

Howe PTA
September Meeting Minutes
September 16th 7:00 PM

Call to order: 7:04 PM

Approval of Minutes: June minutes approved

Treasurer's Report

Ending balance is as follows:

- As of 7/31/15 is \$14,105.64
- As of 8/31/15 is \$15,709.76

Review of the PTA budget:

- Friends of the Library budget was revised from \$1,200 to \$1,500
- PSSA snacks were eliminated from the budget
- Directory Printing moves back into the general budget
- Calendars are now funded by district
- Nikki requested people fill out yellow form to request funds; green forms are for deposits.
- Nikki has new sales exempt form
- If the \$150 yearbook budget is not utilized; it is rolled over to next year

Audit from Treasurer:

- All records in order; everything was reconciled
- A \$2.94 error was discovered and corrected

Approval of the 2015/2016 Budget – Joyce Devine motions, Amy Froelich seconds.

Correspondence:

Exec Board/Principal's Report from Dr. Murray:

- Howe will commemorate former teacher Dee Walker by creating an artistic mural in the building.
- Individual PSSA student reports will go out 9/22.
- Mt. Lebo did well overall, but there will be more rigorous testing in the future. Scores were 34% lower statewide.

- As part of the district's Wellness policy, snacks are no longer permitted at parties, due to dietary restrictions and allergies.
- Nikki read guidelines from the district regarding district snack policies. Volunteers will still be needed for the crafts and games.
- The policy was unanimously voted on and approved.
- Additional crossing guard requested at Catalpa and Sunset. A Crystal resident requested the intersection of Crystal and Gypsy be considered a school zone.
- The Josh & Gabb Anti-Bullying Assembly was a big hit! The kids loved it.

Teacher Representative:

Committee Reports:

Nikki Bovino, PTA Membership

- 200 PTA members to date
- Printed copies will be distributed at the end of month
- Next year, an electronic format will be used for the directory

Heather Baker/Jen Larence, Hospitality: First day coffee was a success.

Joyce Devine, Odyssey of the Mind:

- Involves creative problem solving teamwork
- Teams form between now and mid Oct.
- Parents are to be coaches, but don't do the work for them
- Starts mid Nov., competition is March 12th in Moon Township

Joyce Devine, Lunch clubs:

- Over 200 kids signed up last year for lunch clubs
- Starts in November
- Takes place for 30 min. during lunch recess
- Sign up genius is used to register students

4th/5th Spelling Bees:

- This is the chair's last year
- Mrs. Beebe will replace Mrs. Circone as the announcer
- 4th and 5th grade students who win move on to the district spelling bee

Reflections, Heather Chew:

- Any child can participate; with a dance, song, or photography
- The topic this year is Let Your Imagination Fly
- Heather will post more information soon

Yearbook, Amy Froelich:

- More pictures are needed for this year's yearbook
- There is a new app where parents can send pictures from their phone to an email address
- Cell phone and ipad pics now accepted
- Amy suggested a grade level photographer to come to parties and take pics

5th Grade Committee, Mitchell Blasingame, (not in attendance):

- There was a surplus from last year, so committee is donating \$500 back to school projects
- They are also rolling over \$500 to the 5th grade activities budget
- Parents can opt out of fundraising by donating \$25.00

Readathon: Carla Clipper and Jen Larence

- Readathon is Oct. 9 – 19th
- HR coordinators will send out request to parents for volunteers to count tickets
- Better medals will be handed out
- There were 70 medals left over from last year if anyone has a use for them.

Sunny Funny Fair, Alison Schlesinger:

- All the food is already donated. There are some new games this year geared towards older kids.
- Mr. K cannot do the jail this year. Nora Lauth's dad (Chief of Police) is a possible candidate.
- Cake Walk chair needed. Looking for a volunteer to accept cakes in teacher's lounge on Friday, Sept. 25th.
- Volunteers needed for the SFF. Company can get their logo displayed on an 8.5 x 11 plaque if they donate food/beverages.
- Dr. Murray didn't think it was a good idea to move the games to the front of the school.
- A parent requested an Indian Princess table. Nikki will review the bylaws to see if this is allowed. It was suggested to make it a game instead of a table.

New Business:

Environmental consultant Jonathan Ferrell, from Civil & Environmental Consultants, presented the Woodland Educational Panel Proposal.

- He is proposing to decorate the empty stanchions on the wooden path near the amphitheater. It would be an interactive nature walk for the kids.
- Needs fundraising help and feedback. This project offers opportunities for science teachers to use the panels as instructional tools.
- The cost would be \$2,000 for all 4 panels. Jonathan requested people go to lithographics companies requesting panel donations.
- Julie Gaetano suggested looking into possible grants.

Announcements:

- Fingerprint event: Oct. 16th from 3- 5pm at Howe. On Sept, 27th, sign up genius is open for registration.
- Go to sign up genius first, then go online to pay.
- Casual Volunteer Affirmation will be at SFF, stating you are only there to help with the SFF.
- HR coordinators will send out an email regarding clearances.
- Parents who have direct contact with children will need the 151 Child Abuse Clearance, the 33 Criminal Background Check and the Act 34 FBI Fingerprinting.
- Mrs. Owens – Koysh does not need original clearances; just copies.
- Grandparents also can get their clearances to volunteer.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:27 PM