

Hales Corners Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

1. The meeting was called to order at 7PM. Those in attendance were David Dembny, Sue Doherty, Tracy Galewski, Laura Buelow, Cyndi Krall, Lorraine Ferris, Celine Kashishian, Jenni Poulin, Kristin Murphy, Ann Marie Minderman, Jodi Miles, Jenny Holcomb, Sue Ratkowski, Amy Ellison, Julia Perszyk Bry, Renee Balcerak, Rob Chase, Sue Gaydos, Janine LaMonte, Jon Richter, Sandy Brehl, Mark Misplon, Sarah Chapman, Lori Kommas, Lisa Reinet, Sandra Falk, Margaret Berge, David McDonald, Jana Knapp, Jenny Bradley Vent, JerriJo Cowman, Brad and Jessica Christensen, Tracy Hughes, Carol Metz, and Eileen Valaitis.
2. The September agenda was approved and seconded.
3. The May minutes were approved and seconded.
4. Grade 1 overview – The teachers gave an overview of their day which involves morning reading and writing and afternoon math, social studies and science. The reading program is new this year.
Grade 2 overview – The teachers talked about the new reading curriculum and how well things seem to be going. They pointed out how grade 2 curriculum collaborates with grade 1.
5. Principal's Report – Mrs. Kommas started out by welcoming all our new staff members and invited anyone interested to stop in on them to say hello. There is a new 3rd grade teacher, 4th grade teacher, 5th grade teacher, and 3 new aides. Mrs. Kommas explained that lunch is now served in the small gym with a new food service program. As the days pass the lunch routine seems to be shaping up. She also discussed the parking lot routines and how they are “still new” and adjustments are being made. She wants to assure all parents that if you drop your child off there is always supervision in the drop off area. Mrs. Kommas pointed out the newly organized area for all of our clip and save programs located to the left of the front entrance. Lastly, Mrs. Kommas will be having a Coffee With the Principal in October. Look for information in the next newsletter. This will be a good time to discuss any issues or questions with her.
6. AIR Report – Eileen Valaitis/ Mrs. Sandy Brehl: For those parents unaware of what Air is, it was explained as a program that is PTO supported which brings authors and artists programs into the school for the students. The kids love it. Our next author is Barbara Joesse on November 28th.
7. Carol Metz, PTO President's Report – Carol thanked all the meeting attendees for coming. Her focus was the new, updated PTO website which can be accessed through whitnall.com under the district schools link.
8. Treasurer's Report - The 2007/2008 budget was approved and seconded. A quick overview of the end of last year pointed out the PTO Gifts to HCE:
 - Smart Board
 - Publishing Center Dies
 - Bushes under Janesville Message Sign – Rob and Jerri Jo

Committees-

- Membership and Directory/ Staff and Volunteer Coordination –
Carol Metz & Stephanie Richter – The new directories are in the process of being composed. It was established that parents would like to continue having the students names listed in alpha order by grade level. Parents names will be added this year as will staff numbers and e-mail addresses. The PTO board and coordinators numbers will also be added. There was a vote to not include the PTO and district calendars this year. Some discussion was done involving having magnets with the district calendar made for next year.
- Curriculum based programs – Stephanie Richter & Eileen Valaitis
Stephanie will be in charge of kindergarten through 3rd grade and Eileen of grades 4 and 5. Programs will be presented for all grade levels throughout the year. Programs will be listed in the PTO newsletter.
- Reading program - Jerri Jo Cowman
HCE no longer qualifies for the RIF program. At this point we will be customizing a book distribution program. Some ideas include a once a year distribution, a scholastic coupon giving and a book swap. Jerri Jo is looking for committee members for this year and a new program chair for next school year.
- There is a Box Top contest in progress right now. It ends September 21st with class party prizes. Amy Newgard is in charge of the Clip and Save program.
- Eat and Earn Programs- Betsy Carpenter
Mc Donald's Nights Scheduled 9/12, 10/9, 12/11, 1/8, 3/11, 5/13

Culvers Days- Nov, Feb, Apr, and June - Dates to be determined

- Chuck E Cheese Night – This fundraiser has not been very successful. One complaint is that it always lands on a school night which is hard for many families to work into their schedule. Stone Fire Pizza was suggested or possibly additional Papa Murphy nights.
- Fall Fund Raiser Time Table – The fundraiser goal is \$12,000 profit this year. We exceeded that last year.
 - First flyer sent home 9/26
 - Packets sent home 10/3
 - Reminder letter sent home
 - Fundraiser Ends – All orders Due Oct 17
 - Pick Up Reminder flyer sent home
 - Pick UP – Nov 13
- Tailgate Tuesday - Rob Chase
September 25th is the first tailgate. These funds go to the PTO and grades 1 and 2 will provide baked items. There will be another tailgate in May. Those funds will go to the DARE program. Rob is still looking for volunteers to help with the hot dog and bake sale for this Tailgate Tuesday.
- School Pak report – Stephanie
Last year the school purchased 110 items. This year there will be an earlier sign up date to get more of a discount. The parents who purchased school supplies through this program were very satisfied.
- Room Parent Tea -10/3 – Mary Sager and Beth Strom
Anyone interested in being a room parent attends this meeting to plan classroom parties. Child care and baking volunteers are needed.
- Open House – Oct 2
 - Baking cookies – K5 and 3rd -
 - Volunteers needed for fundraising sample area and PTO booth
- Movie Night Friday 10/19 – Renee Balcerak
We will show “Surf’s Up” at 6:30PM in the HCE big gym. Volunteers are needed. The movie date for May has been scheduled for the 9th. There was a suggestion for drink carriers for movie night and Renee will contact Amy Bigalke who works for McDonalds to see if some are available.
- Spirit Wear – Eileen Valaitis
Eileen brought samples of sizes and the new falcon logo. Looks great! Parents and students can see the display case by the elevator for more samples. One parent suggested the hot pink writing be changed for next year and another suggested a lightly worn used spirit wear sale.
- * Boston Store Community Days Coupon Sale – Mrs. Komars
This program will run again this year. The shopping date is usually the first week of November. Mrs. Komars will send flyers when the date has been determined.
- Last Day Entertainment Possibilities-
Eileen had suggested a Wave soccer program but all in attendance agreed it seemed very confusing. We also agreed it is too soon to start planning for the end of the year entertainment.

The PTO would like to thank all who have volunteered and give special recognition to all who have volunteered to coordinate the many PTO events and projects for this year.

New Volunteers Coordinators this year-

Jana Knapp - Spaghetti Dinner

Renee Balcerak - Marcus Tickets (This will run early November so certificates can be used as gifts.)

Michelle Polacheck – Fundraiser

Theresa Russell and Joan Smasal -Teacher Appreciation luncheons

Kristin Brault -Volunteer lists

Programs – Stephanie Richter and Eileen Valaitis

Amy Newgard – GM Labels for Education

Vision & Hearing Screening – Renee Balcerak

Room Parent Tea- Mary Sager and Beth Strom

Kemp's Milk Caps- Janine LaMonte
Sunshine – Jodi Miles

Volunteer Coordinators still needed for:

- Ice Cream Social
- Shamrock and Roll
- Field Day Volunteer Coordinator
- Tyson – Jenni Poulin will over see his program
- WI Dells Program – Sandra Falk offered to coordinate this reading program
- There was a motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM which was seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Renee Balcerak