

Draft

Harper PTO Meeting

November 17, 2010

President Anne Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 9:14am.

The minutes from the September 15<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting were approved.

#### **Principal's Report – Dr. Susan Kick**

- Parent-teacher conferences went well. The on-line system worked perfectly.
- Teachers are in full groove with the second step program. They are figuring out a time for parents to see the clips. Parents have been using some of the tools from the program at home.
- An e-mail was sent out about \_\_\_\_\_, a program to celebrate the diversity within the school. They have received about 12 responses. They will move forward with the program and set a date. They are thinking sometime in February from 3:15pm to 5:00pm in the cafeteria on a date that least interferes with the After School Programs. Parents will walk through the program with their children. There will be booths with different foods and costumes.

#### **Faculty Report – Kristin Brown**

- Since the last meeting, the third grade went to the Wilmette Historical Museum and the fourth grade went to the Shedd Aquarium. Kindergarten, first and second grade have their field trips coming up.
- Kristin presented the PTO with a donation of \$580 from the Harper teachers and staff.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Anne Fitzpatrick for Cliff Reummler**

- The books are balanced and there is money in the bank.

#### **President's Report – Anne Fitzpatrick**

- **Evening PTO Meeting** - Our annual evening PTO meeting is scheduled for January 26th at 6:30 pm. Dr. Lechner will speak about the budget. This is timely because of the referendum. Childcare will be provided.
- **Book Fair** – The book fair is going on right now. It is being held in Room 7, an unused classroom, to minimize disruptions in the library. There is an optional "One for Books" donation that allows parents to donate \$1 towards books for our sister school Andrew Cooke.
- **Environmental Week** - Environmental Week was held November 1<sup>st</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "reuse". Throughout the week, the committee collected coats, shoes, art supplies, costumes and books. They donated 139 shoes to Soles4Souls; 43 coats to the Jewel-Osco/Chicago Bears Coat Drive; almost 400 books to our sister school Andrew Cooke Magnet Elementary School in Waukegan; 25 costumes to the Salvation Army and 4 boxes of art supplies to the Robert R. McCormick Chapter of the Chicago Boys and Girls Clubs. Thanks to Ann

Garrison for delivering the books to our sister school. For the book donations, the children completed a “review “of the book and taped it inside.

- **Directories and Membership** – Directories were delivered on schedule. With the exception of a few cases, all went smoothly. As far as membership, we’ve had 240 parents join the PTO, with a few new members trickling in. This is a great level of participation.
- **Fundraising** - Advance to go has raised a total of \$35,075. This reflects donations for 280 students which is 69 percent of the Harper student body. This exceeds the committee’s goal. They did an amazing job in eight weeks. In spring there will be a party instead of a fundraiser to celebrate everyone’s contributions. Second grade won the participation contest with 74 percent participation. Donations are still welcome. Grocery Dollars has continued to grow. In two months they have gone from 26 to 70 participating families. Also, especially with the holidays coming up, just a reminder that you can use your Grocery Dollar gift cards to purchase gift cards at the Dominick and Jewel kiosks.
- **FAN Presentation** – FAN has a speaker tonight at New Trier. Barbara Fredrickson will be giving a discussion entitled, “Positivity: What Good Is It To Feel Good?” The presentation will explore how positive emotions work and what you can do to enhance your “positivity ration”. There will also be a woman from Wilmette leading free mediations. More information can be found on the website FAN –NTTS.ORG.
- **CSC** – CSC has scheduled the Kids Care Fair for Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. If anyone wants more information or would like to volunteer, they can get in touch with Maureen Kebo. Committee Presenters

#### **After School Programs - Alexis Pesquin and Sara Yorke**

- Registration for After School Programs is this week. They are offering 23 classes. There has been an excellent turn out. Some classes are already full. Some classes have low registration such as yoga, French, Spanish, cooking and rhythmic dancing. Registration is closing on Friday. The programs are immediately after school for one hour. E-mails will be sent out if your child is enrolled in the class, wait listed or if the class is cancelled due to low enrollment. If there are too many children for a class, they may do a lottery. Low enrollment on Mondays may be due to children having other commitments such as Brownies or soccer.

#### **Harper Hoedown - Kirsten Engel**

- The Hoedown went well. This year they did not have food donations because contact’s child graduated Harper. They were still able to yield a profit of \$1,100. The committee is open to feedback. The pie eating contest was a big success.

#### **D39 Foundation – Anne West**

- Anne West is on the Board of the District 39 Foundation, an independent, non- profit organization that grants funds for projects that enrich and expand opportunities for District 39 students and teachers. They try to fund innovative projects for the district. Such projects have

included a math initiative to get children excited about math by bringing in people who use math in their jobs such as pilots and architects.

- The District 39 Foundation offers Gripp Grants to principals, teachers and parents to fund a specific initiative or technology. For example, last year they funded the Science Exploratorium at Harper. They were also the original funders of the Harper garden and gardens at other schools. This year, the Gripp Grant will fund such projects as iPads for Connected Learning to enable special education students to access the curriculum through interactive tools. The next deadline for a Gripp Grant is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications are on the District 39 Foundation website.
- The District 39 Foundation raises money from individuals, companies and organizations. They will be sending out a letter in December asking for \$39 for District 39.

#### **Communications - Susan Parker**

- They are still trying to find the best way to get the Harper Happenings out to everyone. They recently introduced the link system. They will try to incorporate more links rather than attachments.

#### **Enrichment – Susan Locke**

- Recent enrichment presentations have included the Power of One which is skits on anti-bullying and Jane O’Conner the author of the Fancy Nancy books.

January 26<sup>th</sup> is the next PTO meeting regarding finances.

President Anne Fitzpatrick adjourned the PTO meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Danielle Ruben