

**HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTC**  
Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2013

The meeting came to order at 7:05 pm.  
Attendance was 22 members.

**Co-President's Report - Amy Lam and Jessica Young**

Amy Lam opened the meeting.

**Principal's Report – Mr. Kascak**

Mr. K reported the following:

The best opening to a school year since he has been principal. There's been a great show of School Spirit.

He thanked everyone for participating in the school survey. Hillside had the best response of all the schools with 100% student and teacher participation and 68% parent participation. They will be reviewing the responses and then decide how to proceed.

He introduced Heidi Black, School Committee Member. She will be the liaison to Hillside school this year.

**School Committee Update - Heidi Black**

Hillside's SOI has been submitted to MSBA. MSBA visited Hillside in September. Application will be voted on in November, hopefully, Hillside will be recommended for feasibility study which will be an in-depth report of each option including pros & cons of locations along with costs. The town needs to vote to approve funds to pay for feasibility study. There is a debate going on within the town on whether or not Cricket Field should be included in the study. Heidi said the school committee position is that all options should be explored in the feasibility study. If an option is not included in the feasibility study it cannot be added at a later date.

Some upcoming dates regarding the discussion are the Selectmen's Meeting on October 22 at 6:45pm. and the November 4 Town Meeting.

She also said the School Committee's priority is to rebuild Hillside at its current site if possible. But, it will depend on cost and state's willingness to help.

What can Hillside parents do to inform community? Talk to your family and friends; write to Board of Selectmen, Park & Rec commission, and Town Meeting representatives to let them know how you feel.

Parents are invited to contact Heidi or any School Committee Member with any questions or comments.

**Guest Speaker - Caren Nemtzow**

Caren Nemtzow, CAPP (Child Assault Prevention Program) Volunteer Coordinator is looking for volunteers. Training for volunteers starts this Sunday, October 20. Volunteers go into classrooms and present workshops. (See attached flyer for details)

CAPP workshops will take place at Hillside in January. There will be a parent information meeting in December.

**Treasurer's Report – Mary Buffinger**

Budget is on track for this year. Exceeded parent dues and challenge donations goal.

**Committee Updates -**

Amy Lam reported (except where noted):

*Scholastic Book Fair* - Dates 10/28 - 11/1 looking for volunteers

*Literacy Night* - Dates 10/29 for grades K-2 and 11/7 for grades 3-5 both nights open to the public

*Publicity* - Myrna Zakarian - press release for Literacy Nights is ready and waiting for Literacy Coordinator to ok for release

*Fall Family Fun Night* - in conjunction with this event Hillside is inviting local vendors to sell their crafts as an added fundraiser for the school. Vendor tables are \$50/\$75 per table.

*Spirit wear* - Seema Meloni and Jodi Rooney - 1st order form was very well received, orders should be in during the next week. The 2nd order form will be going out November 1st with the intent that items will arrive before Hanukkah. Spirit Day is 11/15 the same day as FFFN, so that will be the theme of the day. 3rd order will be delivered in time for the Hillside/Eliot basketball game. Items offered will keep changing. Student Council has asked them to order shirts with the year "2014" on them in recognition of their last year at Hillside.

*Open Positions* - Concessions Chair, Fundraising Co-Chair and Talent Show Co-Chair

**Enrichment Grant Applications - Seema Meloni**

Four grants were recommended for approval

First grant requested is from 3rd grade teacher, Heather Dummett, for IXL subscription in the amount of \$1300. IXL is an online Math program for grades 3-5. - Grant approved.

Second grant requested is from 4th grade teacher, Barbara Fuller, for 2 workshops with poet Janet Wong in the amount of \$500. Ms. Wong will conduct the workshops with the 4th graders to enhance their unit on poetry. - Grant approved.

Third grant requested is from Ms. Miller on behalf of the 5th grade teachers for 7 copies of Scholastic Storyworks Subscription in the amount of \$195.72. - Grant approved.

Fourth grant requested is from parent, Liz Lee, for purchase of extra activities at the Hillside Family Engineering Extravaganza on Saturday, October 19, in the amount of \$500. The extravaganza is mostly funded by an NEF grant, but those grants limit vendors that can be used. A PTC grant will allow other vendors to be used to purchase supplies. - Grant approved.

### **Guest Speaker - Joshua Winer**

Joshua Winer is the Artist for the Mosaic Mural Project. He is an artist who decorates buildings often working with school communities to create one of kind mosaic murals to be displayed at their school. The mural is created by integrating drawings the children have done. Each child in the school will be involved in creating the mural. Kids do all the work with the help of parents. The murals are on movable panels. The murals are created using ceramic and glass mosaics, cement and grout. It will be creating during art classes and some after school sessions during a 2-3 week period.

At this time, the school is trying to raise funds to support the project. Hillside has received a \$5000 grant from NEF. Mr. Winer applied and received a \$5000 grant from the Mass Cultural Council. Hillside is giving Legacy Place VIP cards to anyone who donates \$50 to the project. All \$50 from the VIP cards goes back to Hillside. Amy Lam has the VIP Cards.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.