

Draft

Harper PTO Meeting

November 16, 2011

President Michaela Shaw called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the September 14th PTO meeting were approved.

Principal's Report – Dr. Susan Kick

- Conferences went really well. Our school improvement plan will be presented at the December board meeting. It will be altered this year. It will be an elementary school improvement plan. We will focus on the same 4 areas and deliverables for school. Details will be online shortly. Our four areas are: C2 achievement areas including science and writing; social responsibility; 21st century learning; and technology and ways we are teaching students to be connected.
- We have a number of new students coming to Harper. We will be getting 8 students from now until January including a few kindergartners, a few 4th graders, a 1st grader today and another 1st grader soon and a 2nd grader soon.
- We have been really trying to teach kids social responsibility and service learning. We want to incorporate students to do more of this instead of parents doing it all. We want to help kids contribute. We are linking with an agency called Connections in Evanston. Connections is an agency in Evanston that supports the homeless. It has several programs which include day drop-in, lunch, shower and clean clothes. There are also 2 units with beds and they also have a unit for families. Check out the web site for more details. These are all north shore families. We are looking to receive feedback from the Connections recipients to show kids how grateful they are. The website for Connections is www.cfthinc.org. We have begun with the candy drive and toiletry drive. Students sorted this year and will bag items and write notes to put in the bags too. For the Thanksgiving drive we are keeping it simple to teach kids. The collection is now in the classroom. The bins are in the classrooms so each child brings in one item to their class. Already the kids are looking each day to see what has been brought in and are excited about this. Friday all items are due for Thanksgiving. Each class is writing a note to the family. Also through Connections, we may have a family assigned per classroom throughout the year. We are still working on details of the family component. The Giving Village will continue the "Acts of Kindness" theme. We want children to understand the difference of sharing and giving. In December we will ask for hats, mittens and scarves. More information is coming. We are still working on pieces to do CTA passes which will allow the homeless to get to job interviews. In December, a video filmed at Connections will be shown to children. This will be an overview of what Connections is. Teachers will explain and take kids back to class to work on an activity. More details to come.

Faculty Report – Sharron Murray

- Conferences were great. It was an enjoyable time to learn about the children. On Veterans Day the children said the pledge together. Each child had a flag they put on the fence. Some read books or had visitors come in. It was a beautiful day. In the past, we have adopted a platoon. This is important to continue. We are sending to Dr. Kick's son's platoon. We will donate small items per month will donate. Children also wrote letters to soldiers and some pictures were sent. Collections will be done by classroom so keep an eye out for that.

President's Report – Michaela Shaw

- Motion for bylaws to be approved. Terri Lorenz made a motion and it was seconded by Susan Locke.
- Registration for next year needs to be done by August. If you don't, you will not be assigned a teacher. You don't have to pay fees, but you need to register. This is district wide. Registration begins in March. This is very important to determine class sizes. In addition, when we get assignments we will not receive class lists. We will get an email stating the student name and the teacher assigned. The Directory is out without class lists or teacher name by students. Next year we are exploring ideas to create class list such as parents having to opt in to be included in a class list.
- Village Wide is looking for a VP of Enrichment

Treasurer's Report – Cliff Ruemmler

- Nothing to report.

Communications' Report – Susan Parker

- Harper continues to be paperless unless there is an emergency. Please read the Harper Happenings. It is posted on the web site. The web site also has committee information and PTO information. If you have an announcement, please send it by 9am on Mondays. Also, the Harper Terms translator is a dictionary of buzz words. It defines these words. It's on the web site. Please check it out, especially if you are new to the school. We are also waiting on committee chairs to include information for our web site. Ours is slight on information compared to the other Wilmette schools. If you are a committee chair, please send information to Susan by the December 1st deadline.

Room Parents' Report – Sally McQueen and Melissa Murray

- Nothing to report.

Enrichment – Susan Locke and Senta Plunkett

- The 3rd graders will have a tour of Wilmette on Monday. Kindergarteners are going to the Grove soon. In February, the Piven theatre is coming in for theatre workshop for all classes.

Ways and Means – Shelley Shelly and Jennifer Beacom

- Only 25 families are participating. Participation is really low. December 1st is the next deadline. Just go to the Grocery Dollars website. Grocery dollars will be distributed by December 12th. Please consider this as it is a very easy way to make money for Harper.

Committee Reports:

ATG - Kristyn Gibson

- Kristyn thanked everyone who has given to ATG. The class competition was finished last week. The Kindergarten class won – almost 70% for Kindergarten. Total school participation is at 60%. The goal is 100%. Another push will take place in February. This will be the final push. The funds collected in ATG are for all enrichment activities, teachers appreciation and field trips. Our goal is based on per student expense.
- Someone suggested a grocery dollar give away incentive. We will discuss this in January. A discussion took place on ATG. An incentive idea was suggested. Kristin explained how and why ATG began. The Harper Benefit generated about 30% participation in years past. ATG last year had 70% participation. The bigger issue was that the benefit and bazaar took a tremendous amount of volunteer time. The ATG alleviates all the volunteer hours. Please support it!

FAN - Ann Garrison

- There is a presentation tomorrow night with Dr. Ginsberg at 6:30 pm at the New Trier Freshman campus.

Civics and Safety - Robin Hungler

- Volunteers are still needed for civic and safety.

Community Review Committee – Kristen Novelline

- CRC plan developed each year. The plan is presented to the district and the district adopts a plan each year. You can check it out on line. Connections is our plan. Our goal is to bring service into the classrooms.

After School Programs - Karen Levin

- The deadline for ASP is Friday.

Speaker Officer Julie Parisi made a presentation on Internet Safety.

President Michaela Shaw adjourned the PTO meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shelley Shelly and Danielle Ruben