

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC
Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2011

The meeting came to order at 7:06pm.
Attendance was 25 members.

Co-President's Report

Katie Rutter opened the meeting.

The April 2011 and May 2011 PTC Meeting minutes were approved.

Annual Dues and Family Challenge Fund Drive

As of today, the PTC is extremely close to reaching its goal with 197/315 Hillside families participating thus far. The total revenue to date is \$14,750 which is a 26% increase over last year's total.

Robert Evans Event

The Robert Evans event will be held on November 16th at the Eliot Elementary School. This is a joint event among Hillside, Mitchell and Eliot Elementary schools. Doors open at 6:30pm and the speaker will begin promptly at 7:00pm. Robert Evans is a local author (from Wellesley) who wrote "*Family Matters – How Schools Can Cope with the Crisis in Childrearing*". This event was rescheduled from last spring due to scheduling conflicts.

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 morning 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.

Calendar Raffle Co-Chairs – The Calendar Raffle is the PTC's Spring Enrichment Fundraiser which is in need of two Co-Chairs. Katie gave a brief description of the raffle specifics and commented on how much the students loved this fundraiser because Mr. K. announced the daily winners over the loudspeaker. The biggest role of the committee chairs is to solicit donated items/prizes which makes this a good committee for someone who can't necessarily volunteer their time during the day at the school. Solicitations can be done from home on your own time which offers greatly flexibility for volunteers with busy daytime schedules.

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.

Enrichment Grant Approvals

The PTC presented 3 Enrichment Grants for approval.

1. Raylene Roberts is requesting a \$231.14 grant to purchase picture books to parallel concepts learned in the 5th grade Think Math Curriculum. These books would benefit the entire 5th grade.
2. Heather Dummett is requesting a \$1050.00 grant to purchase website access to practice skills learned in the 3rd and 4th grade Think Math Curriculum. This one-year website membership would benefit a total of 175 students enabling them to log on and practice math skills both at school and at home. The website would allow for teachers to receive a report on student usage along with many other benefits to track students' math progress.
3. Donna DeMaria is requesting a \$43.91 grant to purchase materials to enable Kindergarten students to learn the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

All 3 Enrichment Grant requests were approved.

Committee Reports

Innisbrook Fundraiser

This fundraiser is now complete. The final revenue figures are not yet available but will be reported in the next PTC newsletter.

Scholastic Book Fair

The annual Book Fair begins in two weeks and will have the same basic format as last year's book fair. Volunteers are still needed to work at the book fair between the hours of 8am and 3pm. Please refer to the PTC newsletter for information on how to volunteer and email contacts. The Book Fair will also be open during Literacy Night (10/26/11).

Literacy Night

Literacy Night will be held on October 26th. Doors open at 6:00pm with the Peter Hughes presentation beginning promptly at 6:30pm. The presentation is expected to last one hour followed by questions and book signings. Peter Hughes is the author of "*Lemonade Mouth*"; he is expected to talk about the book along with the making of the Disney movie based on that book.

Playground

The Playground Committee reports that the playground installation is complete minus a few details such as the Town of Needham doing some landscape edging and mulching in the near future. The committee raised \$31,000 but is waiting for the final bill from the installation company. If there are funds remaining, this gives the committee the option for a few additions such as new swing seats and tether balls.

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night will be held on Friday November 18th at Hillside. The committee reports that the theme will likely be "Needham/Hillside Spirit". The format will be the same as last year including games, DJ, pizza dinner and water, ice cream sundae bar, and crafts.

METCO Program

Two METCO representatives provided information about this program and the need for Hillside parent/family participation. There will be four activities held at Hillside this school year on early release days. The program is in need of families to get involved the day of the events by attending with your children and participating in the event activities. The representatives reported that in the future, some events will be held in the city of Boston. These events will be accessible by bus for all participants from the Hillside community. Parents will be needed to help chaperone and are welcome to attend these events with their children. The most recent event held at Eliot Elementary School was very successful with a great turnout from Hillside families.

Upcoming Community Partnership Event

The next Community Partnership Event will be held on Thursday October 20th at Wild Willy's in Needham. Wild Willy's will donate 15% of Hillside family purchases both for dining-in and takeout. Be sure to tell the cashier that your family is from Hillside so that they can keep track of the Hillside sales. A reminder for this event will also be sent via email.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Buffinger

Mary presented the PTC Income Statement along with a brief description of how the statement is formatted. The purpose of the statement is to keep families abreast of how the PTC spends money and to allow the PTC and families to track each activity's fundraising efforts. Mary reported specifically on the Annual Dues and Family Challenge Fund Drive and that contributions continue to be coming in from families. Mary also reminded the attendees to ask their employers if they have a donation matching program and to take advantage of this often overlooked benefit. The PTC Tax ID# will be available in the next PTC newsletter for employers needing that information.

Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak

Mr. K introduced the School Council Members in attendance at the meeting. The School Council's main charge is to research and implement a school improvement plan but the main topic lately is the MCAS results which have been highly publicized in recent news. Mr. K provided a variety of informational sheets including spreadsheets and articles about the MCAS and the recent results. He offered detailed facts and figures on the MCAS results but also provided information on the history of the MCAS, its strengths and weaknesses, the politics of the MCAS, the real estate and statistical implications of the MCAS, and Hillside's reactions and perceptions of the impact of last year's scores and its efforts moving forward. Hillside's MCAS report will be available on the Hillside school website.

The next PTC meeting will be held on November 30th at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

