

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2015

The meeting came to order at 7:15 pm

Board attendance included: Seema Meloni, Joanna Herrera, Stephanie Pearl, Lesly Murray and Debra Feldman

The meeting minutes from May 27, 2015 were approved.

NOTE CHANGE IN NEXT MEETING DATE: Next PTC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 10th**

Co-President Updates

PTC Calendar Updates

- **October 15: Hillside Cares Committee Meeting:** contact Seema or Joanna if interested
- **October 16: Meadow Farms Fundraiser Closes** – extended one week. Goal is to reach \$4K
- **October 25: Hillside Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk & Monster Fun Run–** Goal is to have 200 registered people.
- **November 2: Spirit Wear Sales starts** – scheduled to run for 2 weeks
- **November 2-6: Janet Tashjian at Hillside** – Author resident. Teachers will introduce her books.
- **November 5: Literacy Night with Janet Tashjian**
- **Thursday, November 5: Social Committee Meeting** – Committee would like to plan a Parents Party for Hillside parents.
- **Tuesday, November 10: Bertucci's Fundraiser to support Hillside:** dine in or take out. They will contribute 10% of sales to Hillside PTC

Treasurer's Update (Stephanie Pearl)

- The 2015/2016 Budget was distributed and reviewed
- To date we've collected almost \$15K in dues, with 61% participation.
- Spirit Wear Sale at Back to School Picnic made \$257
- The PTC changed their account to Needham Bank

Grant Committee Update (Robin)

- **4th Grade Insect Unit** - submitted by Laura Katz for all 4th grade classrooms, including one program for each section in the grade (\$150 per class; total \$600).. This is a new program that would introduce insect investigation using real, dead insects.
- **Media Center Book Bins** – submitted by Liz Hitron. \$28 in total for 3 bins. To restructure the library.

Both enrichment grants were presented and approved.

Math Night with Mr. K.

- Mr. K. led a fun hands-on demonstration of how the students use Cuisenaire Rods to learn math concepts.
- At a future PTC meeting Ms. McKenna will hold session on ThinkMath homework.

Meeting Adjourned AT 8:40 PM.

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2015

The meeting came to order at 7:20 pm

Board attendance included: Seema Meloni, Joanna Herrera, Stephanie Pearl, Lesly Murray

The meeting minutes from October 2015 were approved.

PTC Calendar Updates

- December 23: School-wide pajama day
- Saturday, January 23, 2016: PTC Beat the Winter Blues Parent Party
- Sunday, January 24: Ice skating party @Babson
- Next PTC meeting on January 27th @8:45 a.m.
- Working on a fundraiser with Barre 3 in early 2016 – scheduled for January 28th

Volunteer Needs

- Media center – help out with your child's class when they go into media center to return and pick out new books
- Talent Show Committee – planning meeting with volunteers to be held in January
- Fundraising chair – work with PTC Co-Presidents and Treasurer to develop and execute new fundraising initiatives

Treasurer's Update – Stephanie Pearl

- Parent Dues have exceeded our goal, without factoring in any matching programs used
- Gift Book Program – approx. \$75 to date, plus 2 book requests
- Gift Wrap Revenue - \$1,538 to date, plus an expected \$1-\$2K in early 2016
- 5K Trick or Trot – great participation, including participants from outside the Hillside Community; we brought in \$4,125, which we used to purchase soccer nets and offset other expenses
- Book Fair – had over \$8K in credit card sales; \$12,500 in total sales
- Spirit Wear - \$1,941
- Chuck E Cheese event - \$300+
- Fall Fun Night – net gain of \$803
- Literacy Night – preliminary numbers are a \$456 net gain
- Creative Arts Funding – Budget is \$9K. Janet Tashjian was \$5K

Grant Reviews

- **Media Center: Speedskin covers**, Ms. DiCicco – 25 plastic overlays to be used to cover letters on keyboards, \$198.75. Approved.
- **Map Lady – 3rd Grade classes**. \$675.00 was approved between PTC Meetings. This will be the only enrichment grant for the third grade this year.

