillside. There will not be a change this year, but there is a plan in the works that may eliminate Hillside as a polling place.

A parent asked how long the temporary fix that has already been completed at Newman will last. Some have been saying that the town doesn't really have to do anything at this point; that the "temporary fix" could last 10 years. Mr. Gutekanst said that this is not true. The temporary fix

only replaced the worse part of Newman's heating system. There are still about 25 classrooms that have the old system, which is continuing to deteriorate. Even the temporary fix needs to be continually monitored. While the equipment itself may last 10 years, engineers have said that it can only be depended on for 1 to 4 years as it is currently installed. He also described the fan rooms at Newman as being held together with "spit and glue" because the machinery is old and replacement parts simply are no longer available.

Mr. K pointed out that fixing Newman is in the interest of Hillside families because if Newman needs to be closed for some reason, Hillside would have to absorb 180 to 200 students.

A Newman Renovation Update will be available soon on the NPS website. Mr. Gutekanst will send out an email when that report is put online.

Enrichment Grants

Kindergarten Butterflies \$42.65

Mrs. DeMaria requested butterfly eggs for her classroom to observe the life stages of butterflies. Grant was unanimously approved.

Fifth Grade Science and Social Studies Periodical \$269.50

Ms. Roberts requested subscriptions for all fifth graders to *Science Studies Weekly*, which will tie in with fifth grade science and social studies curriculum. Issues will be kept for future use as well. Grant was unanimously approved.

Fifth Grade iPod Equipment –originally requested \$920; amended to \$266

Ms. Roberts and Ms. Decicco requested money for two ipods, two camcorders, two external microphones, and two smartboard microphones so that they can implement some of the things they learned about in a mobile learning class. They suggest that lessons, meetings, and field trips can be recorded for future use in the classroom or use by students at home. The need for camcorders was eliminated from the grant because ipod nanos are now able to record videos. Because it is still unclear exactly how this technology will be used in the classroom, we decided to fund only one ipod and one set of corresponding microphones as a sort of trial. Once they determine more exactly how the ipods will be used, assuming the trial is successful, the PTC would reconsider funding more ipods. This project may also be appropriate for a NEF grant in the future. Grant for \$266 was unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Quinn
September 24, 2009

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2009

The meeting came to order at 7:06pm and adjourned at 8:43pm.

Attendance was 30 Members.

Co-President's Report – Karen Dasey

Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that Co-President Heather Goss and Treasurer Kathy DeMayo were unable to attend.

The PTC Minutes of 9/23/09 were unanimously approved.

There has been a successful start to the school year with lots of activities:

Halloween Used Costume Sale

Noreen Finnegan organized the event that both earned money to buy books for the reading room and outfitted kids for Halloween. Ideas are already being generated to bring in more shoppers next year.

Innisbrook Gift Wrap Paper

Thanks go to Becky Krechting and Dani Sammut for organizing the gift wrap sale this year.

Although fundraiser brought in almost \$9,000 of which Hillside gets half, sales have declined each year. Some question whether Innisbrook has run its course. Other fundraising ideas are being solicited.

Dancing Wheels

Anne Weinstein, with grant monies from NEF and the Hillside PTC budget for POD and the Performing Arts, brought this inspiring and engaging dance troop of wheelchair dancers to Hillside on October 19th.

METCO Friends and Families Autumn Festival

Marian Slavin organized pizza and fun for 70 children from both Boston and Needham on the October 20th early release day.

Principal's Report – Michael Kascak

Michael introduced this year's teacher representatives to the PTC, Geoff Watts and Peg Strakosch, who are both Kindergarten teachers.

Connection Clusters

The Connection Clusters has created cross grade level groups (excluding Kindergarteners) with a Hillside staff member. The second meeting is scheduled for November 9th.

Building Update

Hillside and Mitchell Schools are being described as "fashionable retro", with a greater emphasis on programming than the buildings themselves. But that being said, Hillside now has new exit doors and the bathroom stalls will be getting new doors (starting with the worse ones). Grant money has

been assigned to replace furniture, such as new tables for the lobby, replacing the folding chairs, and bins for the playground chess set.

