

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**  
Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2012

The meeting came to order at 9:06am.  
Attendance was 16 members.

**Co-President's Report**

Katie Rutter opened the meeting.

*Calendar Raffle*

The Calendar Raffle Committee has been soliciting donations for this Spring fundraiser. To date, there are approximately 15 items that have been donated. Examples include \$75 in Seeking Sitter Services, 1 week of summer camp from the Charles River YMCA, Rosemary Pool Season Pass, 1 Kindle Fire, and a gift certificate from Fresco's Restaurant. The committee is still in need of 7-8 more items to be donated, especially things like sports team tickets and other high-ticket items similar to the Kindle Fire. Donation solicitation will end within 3 weeks. The committee opened the discussion for new ideas for the raffle. Some ideas included PawSox or Revolution tickets.

*Future PTC Meeting Topics*

Katie asked the group in attendance for ideas for upcoming PTC meetings. One member suggested that a representative from Food Services be a guest speaker so that parents can learn more about Food Service, how they choose the menus, food quality, etc. This member expressed concern about recent changes in the menu and the students' reaction to the changes which have been somewhat negative. Mr. K replied that Ruth Griffin, the Food Service Director for Needham Schools, would likely be willing to talk at a future PTC meeting about this topic.

**Enrichment Grant Approvals**

The PTC presented 1 Enrichment Grant for approval.

The Hillside 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers would like to implement a "Take Home Book Cart" program to benefit the entire 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. This program would provide reading-level appropriate books for kids to take home. The teachers already have the cart, but are in need of \$500.00 to purchase books as well as \$40.00 to purchase plastic bags to secure the books. When reviewing the grant request, the Grant Committee asked if it was possible that this program could be extended to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade as well. One member suggested that if there is money left over from the Scholastic Book Fair, perhaps it could be used for this purpose. Another member asked if the Hillside Library circulation includes books that can be used for this purpose. Mr. K explained that the committee is in need of multiple copies of the same books which many not be available in the library at this time.

The grant was approved.

## **Committee Reports**

### *METCO Program*

This committee provided information on the two upcoming METCO programs to be held at Hillside. The first program is January 26, 2012 (early release day) at which storytellers will be at Hillside. There will be 45 minute story-telling sessions for different age groups. 30 students from Boston will be at this program. Any Hillside student is invited to attend this free program but permission slips are required. Pizza will be provided and volunteers are invited to come. Pick-up is at 3pm for students not in the METCO program. The other event will be held on February 14, 2012 (early release day) where the students will enjoy pizza and a movie.

### *Ice Skating Party*

The Hillside Ice Skating Party will be held on Sunday January 29, 2012 from 5-7pm at the Babson College Ice Rink. This event has been very well advertised and will include a DJ and an open snack bar. To date, 11 families have pre-registered (approximately 40 skaters). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please see the Hillside newsletter for more details.

### *Bingo Night*

Bingo Night will be held on February 10, 2012 from 6:30-8:00pm. The committee reports that there will be "Faculty-Callers" this year and prizes awarded at the end of each game. Information on this event will be available in the PTC newsletter.

### *Otis Spunkmeyer Drive*

The Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie fundraiser will start the week after February vacation and will run for two weeks. Information on this fundraiser will be available in the PTC newsletter.

In addition, the PTC announced that they are considering replacing the Innisbrook Fundraiser with an alternate company called "Genevieve". This new company would offer a greater profit margin as well as an increase in the variety of products, i.e. soaps and more candy choices in addition to wrapping paper and related products/supplies. The PTC is waiting on a sample of the Genevieve wrapping paper in order to compare the quality with Innisbrook.

### *Hillside v. Eliot Basketball Game*

This event will be held on March 9, 2012. Parent volunteer recruitment will be announced in the next PTC newsletter. There will be a pep rally at Hillside on the day of the event during school hours. Modell's Sporting Goods has donated prizes which will be given out during half-time.

## **Treasurer's Report – Mary Buffinger**

Mary reported that the budget is on-track at this point. With the recent grant approval, that portion of the budget is at approximately \$3600 out of the \$5000 allocated for grants. Mary provided the Hillside PTC Income Statement for January 2012.

**The November 2011 PTC Meeting minutes were approved.**

## **Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak**

Mr. K reported the following:

Mr. K offered his gratitude to the Playground Committee who donated their fundraising surplus to the school for new items relating to the gym and recess.

Mr. K offered his gratitude to the Walk-to-School Committee for their efforts. Relating to the topic of walking to school, Mr. K announced that he'd like to form a new committee/group to explore the carpool initiative. As described in the recent Hillside newsletter, there is a major problem with vehicle traffic at Hillside in addition to students being tardy for school. There is a direct correlation with the lack of carpooling and walking to students being tardy. Students are tardy due to the high volume of cars trying to get thru the morning drop-off line. Mr. K would like to meet with people interested in handling this issue; anyone interested should email him as soon as possible. Mr. K also pointed out that the space issues at Hillside will not be dealt with until 2018 which is in accordance with the Mitchell-Hillside Building Project.

#### *Student Council*

The Student Council has arranged for a meeting with the group Cradles to Crayons to learn ways in which the Hillside community can partner with this organization. The representative from Cradles to Crayons is a former Hillside student now in college.

#### **Guest Speaker**

An Anti-Bullying presentation was given by Margaret Petrovich LICSW, Hillside Guidance Counselor. Please contact Mrs. Petrovich for information on this presentation.

The next PTC meeting will be held on February 29, 2012 at 7:00pm.