NEF Update – Joanna Herrera

- NEF funds innovative & enriching programs, Small and large grants
- Also raises money with Teacher Appreciation Cards that can be purchased on-line or at Taylors & Volante Farms
- 2 grant cycles – fall & spring
- Teachers and parents can apply

Principal's Update

- **MCAS** – PARCC will not happen in MA
 - Changes in MCAS 2.0 – this year no 4th or 7th grade long comp.
 - Every grade (3 through 9) will have some form of writing.
 - Hillside report can be found online.
 - The goal is to improve our writing scores.
 - We scored very well in math; 63% growth in both boys & girls
- **A Study on Praise and Mindset – Carol Dweck- watched video clip**
- **3rd Grade Technology Pilot Program**
 - Taking out desktop computers
 - Chromebook cart with enhanced wifi will be used in the pilot for spelling tests and math vocabulary
 - 4 teachers will share the cart
- We also watched a cbsnews.com video – Paula Poundstone: Stop the flat screen addiction

School committee Updates - Susan Neckes

1) Hillside/New School Planning

- Town Meeting approved purchase of Owen's land
- Next Steps- preferred schematic will be submitted for approval
- Approval expected by end of January, followed by move to Design phase

2) High School Space Planning

- Town Meeting approved expansion of cafeteria
- New café will be ready for next fall with a flexible design
- Classrooms are also a problem. School was built to accommodate 1450. Current enrollment is 1666. The next two years are expected to have the same level of enrollment and then it's expected to increase to approximately 1,700.

3) School Committee Budget

- Presented last week requesting a 5.6% increase
- Increase comprised of mandatory funding for the following: teacher pay increases, special education programs and enrollment related increases (1 FTE for Hillside)
- Other program improvements were very limited.

4) Full Day Kindergarten

- Hillside plus one other school don't have enough space to allow for full day K
- Funding still hasn't been determined. It's not mandatory in MA as it is in other states. Should we offer it on a lottery basis? Or have paid full day K?
- It will not happen until at least the 2017/2018 school year
- More information will be available in late spring

Meeting adjourned



HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2016

Board attendance included: Seema Meloni, Joanna Herrera, Stephanie Pearl

The meeting minutes from December 2015 were approved.

PTC President Updates

- Winter social was a huge success and the teacher experience raffle items were wildly popular; they alone brought in about \$2000 for the PTC
- Calendar Updates:
 - January 28th: Barre3 fundraiser
 - Feb 2nd: Walk/ride to school day
 - Feb 5th: Candy Bar Bingo Night (has since been moved to April 29th)
 - Feb 25th: Mom's Night Out event at The Kid's Place
 - March 4th: Hillside-Eliot Basketball game (has since been moved to March 18th)
 - March 8th-9th: Used book sale
- Creative Arts Budget:
 - Have thus far used \$5000 of the \$9000 budget to pay for author in residence
 - \$4000 remaining and discussing how to utilize in remaining school months
 - Will fund Dan Cripps, but working out other details

Volunteer Needs

- Media center – help out with your child's class when they go into media center to return and pick out new books
- Bingo Night
- Basketball game
- Talent Show Committee (April 8th)
- Calendar Raffle – looking for donations
- Spring Carnival (June 12th)
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch – need parents to cover classrooms, 10-12 parents helping in gym, families to cook food items
- Festival of Cultures (May 6th)

Treasurer's Update – Stephanie Pearl

- Currently in good financial status, over and above on some line items
- Party has helped cover shortfall from gift wrap fundraiser
- Gift book fundraising program working well
- Enrichment grants have about ~\$2800 left in budget
- For technology line item, Constant Contact has been paid through early 2017
- Have added line item in budget to cover screening of "Most Likely to Succeed", which is being sponsored by the NEF and 7 other Needham Schools; Hillside PTC handling payments through our bank account



HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL



Grant Reviews

- Three grants approved:
 - 5th Grade Sculpture Project – John Walek (\$100)
 - Reading A to Z – Christina Tarantino (\$109.95)
 - Iuitarod, 5th Grade – Laura Miller (\$67.95)

Principal's Update

- Rate of tardiness has been very high since the beginning of the new calendar year
 - Peak was 13% late in first week of January and averaging about 60 children late each day
 - Partly space issues – please consider carpooling, about 80% of cars only have 1 child/car
 - Barbara Pitney trying to find out if other schools experiencing similar issues
- Hillside Space Issues
 - Today is the vote on Owen's at MSBA
 - Discussions on what to do inside/outside in Hillside space
 - Gym time requirements amount to about 6.5 days of gym space needed and school is only 5 days – parity issue, Mitchell/Hillside students are experiencing similar issues
 - Students are getting wellness study, but not full exercise time
 - Encourage parents to fill out NPS survey
 - Liz Lee followed up on behalf of Citizens for Needham Schools to request ideas how parents can have more conversations about state of schools
- MCAS
 - Topic of education has been lost in the current political election cycle
 - Many states dropping out of PARCC, including MA
 - MCAS will reflect some sections of PARCC
 - Needham schools generally level 2, with high school level 1 (which is where we want to get)
 - Hillside
 - Overall school at 71% (up from 64%)
 - ELA on target
 - Math going very well – more work on math writing
 - Sciences going very well, thanks, in part, to programs such as Let's Build, Lego League, and STEAM programming
 - Discussion followed about effect of writing on iPads and effect of taking tests electronically
 - School moving forward with Chromebooks



HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2016

Welcome, Seema Meloni & Joanna Herrera, PTC co-Presidents

PTC Meeting Minutes were approved

- PTC Presidents' Update (Seema)
 - Box Tops contest huge success as well as book sale
 - Basketball game moved to Friday, March 18th
 - Bingo Night coming up on April 29th
 - New initiative: Hillside Night at Wheelock Theater on Friday, May 13th- Frog and Toad
- Volunteer Needs (Joanna)
 - Hillside-Eliot Basketball still needs volunteers
 - Looking for donations of items for Calendar Raffle
 - Spring Carnival (June 12th)
 - PTC Board and Committee Openings for 2016-2017-Seema Meloni steps down
 - Needs for Media Center, Family Fun night, Year book, and Teacher appreciation lunch

Treasurer's Update – Stephanie Pearl

- Big Fundraisers-Winter Social, Barre 3 and Upcoming Red Sox Events

Grant Review – Liz Lee

- Festival of Cultures (\$450)-Robin and Hallie Doust-approved

Principal's Update – Michael Kascak

- Going to Japan April 2017
- ALICE protocol –June
- Building update 3-14

Superintendent's Update on Hillside's 5 Year Plans – Dan Gutekanst

- New Hillside School plans underway. 2020 target for new school. Making sure the current building is sustained
- Painting, floors, duct work, wireless upgrade
- Equitable class size
- Music in a cart
- Concerts at Newman for 2017

Q&A with Dan Gutekanst and Susan Neckes

PTC Co-Presidents:

Seema Meloni • seema.meloni@gmail.com | Joanna Herrera • joannarherrera@gmail.com
www.hillsideptc.org



HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 25, 2016

- 7:15 p.m. Welcome, Seema Meloni & Joanna Herrera, PTC co-Presidents
- Meeting Minutes from prior meeting were approved
 - PTC Presidents' Update (Seema)
 - Bingo Night and Festival of Cultures-Festival very successful. Need to look for a bigger venue next year. Look into Senior Center
 - Staff Appreciation Lunch tomorrow (5/26)
 - Hillside Day (PTC provides popsicles) on Friday, 5/27
 - Calendar Raffle Ticket sales underway-Open Chairs for next year.
 - Save the Date: Meeting about ALICE protocol on June 1st in Hillside Gym
 - Spring Carnival on June 12th from 12-4 pm
 - Save the Date: Halloween Trick or Trot 5K Sunday, October 23, 2016
 - PTC Election
 - Erin Apstein PTC Co-President voted into office
 - PTC Board & Committee Chairs for 2016-2017 year voted in
 - Volunteer Needs (Joanna)
 - Open Committee Positions
- 7:40 p.m. Committee Updates
- Welcome Committee - Clair Windsor, Julie Hand
 - Spring Carnival – Tricia Sherman
- 7:50 p.m. Treasurer's Update – Stephanie Pearl: Need to start planning for Sept., Carnival and Raffle remain big fund raisers. Honored with Donations from Seema's parents for creative arts.
- 8:00 p.m. Principal's Update – Michael Kascak
- Reminder ALICE protocol meeting June 1st
 - Class lists before or on July 1st
 - Still discussion full day K-offsite
 - Meeting to discuss going to China with Hillside-Tuesday June 7th
 - Seema passes gavel on.
- 8:15 p.m. Adjourn

PTC Co-Presidents:

Seema Meloni • seema.meloni@gmail.com | Joanna Herrera • joannarherrera@gmail.com
www.hillsideptc.org