Hillside has a space crunch, and all the classrooms are currently full. It is Michael's goal to continue to hold onto the KASE program and avoid having art in carts or classrooms in the library.

Michael hopes that Hillside will discontinue being an election polling site starting next year.

Traffic Report

The morning traffic flow seems to go smoothly, but the afternoon remains problematic. There will be a follow up traffic meeting on November 3rd involving Hillside neighbors, parents, and the police.

Some ideas have been suggested to alleviate the parking and pick-up problems. Perhaps arrangements can be made for staff to park for free in the MBTA lot. A Hillside neighbor has offered to sell his home to Needham so it can be knocked down to create additional parking. Children could be met after school at the base of Bobsled Drive, located behind Hillside, provided the path is plowed in the winter.

Committee Reports

Fall Family Fun Night – Rachel Foley

Scheduled for October 23rd, the Family Fun Night will have a hat theme. They have hired the same DJ as last year and lots of activities are planned, all for \$5 per family, plus the cost of food. They have enough volunteers to make it a successful evening.

An idea for next year is to have it two weeks before Halloween, and include the used costume sale.

Creative Arts – Sondae Varga

Each grade level has at least one project or program scheduled, including marine life and historical presentations. The committee is thinking about future arts programs to inspire creativity in our Hillside students. They will preview programs at other schools and solicit ideas for grant monies.

The Needham Community Arts Council (NCAC) has some upcoming events, including the *A Cappella Go* fundraising concert in November and the *Bash the Trash* science and music program.

Literacy Night

Grace Lin (www.gracelin.com) will be the guest author at Literacy Night on December 7th. She has written *Year of the Dog* and *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, which has won numerous awards. She will be the highlight of the Book Fair week, scheduled for December 3 - 9.

Community Advocacy – Kim Marie Nicols

Together for Needham

The over ride vote for the Newman School renovations will be on December 8th. This is to replace the defective heating and ventilation system and update common areas that are used by the whole community. The budgeted amount is \$27.4 million, with a state reimbursement of \$8.6 million. More information is available at www.togetherforneedham.com.

Needham Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

The SEPAC has monthly speakers on various issues and anyone is invited to attend, not just those with special needs children. Upcoming topics include behavioral challenges, executive functioning, and sibling issues. On January 11th, Hillside and Eliot parents will do a presentation on their Program on Disabilities (POD). The calendar of upcoming events is available at www.needhamsepac.org.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy DeMayo prepared the Hillside PTC Income Statement as of 10/20/09. The parent dues are on target, although the challenge donations are slightly behind.

School Committee – Connie Barr

Heidi Black will be Hillside's School Committee liaison this year, although she was unable to attend tonight.

Connie serves as the Needham SEPAC liaison also, and agreed they offer valuable and interesting speakers.

The School Committee is fully aware of the building needs at Hillside, but Newman has become a priority due to the deteriorating ventilation system that has affected the health of students and staff. The renovation costs are mostly driven by code requirements, including seismic activity, sprinkler system, and the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Their meeting on October 20th included discussions on:

- Elementary Social & Emotional Learning – the report is available on the Needham Public School's website at www.needham.k12.ma.us.
- Adolescent Health Survey – trends and risky behaviors were identified.
- Capital Improvement Plan – small amounts of cash capital are available to make school building improvements
- Budget for 2010/2011 – although the budget is very tight and federal stimulus money may not be available, they will make every effort to preserve appropriate class sizes and teachers.

Guest Speaker – Margaret Petrovich, Hillside Guidance Counselor

"Homework: A Parent Guide"

Ms. Petrovich gave a power point presentation, with an accompanying handout. Many questions were asked by parents. Mr. Kascak and first grade teacher, Ms. Audibert, offered input from a teacher's perspective. Copies are available by contacting her at Margaret_Petrovich@needham.k12.ma.us.

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

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC
Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2009

The meeting came to order at 9:05am and adjourned at approximately 10:30am.
Attendance was 10 members.

Co-Presidents' Report – Heather Goss

Playground Committee

The current climbing structure at Hillside is 16 years old and is in need of repairs. Heather Goss said that they are interested in finding volunteers for a Playground Committee that would investigate possible ways to replace worn equipment.

