

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2015

The meeting came to order at 7:20 PM

Board attendance included: Seema Meloni, Jessica Young, Mr. K, Chanit List, Mary Buffinger, Stephanie Pearl, Deb Feldman and Lesly Murray

The meeting minutes from January 20, 2015 were approved.

Co-President Updates

1. **Raffle Items Needed:** We are actively looking for raffle items and welcome your help. The types of items we are collecting are ones that parents, children and/or entire families may enjoy such as donated items, services, tickets, gift cards, etc.
2. **Needham Gives Back! An annual day of service supporting Cradles to Crayons:** We need gently used clothes (all seasons), shoes, coats, small toys, baby equipment and books and **new** pajamas, socks and underwear for children ages 0-14 years. There is a box in the school lobby to collect all the items. No stuffed animals please.
Cradles to Crayons is also looking for volunteers to help sort through the donated items on March 28th at the high school from 10 am – 2 pm. No need to register, just show up.

Treasurer's Update (Mary Buffinger)

Four fundraisers were held so far this year:

1. Bingo Night - \$449 profit but we need to deduct the candy
2. Skating Party – all proceeds went to Babson (for insurance reasons/costs)
3. Basketball Game – profit of \$2,200.
4. Pending Modell's funds from the partnership we had with them.

Enrichment Grants – \$2,800 left in the enrichment grant budget.

Grant Committee Update - Seema Meloni

1. Coding Games—\$387.71 Games for the Media Center. Examples include Robot Turtles, Code Monkey, etc. to teach kids coding, conditional statements, etc. and is intended to supplement STEAM initiatives
2. Back-Jack chairs—\$566.83. Submitted by Margaret Petrovich plus the support of 10 faculty members. Funds will be used to purchase 10 new backjack chairs and 10 covers. It helps support children who get fidgety and also helps control personal space. These chairs can be used by any student. Stephanie Pearl may be able to help get these at a lower cost.
3. Wood for Art projects—\$100.00 Submitted by Mr. Walek

All grants were presented and approved.

School Committee Update (Heidi Black)

Heidi provided the following updates on the "Hillside School Project" plus other important updates.

- **Hillside School Project –Feasibility Study Update** (some content pulled from Citizens for Needham Schools email newsletter)

Needham is currently in the early stages of a partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to renovate or rebuild the Hillside Elementary School. During a recent meeting of the MSBA's

Designer Selection Committee on March 4th, Dore and Whittier was chosen as the design firm for the Hillside feasibility study that will get underway this spring.

The goal is to have the study completed by August and the School Committee would like to present findings at November Town Meeting.

4 options will be included in the feasibility study:

1. A new Hillside school at current Hillside location
2. A renovation of the existing building at Hillside
3. A new school at DeFazio
4. A green field

- **School Committee Open House** (content pulled from Citizens for Needham Schools email newsletter)

On **Saturday, March 21st from 9:00 - 10:30 am at Pollard Middle School**, the School Committee invites community members to its semi-annual Open House. This is a great opportunity to meet School Committee members in an informal setting and to share with them any questions or concerns you may have.

- **Other School Committee News: 1:1 ipad Study** (content pulled from Citizens for Needham Schools email newsletter)

At its March 3rd meeting, the School Committee voiced support for the 1:1 Personalized Learning Initiative at the middle school level and indicated a significant change in how 1:1 devices (iPads) will likely be funded going forward.

Needham's current 1:1 program utilizes a "Bring Your Own Device" funding mechanism. Going forward, the Needham Public Schools intends to provide district-owned devices for students. The School Committee indicated its strong support for this change at its March 3rd meeting, and the specific funding details for this change are still being worked out. It is expected families will still have the option to purchase their own iPad device for use at school if they wish. Based on projections, NPS should be able to fund the devices within its capital allotment from the Town for the next two budget years, however, starting in FY18, additional funds would be needed to continue providing devices as part of this program.

Information about the proposed changes, including some of the findings related to the 1:1 initiative from the School Committee's Technology Transition sub-committee, is available online in the School Committee Packet for March 3rd.

Remediation Study

For more information please check out the study on the Hillside Website under Health and Safety:

<http://hillside.needham.k12.ma.us/main/HSAC>

Math for Parents!—Mr. Kascak, Hillside Principal and Elaine McKenna, Hillside Math Coach

Mr K. and Ms. McKenna presented the basics of the Think Math program used at Hillside which is to teach understanding math using manipulatives/visuals so students can understand the “why” rather than only teaching procedures (memorization). They took the parents through some hands on exercises so they could get an understanding of how our children are learning math. After students master the manipulative learning they move on to learn the procedural method, which is in future grades (5/6). In grades 4 & 5 teachers begin to teach the Engaged New York Lessons, which offers parent support tools via their website.

There was strong interest in having parent and/or parent with child workshops in the next school year to explain the Think Math program fundamentals.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm