

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC
Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2012

The meeting came to order at 9:10am.
Attendance was 10 members.

Co-President's Report

Katie Rutter opened the meeting.

The minutes from the February 29, 2012 PTC meeting were approved

Calendar Raffle

The Calendar Raffle is under way. Tickets have been purchased and the drawings begin next Monday. Anticipate email blasts to remind parents to send in their tickets and payments. Late tickets will be accepted throughout the Calendar Raffle period. This year we have double the amount of prizes compared to last year's Calendar Raffle. Current income to date is \$2700.00 out of the \$6500.00 budgeted.

Enrichment Grant Approvals

The PTC presented 2 Enrichment Grants for approval.

The Hillside 3rd Grade Teachers would like to purchase supplemental materials for the Needham History Unit. These materials would be re-used for subsequent years. The cost is \$270.00 to benefit the entire 3rd grade. The grant was approved.

Mr. K presented information about the "Movement in Kids" initiative. Research shows positive results regarding this initiative. Needham's Eliot Elementary School currently has stand-up desks in their classrooms; desks are limited so students rotate thru them. Eliot also has a limited number of ball-chairs in their classrooms. At Hillside, two stand-up desks are being purchased from the Marjorie Margolis fund but three more chairs are needed at a cost of \$801.45 (\$500 was allocated from the Marjorie Margolis fund). The grant was approved.

Committee Reports

METCO Program

The METCO Program has one more event coming up on May 8, 2012 (early release day). 120 kids participated in the last event...this is considered a huge success. There was discussion on whether or not participants should have to pay for these events in the future. Many parents have offered to contribute for their child(ren) to participate. Many attendees felt that \$5 would be a reasonable cost per person. The PTC will ask the METCO committee to consider charging for future events which would of course help offset the costs for the events. Voluntary donations could also be considered as a way of offsetting the costs. Currently, the Hillside METCO program is \$400.00 over budget and is in need of \$200.00 in order to provide the entertainment for the May 2012 event. In addition, the METCO committee will need new members for the 2012/2013 school-year. One parent is leaving due to their child going to 6th grade and Mr. K

feels that 3 members would be ideal for this committee. Interested parents/guardians should contact the PTC regarding the METCO committee.

Hillside v. Eliot Basketball Game

There was a 15% increase in profit for this year's Hillside v. Eliot Basketball game compared to last year's game. The combined revenue for both schools is \$4500.00 to date. This figure will be split based on each school's ticket sales. Positive feedback from the meeting members was offered regarding this event. Hillside would like to see the game become more competitive while Eliot would like the event to be more "Harlem-Globetrotter-like". This year also experienced an increase in teacher participation. In addition, the food vendor issue was discussed. Eliot wanted the option of having food available for purchase (via an outside vendor) while Hillside felt it was more profitable to sell items themselves, i.e. candy, water, etc. Although the schools only get a small percentage of the food vendor sales, it was agreed upon by the members that food needs to be an option at future events.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on May 3, 2012. Many volunteers and food donations are still needed for this event. It was recommended to encourage parents/guardians to volunteer with a friend as a way to increase volunteer participation.

Hillside Talent Show

The Hillside Talent Show is at 7:00pm on Friday May 11th at the Pollard Middle School Auditorium (doors open at 6:30pm). Approximately 30 performers have been chosen for the talent show. There will be two dress-rehearsals at Hillside next week.

Spring Fling

This year's Spring Fling will have some new events such as a friendlier version of a "Dunk-Tank". Teachers and administrators are being recruited to sit in the chair for this event. In addition, a photo booth will be offered along with an online volunteer sign-up system.

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

Mr. K reported the following:

The Hillside School Committee election will be happening soon. Hillside needs one parent for the upcoming election. Interested parents/guardians should contact Mr. K.

The School Improvement Plan was approved at the School Committee at their meeting yesterday.

There is a meeting at 7:30pm on May 2, 2012 at Eliot Elementary School regarding the Hillside-Mitchell Project (2017/2018). The building options regarding these two schools will be presented at the meeting. Mr. K gave a brief description of the four options that have been created although two of those options have already been eliminated. The two remaining solutions/options will be talked about at the upcoming meeting.

Information will be coming out in the upcoming Hillside Newsletter regarding teacher assignments for the upcoming school year due to some shifting of teachers in each grade.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Buffinger

Mary presented the Income Statement for April 2012. Mary reported that the budget continues to be on-track at this point although the Hillside v. Eliot Basketball Game and the Otis Spunkmeyer numbers are not yet complete.

Additional Topics

Katie Rutter spoke briefly about a new company being considered in place of the Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser. Hillside's Innisbrook sales rep has moved to another company called "Genevieve" and commented that the PTC has not been contacted by anyone at Innisbrook regarding future fundraising opportunities.

In addition, Katie mentioned that the PTC will need a new Co-President for the 2012/2013 school year as this is her last term. Beth Tallarico will remain as Co-President next year. Anyone interested in this position should contact the PTC.

Guest Speaker

Ruth Griffin, Director of Food Services for Needham Public Schools was at the meeting to discuss various questions that were presented to her prior to the meeting along with any new questions/concerns/etc. Some of the topics covered were menu changes and planning, nutrition issues, milk vs. water, food allergies, controlling portions and nutrition balance for buyers, and lunch duration concerns. Ruth also addressed the transition from Kindergarten to 1st grade in reference to educating parents and children on how the process works. Parent volunteers are encouraged for the beginning of 1st grade to help the children become familiar and comfortable with the process. Ruth also reported that ice cream will no longer be served starting in the 2012/2013 school year due to the Healthy Kids Act. In addition, menu planning for the new school year will be food-based instead of nutrient-based as it has in the past. Children will see an increase in the amount of fruits and vegetables being offered. Ruth has a handout available to parents describing what is offered in the Needham Public School cafeterias (please contact her for that information).

In addition, Mr. K commented on the situation during voting days when the cafeteria is not available for the students to be served a hot lunch. Although the kids seem to enjoy the change on those days, parents are encouraged to write to the town of Needham regarding their concerns on this topic.

The next PTC meeting will be held on May 24, 2012 at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.