Grants Review Committee

The PTC Presidents would like to start a new Grants Review Committee that would review enrichment grants that are submitted to the PTC. This committee would be responsible for making sure the grant is complete and clear. The PTC has received a few grant requests that have been presented at meeting for approval only to have PTC members have questions or want more clarity. The members of this proposed committee would hopefully prevent that from happening. [Note that this is a separate function from the PTC's current Grants Committee, which is charged with helping people to write grants for submission.]

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

OT Room Grant

Mr. K noted that the PTC would not hear about a grant that was submitted by Elaine McKenna for OT equipment; other sources are being considered in order to require this equipment.

H1N1

The H1N1 vaccines are to take place tomorrow. Aides will act as runners to manage getting the children to the gym for their shots. The Department of Public Health will manage the actual vaccinations. All went well at Eliot previously.

Committee Reports

Safe Routes to School

Noreen Finnegan and Michelle Hoffmeister spoke about encouraging Hillside students to walk to school. They are having a "Turkey Trot" on Monday – Wednesday of Thanksgiving week. Everyone who walks to school will get a "feather" to put on the turkey on Mrs. Graham's door. Students would cannot walk to school but would like to participate may be able to walk the field during recess instead. The classroom with the most participation will receive the "Golden Sneaker Reward." They are considering having Walk-to-School events weekly or monthly. Teachers report that students who walk to school are more ready for the school day to begin.

Treasurer's Report – Kathleen DeMayo

Kathleen DeMayo presented the current budget numbers. The Gift Wrap numbers are not final, but they do appear to be below what we'd predicted. It is hoped that we make about \$4,000.

Family Fun Night costs were as anticipated. This event does lose money; it is intended to be a community building event.

Enrichment Grants

Anti-Bullying \$774

Mrs. Petrovich requests money for two "Power of One" drama presentations, one for K-2 and one for grades 3-5. Grant was unanimously approved.

Media Center Signage \$691

Mrs. Hitron requested money for signage in the media center. The PTC members requested some more information as the amount requested was high. This grant was deferred for more information.

School Committee Liaison

There was no School Committee representative present, but Heather Goss and Karen Dasey said that they have met with Heidi Black. Heather and Karen indicated that Heidi is open to all questions and comments from people in the Hillside community, and she wants to be a good advocate for Hillside.

Special Presentation – Matthew Wall, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program [Mass Rides/Safe Routes]

Matthew Wall gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Mass Safe Routes to School Program. He began by pointing out that in 1969 42% of children walked to school, and in 2001 only 16% of children walked to school. The goal of his program is to make walking to school safe and to encourage more kids to do it.

Matthew presented the benefits of having safe walking routes to school: reduction in child injuries, a reduction of traffic congestion around the school, and more active/healthy children.

The concerns that people have with respect to walking to school are: traffic danger, bad community conditions (i.e. bad sidewalks), adverse weather, and a fear of crime/stranger danger.

The Safe Routes programs works to address the above concerns with the following: Education (safety skills/healthy choices), Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation, and Engineering (infrastructure improvements).

Apparently Safe Routes did a survey for Hillside in the past few years. Matthew said that he would forward a copy to Mr. K.

More information about Mass Rides/Safe Routes can be found at www.commute.com. The national site is www.saferoutesinfo.org. Matthew's contact information is matthew.wall@state.ma.us.

PTC members suggested that this presentation may be good to have at Curriculum Night because the information he presented was compelling and it would help get the word out to parents. Another parent noted that this type of information would be good to get out to K parents earlier – as they are signing up for transportation for the next year.

Parents discussed concerns regarding safety at Central and West Streets.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Quinn
January 16, 2010

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC
Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2010

The meeting came to order at 9:05am and adjourned at approximately 10:15am.
Attendance was 12 members.

Co-Presidents' Report – Heather Goss

Co-President Search

Heather Goss announced that the search is on for a PTC Co-President to fill her spot in 2010-2011.

Playground Committee

As mentioned before, the climbing structure on the playground is in need of repairs. Heather Goss is looking for volunteers to form a committee that would focus their efforts on getting the repairs done. Member Marian Slavin volunteered to help the effort, but she would not like to head the committee.

