

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC
Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2011

The meeting came to order at 7:07pm.
Attendance was 24 members.

Co-President's Report

Katie Rutter opened the meeting.

The November 2011 PTC Meeting minutes were approved.

Calendar Raffle

The PTC will soon be soliciting items for the Calendar Raffle fundraiser to be held in May 2012. Information on this event will be coming out in the next PTC newsletter. Katie gave a brief description of how the raffle is organized as well as a list of some of the items donated for last year's raffle. Both Co-Chair positions for this committee are still open. Katie and Beth will sit in as Co-Chairs until new volunteers step up. Solicitations can be done from home on your own time which offers greatly flexibility for volunteers with busy daytime schedules. In addition, the format to organize this event is already in place making this committee even easier to run. For more information on this volunteer opportunity, please contact the PTC.

Open Positions

PTC Co-Secretary - During the 2011/2012 School Year, an additional Secretary is needed to switch off meetings with the current Secretary who records for the PTC meetings. Anyone who normally attends the evening PTC meetings and has an interest in being the Co-Secretary is asked to contact the PTC.

Community Partnerships/Fundraising – The PTC is in need of a volunteer to review all potential fundraising opportunities that come to the PTC via the mail, word of mouth, etc. and to present optimal fundraising ideas to the PTC. A volunteer is also needed to find opportunities with local businesses to help raise money for the PTC. Examples include Wild Willy's night and Modell's shopping dates during which the Hillside PTC would receive a portion of the sales on those particular days/nights from Hillside families participating. Beth reported that the current Modell's coupon is good thru December 22, 2011. If Hillside families' purchases exceed \$500, Hillside will receive 5% of the total amount spent. Modell's will honor the coupon even if you don't have it with you in the store (as long as you tell them that you would like to participate in the fundraiser). The recent Wild Willy's fundraiser raised \$125.00 for the school. Beth also reported that the restaurant Not Your Average Joe's will likely be our next community partnership fundraiser. For each Tuesday of one month, they will donate 5% of sales to Hillside when families dine-in or take-out. Not Your Average Joe's calls this program "Not Your Average Cause". More information on this event will be coming out in the next PTC newsletter. Anyone interested in volunteering for this committee is asked to contact the PTC

Enrichment Grant Approvals

The PTC presented 4 Enrichment Grants for approval.

1. Elaine McKenna (3rd Grade Teacher) requested a grant to purchase Think Math Picture Books that go along with the Think Math Curriculum. These books offer literary pieces that supplement the actual math curriculum. After discussing this request with Mr. K prior to the PTC meeting, it was eventually decided to expand this option to all of the grade levels. The grant request is for \$650; each grade would receive a stipend to purchase such books. The grant was approved.
2. Peggy Strakosch (Kindergarten Teacher) is requesting a grant for a one year website subscription to enhance the phonics curriculum. This \$270 grant would benefit grades K thru 2. The students would use this website once per week in the classroom and once per week in Media. The grant was approved.
3. Chris Tarantino (Grade 1 Teacher) is requesting a \$84.95 grant for a one year subscription for printable leveled books called “Reading A-Z” to benefit Grade 1 students. These books come with worksheets and build fluency and phonetics awareness. The grant was approved.
4. Barbara Fuller (Grade 3 Teacher) is requesting a \$750 grant to pay for the services of a Ranger to set up and conduct a program over the remainder of the year to provide outdoor opportunities to enhance the Science curriculum for 3rd and 4th graders. The Ranger would first assess the Hillside outdoor space, create a plan on how to use that space in relationship to Science, and then implement a series of classes. The Ranger would visit Hillside a total of 6 times and the cost includes his/her time and materials. Once the program is in place, 2 Hillside teachers would be able to replicate the same program for future use (without the services of the Ranger). The grant was approved.

Committee Reports

Creative Arts

The Create Arts Committee Chairpersons gave an excellent overview of what this committee offers for Hillside. They communicate with the Grade Level Leaders to plan and schedule enrichment programs early in the year. Most programs are funded thru the PTC but the committee has also been able to take advantage of free and low-cost programs. In addition, they have written NEF grants to also help fund Creative Arts programs. Some examples of Hillside programs scheduled by this committee include Bubblemania, Imagination in Action, and Mass Movement. This committee is also part of the NCAC (Needham Creative Arts Council) which has representatives from each of the elementary schools. This group shares ideas and typically writes one NEF grant per year that benefit all of the elementary schools. Some examples of NCAC programs include Ball in the House concerts, Bash the Trash Program, and a Hawaiian Dance Troupe that will be coming this year.

Family Fun Night

The Family Fun Night Committee reports that the recent Family Fun Night was a success, with the same format it has had in previous years (crafts, food, and tattoos downstairs/DJ and games upstairs). The committee co-chair positions are opening up for next year. This is a great committee for volunteers who can't commit time during the day.

METCO Program

This committee reports that there are 4 events over the course of the school year which are held on early release days for Hillside's Boston students (there are approximately 30 Hillside students in the METCO program). The next program will be a Boston-based storyteller; more information on this program will be available in the next PTC newsletter. The October METCO event was at the Boston Ballet Rocks in Jamaica Plain. Over 80 Needham students attended this event (about 15 Hillside families were included in this number).

Scholastic Book Fair

\$12,500 was reported as the revenue for the Scholastic Book Fair. An additional \$250.00 in books/supplies was ordered online after the book fair closed. \$2000.00 in cash was converted to \$4000.00 in Scholastic Dollars. This money will be used to purchase two Smartboards.

Spiritwear

A Spiritwear sale will be coming up this week. An order form will be attached to the next Hillside Newsletter. Another Spiritwear sale will happen before the Spring Hillside/Elliot Basketball game.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Buffinger

Mary reported that there is \$3000.00 extra from the Playground Fund. This surplus will be used to do some "extra work" to the Hillside playground.

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

Mr. K reported the following:

Hillside Committees

There are two committees for parents to think about. The first is the Hillside School Council which will have an opening for next year. The other is the Hillside Health and Safety Committee. This committee meets once per month on Wednesdays from 3:15-4:30pm and deals with the quality of life in the building, i.e. air quality. We need parent representation to join this committee. This is an elected position that is a 3-year commitment. For more information, please contact Mr. K.

Lesley Intern Program

Hillside needs families to promote this great program (meaning that we need more people to participate in the program itself). Many people choose the Lesley Intern Program as a great career change option. For more information, please contact Mr. K.

Building Plan

The 2017-2018 Mitchell-Hillside Project will go thru. Architects will be visiting Hillside to explore the renovation possibilities. One of Hillside's main issues is the size; the school is overcrowded and in order to meet the new compliance codes, more space must be added.

Student Council – 4th and 5th Grades

Student Council representation for 4th and 5th Grades should begin in January 2012.

Sidewalk Duty

The Sidewalk Duty team needs umbrellas. Please donate any “free” umbrellas that you might receive or consider donating new or used umbrellas.

Hillside Thank You Committee

Hillside 5th Graders write thank you notes on behalf of the whole school. If you or your committee is in need of thank you notes being written, please send the information to Mr. K and he will ensure that the intended recipient will receive a thank you note. The students who write these notes only put their first names on them (no last names).

The next PTC meeting will be held on January 25, 2012 at 9:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.