

HOUGHTON PTO GENERAL MEETING

February 9th, 2009

ATTENDEES:

Board: Nancy Kuemin – President, Kathy Baars – 1st VP, Katie Graves – Treasurer, Tammie Wotton – Secretary
Members: Shelly Baczkowski, Darcy Berwick, Jesse Stevenson, Michelle Socha, Sara Austin, Graig Austin, Heidi McClelland, Valerie VanHaaften, Kara Stemmer, Terry McNally, Sharon Walper

The meeting was convened at 6:35 p.m.

- I. Mrs. Pasola and Mrs. Girbach presented “Every Day Math” to the members and board. They described the method and delivery of the program and what parents could do to supplement the children’s in-school learning. They explained that the program is divided into six strands (numeration, operations and computation, data and chance, measurements, geometry and patterns and functions) which spiral throughout the curriculum from grades K through 6. They gave examples of how each of the strands is delivered in the classroom using games and tools and how these games can be continued in the home. There are four to five Every Day Math lessons taught each week.

The Board and attending members would like to thank Mrs. Pasola and Mrs. Girbach for their time and for giving us an insight into the math program our children are enjoying so much.

- II. Community:
 - A. Meal in a basket – it was agreed to post notification of this on the PTO website and include a link to the Meal-in-a-Basket site. [ACTION: LIZ/DARCY]
 - B. Principal’s Day – Nancy handed a gift certificate to Jesse in appreciation of all he does at and for the school and the children.
 - C. Community Assembly – Discussion about the launch of a “Say Yes to No” program initiated originally in Minnesota following the publication of the book “No – Why Kids of All Ages Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It” by David Walsh PhD. Details are being discussed by the DPC and will be passed to individual PTO/A’s in the near future. In the meantime, it was agreed that Houghton PTO could assist in the cost of holding a Saline-wide presentation to kick off discussion groups and further community participation in the program. The amount was left open pending confirmation of final costs.
- III. The minutes for the meeting held on January 12th, 2009 were reviewed with motion to accept proposed by Darcy and seconded by Katie; vote to accept was unanimous.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Katie confirmed that there is currently \$146 in checking and c. \$37,000 in the savings account. We discussed the clarification of the funds provided by the Fall Book Fair and the fact that we still need to show the income from the credit card payments. Katie asked Danielle to send her a breakdown of how this would work into the accounts. [ACTION: DANIELLE]

Katie advised that she will be away Feb 24th to March 9th and will transfer funds into the checking account and leave the check book with a Board Member in case of emergency. [ACTION: KATIE]

- V. Committee Reports on Past Events

- A. T-shirts. \$30 check to be paid back to parent who ordered incorrect size with no replacement now available - done. Suggestion to sell inventory t-shirts at Spring Book Fair.
- B. Candy Band – it was decided that we would not invite the Candy Band back in the foreseeable future. The event was very stimulating for the children and while they enjoyed it, better use could be made of the Assembly budget.

VI. Committee Events for Upcoming and Ongoing Events

- A. Dominos – Continues to be held twice a month with dates being confirmed in teacher newsletters.
- B. March newsletter – Information due to Liz no later than February 20th. [ACTION: NANCY, LIZ, DARCY]
- C. Zero the Hero – Scott Graden covering the morning but has to find sub for afternoon. Heidi would like to know time for am and pm so she can be there to take photos. [ACTION: HEIDI/JESSE]
- D. Bat Program – Check for \$825 raised and signed for Bat Program Organizer.
- E. Book Fairs
 - 1. Spring - Danielle to start process of identifying volunteers. Suggest 3 or 4 for set up and tear down (3pm – 4pm and 7pm to 8pm) and then three cash registers with two people per register to cover handling money and bagging. Note that volunteers will want to participate in the pancake supper so stagger them and allow time for them to eat. Need to get volunteer(s) to man a table for t-shirt sales also. [ACTION: DANIELLE]
With Katie being away during Spring Book Fair, check needed for petty cash. [ACTION: KATIE/DANIELLE]
 - 2. Fall – Jesse to speak to teachers at staff meeting to find out whether they want to use the \$1,000 credit sitting with Scholastic or whether we use the credit to purchase books for all the kids to take home on the Book Swap day. Another suggestion put forward was to transfer this to cash (presumably at the 30% transfer rate). [ACTION: NANCY/JESSE]
- F. Conference Dinner – Two volunteers so far to provide food. More required. Jennifer Fansler currently on vacation. [ACTION: NANCY]
- G. MIRM Assembly – Author needs to be paid and we need to confirm times for the three assemblies (two morning and one afternoon, 45 minutes per show). Jesse to speak to Kenny to figure out logistics of using cafeteria and setting up lunch. [ACTION: NANCY/JESSE]
- H. CHIP – Program moved to the week following, ie April 29th for training with Thursday April 30th, Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd for program itself. Need to firm up timing, implementation process, 3rd party volunteer help. Suggestion at this stage is 5 to 6 individuals for 15 minute intervals. Appointments required. Appointment sheet to be posted at school. Danielle offered to be contact for anyone unable to make it to school to pick an appointment time. Suggest having them provide three alternative dates/times in order of preference and we would do our best to accommodate. Must be clear that one appointment is for a single child and any siblings need a separate 15 minute appointments. [ACTION: TAMMIE/NANCY]

VII. Next Year

- A. Midland Fundraiser – agreed to sign for next year and verbal confirmation provided to Midland. Awaiting contract. [ACTION: KATIE]

- B. Fall Book Fair 2009 – Block last 2.5 weeks of November, to incorporate teacher conferences and Pow Wow. Jesse to check 2009/2010 calendar and advise if this needs to be changed asap. [ACTION: NANCY/JESSE]
- C. Holiday Gift Shop – Significantly reduce the budget for next year. This is not a fundraiser for PTO but more of a service to the kids.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Next Board Meeting will be March 9th at 6:30pm in the Houghton Media Room.

IX. Questions for Jesse – There were no questions for Jesse.

X. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.