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

Mr. K had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Program on Disabilities – Anne Weinstein

POD started up yesterday and will be on-going for about two weeks. Anne and Kathleen DeMayo participated in a presentation for Needham's Special Education Parent Action Committee.

Spring Fling – Marian Slavin

Marian is looking for a co-chair for the Volunteer Committee that will be available to organize the volunteers on the day of the Spring Fling (May 16) because Kathleen DeMayo will be out of town. Rachel Foley graciously agreed to fill-in.

The possibility of another equipment sale was discussed. It was suggested that we have a couple of drop-off days to collect items.

METCO – Marian Slavin

The January METCO event went off well with a magician and pizza party. It was well attended, including approximately 33 METCO students.

In February there will be another event on the early release day including a Valentine's Day theme and board games. In May, there may be an event planned in Boston.

Marian is looking for a Chair for this committee for 2010-2011. Responsibilities include organizing early release day events and meeting with the Needham METCO director once a month.

School Committee Liaison – Heidi Black

There is a public hearing on the FY '11 budget tonight. Parent concerns, such as maintaining small class size are a top priority for the school committee. However, there is a tremendously difficult budget this year. PTC members are encouraged to attend the hearing or contact the School Committee via email to voice their opinions and concerns.

Treasurer's Report – Kathleen DeMayo

Kathleen DeMayo presented the current budget numbers. The Book Fair made \$2985 in cash as well as about \$800 in books, which is approximately what was projected. Literacy night made \$340 on Grace Lin books; the night was very successful.

Special Presentation – John Mattleman, Needham Youth Commission

John Mattleman spoke about the challenges of parenting in this technological age. He highlighted the ways that our children are/can be connected at all times. As a result of this “24/7” connection, the home is not a safe haven from stressors and children can become worn down.

For more information, see www.needhamma.gov/youth.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Quinn
March 21, 2010

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2010

The meeting came to order at 9:09am and adjourned at approximately 10:25am. Attendance was 12 members.

This meeting was opened by Mr. Goneconto and Mrs. Cicala's classes, who presented their Water Project. These classes are advocates for the UNICEF Tap Water Project. There are approximately 21 local businesses that are collecting money for UNICEF.

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

There has been some flooding at the school, but there is no concern with ground water contamination/EPA issues. Unfortunately, KASE has had to relocate due to flooding, but otherwise all is well.

Michaela Shea and Seth Goldberg (former Hillside students who now attend NHS) have proposed a service learning project at Hillside whereby they plan to offer a night of babysitting at Hillside. Funds raised would be donated to water charities.

Thanks to Jillian Erdos and Michelle Lawrence for the Hillside Auction. Thanks as well to Betty Morgan and John Walek for arranging the student art that was auctioned off.

Kathleen DeMayo is scheduled to meet with the 5th Grade Thank You Committee later in the week. If anyone knows someone who should be thanked, please get that information to Mr. K.

The "State of the School" presentation is not completed yet. There will be a full presentation at the next School Committee meeting on April 6, and the information will also be presented at the next PTC meeting on April 14.

Mr. Kascak also announced that he will be continuing as principal next year. He has been at Hillside for 15 years, the last four as principal.

Co-Presidents' Report – Heather Goss

Co-President Search/PTC Roster

Katie Rutter has volunteered to serve as PTC Co-President next year. Anyone who does not want to continue on in their PTC positions next year should let Heather or Karen know.

Committee Reports

Auction – Michelle Lawrence

There were approximately 72 people in attendance at last weekend's Winter Social/Auction Fundraiser. The event grossed \$9900. With \$2600 in expenses, the net profit was \$7300. It was a fun night, but Michele suggested that we may want to do something different next year. The

feeling is that there is not enough enthusiasm to sustain the same type of event every year. A number of possibilities were suggested: switching the auction back to the Spring Fling; having the auction every other year, alternating with a simple Challenge Fund Campaign; holding an Art Auction; having an auction on a Boston Harbor cruise; adding an on-line component to the auction; holding a progressive dinner.

