

# HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC

## Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2014

The meeting came to order at 7:15 PM

Attendance included 4 Board Members- Jessica Young was unable to attend.

Seema Meloni opened with a welcome to new board members PTC co-secretaries: Deb Feldman and Lesly Murray, co-Treasurer: Stephanie Pearl and Welcome back to co-treasurer Mary Buffinger.

The meeting minutes from the May 28, 2014 were approved.

### Treasurer's Update (Mary Buffinger)

Mary presented the income statement. She reported the budget is tight this year. We are spending exactly what is in the budget. The enrichment budget was reduced by \$1,000 from the previous year. We spent \$1,200+ last year to kick start the Let's Build program. Now that it is off and running we will not need to spend that much on the same program.

Good news is that we brought in more from the mosaic fundraiser than originally anticipated. We are looking for new and creative fundraising ideas. If you have any ideas please send them to the Hillside PTC.

Please Note: we support matching gift programs that your employer may offer. Please take advantage of this if it's available to you.

### Grant Committee Update (Robin Gamrath-Schauman)

The budget is 4,000 this year. We had 3 applications to discuss.

- 1) APPROVED- Math picture books for the entire 1<sup>st</sup> grade. One set per classroom. This will align with the Think Math curriculum and Mass State standards. The grant is for between \$350-400.
- 2) APPROVED- Mrs. Hurley is requesting an iPad Tripod stand at a cost of \$100. This is a stand to be used school wide. It helps with making videos.
- 3) APPROVED- Playground Painting Grant. School interns will work with 5<sup>th</sup> graders to redo the Map and Chess board on playground. The paint is donated by the town. 2 \$250 gift cards to interns for their time.

### PTC Event Update –Halloween 5K Trick or Treat-Sunday, October 26th (Seema Meloni)

This is the first year for this event. The money will go to helping expand the iPad project so we can have 1 to 1 iPads in the classrooms and additional programs. There will be

fantastic activities and programs. The FUN run for kids starts at 8:30 AM. The 5K will start at 9:00am. The running route is within the Hillside community. We need people to spread the word and we are still looking for volunteers. Hillside faculty have come together and formed a team, the Hillside Hornets, so keep your eyes open on the race route!

Also part of the race will be the Golden Pumpkin Award, awarded to the class that has the most kids registered for the race.

### School Committee Update (Heidi Black)

Heidi gave several updates during the meeting. 4 key priorities for the School Committee were outlined:

#### 1) Hillside Project

Needham and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) are currently conducting a project feasibility study on the renovation/rebuilding of the Hillside Elementary School. The School Committee is committed to achieving a community consensus on a preferred alternative and seeking MSBA approval by the end of the school year. More information about future renovation projects at the Hillside and Mitchell elementary schools is available on the [NPS website](#).

The Hillside project was a long discussion. Heidi gave the update that the three options on the table are 1) rebuilding on the hillside site 2) Building an elementary school at DeFazio 3) building a 6<sup>th</sup> grade at DeFazio and making High Rock an elementary school. Cost will be a factor. The solution of Cricket field which may be the cheapest & easiest is not a current option. There is a town meeting, Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm, Powers Hall at the Town Hall. The Hillside community is encouraged to show up to school committee meetings, attend public hearings, and stay informed.

#### 2) Additional Space for Needham High

High enrollment at Needham High School is putting stress on classroom and communal spaces. Working with other Town departments, the School Committee plans to address space concerns at Needham High. The administration has been creatively repurposing and re-allocating existing rooms and offices to provide more instructional space. The next step, partitioning two existing classrooms, is to be accomplished through a Warrant Article at the October Special Town Meeting. A larger proposal to address space needs at the High School over the next decade is expected later this year.

#### 3) iPads at High Rock

This year's 6th grade class is participating in a 1:1 iPad initiative wherein all students are using an iPad device at school. Some of the goals of this program are to increase students' organization, provide more opportunities for personalized learning and collaboration, and provide a device students can use during their three years of middle school. CNS plans to provide additional information on the status of the [High Rock iPad implementation](#) in future newsletters.

#### 4) Full Day Kindergarten Study

Needham does not currently have full day kindergarten due to space and financial constraints. However, the School Committee is committed to implementing full day kindergarten as soon as possible and has created a standing sub-committee to begin planning for this.

#### New Extended Day Programming Mr. Kascak

Extending the school day by 25 minutes has allowed for the following new initiatives at Hillside:

- STEAM has been starting off very successful. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders have 4 rotations per year. See attached schedule for the STEAM rotations this year. Students are studying elements of music in the math section and art in the technology section.
- Hillside has hired a Spanish teacher, Mr. Pat Marra. He is doing a great job with the introduction to Spanish in grades 1-5. Spanish will not be on the report card this year.
- Collaborative time for the teachers. There are 6 grade level leaders.

#### Other updates:

Let's Build: Mr. K gave a special Thank You to Liz Lee and Sophia Buckley for the wonderful success with the Let's Build program. The next Let's Build day is November 8, 2014 at Broadmeadow.

Trip to China/Host a Chinese Student: There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Hillside for any parents interested in joining Mr. K. and teachers on a trip to China (either spring 2015 or 2016) or hosting a student from China during this school year. This is informational only and not an obligation to participate.

Space Constraints: There are still issues with space in the school and scheduling. The gym has the toughest space crunch. There are some simultaneous gym classes planned.

#### Closing remarks from Seema:

If you anyone would like to see topics discussed at future PTC meetings, please submit your ideas. Upcoming suggestions include more information on the Think Math program and PARC vs. MCAS testing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

STEAM Rotation Schedule

Grade 1 - 12:20 - 1:00

Rotation Dates	Jane Borjas, Engineering	John Walek, Art	Maria DeCicco, Technology	Lynne Doran, Music
I) Sept 2-Nov 7	Susan Audibert	Nicole LaFace	Chris Tarantino	Sheila Mangan
II) Nov 10-Jan 27	LaFace	Tarantino	Mangan	Audibert
III) Jan 30-April 8	Tarantino	Mangan	Audibert	LaFace
IV) Apr 9-June 18	Mangan	Audibert	LaFace	Tarantino

Grade 2 - 1:10 - 1:50

Rotation Dates	Jane Borjas, Engineering	John Walek, Art	Maria DeCicco, Technology	Lynne Doran, Music
I) Sept 2-Nov 7	Chris Early	Geoff Watts	Amanda Hackett	George Goneconto
II) Nov 10-Jan 27	Watts	Hackett	Goneconto	Chris Early
III) Jan 30-April 8	Hackett	Goneconto	Early	Watts
IV) Apr 9-June 18	Goneconto	Early	Watts	Hackett

Grade 3 - 2 - 2:40

Rotation Dates	Jane Borjas, Engineering	John Walek, Art	Maria DeCicco, Technology	Lynne Doran, Music
I) Sept 2-Nov 7	Kara Shea	Heather Dummett	Shelly Santaniello	Hallie Daoust
II) Nov 10-Jan 27	Dummett	Santaniello	Daoust	Shea
III) Jan 30-April 8	Santaniello	Daoust	Shea	Dummett
IV) Apr 9-June 18	Daoust	Shea	Dummett	Santaniello