

# 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 28<sup>th</sup>

### **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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> 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**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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