Used Book Sale – Jenn Sexton

Donations are still being collected. Volunteers are need for Monday and Tuesday, April 12 and 13. They are considering adding a 3rd day as well.

Yearbook – Michelle Lawrence

The order forms for the yearbook went out yesterday. The yearbook with be \$14.25 this year. The deadline for orders is March 30.

Enrichment Grants

Kindergarten Math Materials – Mrs. Strakosh & Mrs. DeMaria, \$270.33

Mrs. Strakosh and Mrs. DeMaria have had training in this method of math instruction that complements the Investigations method. These funds will be used to purchase building materials. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Kathleen DeMayo

Kathleen DeMayo presented the current budget numbers. The budget passed out today looks a little off because the expenses for the auction have been recorded, but the profits have not. We have been spending money on Creative Arts programs and CAP. We have a cash reserve of \$14,000.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Quinn
April 13, 2010

Hillside PTC Meeting Notes May 26, 2010

Meeting commenced at 9:00 am

Co – Presidents’ Report

-Update of 2010-11 committee heads

still looking for *Co-chair for Playground/Structure Committee* –

towards end meeting, Gabi Gutierrez volunteered to be co-chair

Auditor – maybe, they’ve been going without for a few years

Spring Fling Chair

Staffing Coordinator for Spring Fling

-Fundraising survey

Karen has created a survey regarding fundraising to be sent home in a hard copy format and will also be available on the website. Some of the info on the survey is why or why not people attend, the option of a lump sum and other suggestions of fundraisers

Becky Krechting will evaluate the results over the summer and is looking for any one to help

There will be a separate fundraising effort for the playground structure

Lesley Program is also having financial difficulties and Mr. K may be looking for some funding for that program

Kathy has looked at the budget, but there are not many expenses that can be cut

PTC may take over the Talent Show, holding it at night and using it as a fundraiser .

There may be a one grade talent show, probably the 4th grade, that would be during school hours.

-Retirement reception for Ms. Goodwin and Ms. Graham

Bon Voyage theme at Spring Picnic on June 11

Need some volunteers for clean-up

Mr. K asked that Ms. Modena be acknowledged since she is also retiring, but will not be there

Principal’s Report

There is an assembly this Friday for the kids regarding Memorial Day. The Rutter Family donated their brother’s flag to replace the current school flag.

June 1st is the Parent Appreciation Breakfast at 7:45 am in the Gym. All volunteers are invited.

Lesley Program needs \$5000 to cover 2 tuitions for Lesley interns Payment may be deferred until next fall.

Eliot and Hillside are working together for their professional day in August to discuss Lost In School

Committee Reports

Spring Fling –about \$400 less than last year
Used sporting goods brought in just over \$400
More marketing/advertising suggested for next year

Yearbook – they are coming out next week. Look for them in the backpacks

Playground – attempts to fix the Green Machine have been met with resistance with the town
A committee is being formed to look at options including
rehab of current structure which would require the whole structure to meet
current codes with a ball park cost of \$10,000
replacing whole structure with an estimate of \$25,000
A suggestion was made to look into Michelle Obama’s initiative for grant
money to help defray cost once a decision is made

New International Committee -presented by Si Si Goneconto
Creating a buddy system for new immigrant families at Hillside. A Needham
Family would be matched up with an immigrant family new to the school
to give them support in the community and to assist with some of the
interpretation of school info, community info and social customs.
Looking to create a committee.
A hospitality committee was also suggested to welcome new families to
Hillside and help acclimate them to the community.

Treasurer’s Report – Kathy DeMayo

Grants

Reading Room –Grant submitted by Carol-Ann Hurley for \$2000 to purchase Guided
Reading Books for grades K-3 - unanimously approved
Exercise Area – Grant submitted by Elaine McKenna for \$1500 for equipment -
unanimously approved

Bylaws

Motion made to change wording in bylaws from to
..... – unanimously approved

New co-President

Motion to approve Katie Rutter as the new co-President for the 2010/2011 year - unanimously
approved.

Heather will be acknowledged for her service at PTC President for the past 2 years at the Volunteer
Appreciation Breakfast