

October 18, 2007

HBHS PTSA Minutes

Attendance: Marsha Cone-Roddy, Kristen Berry, Lex Bundschuh, Trish MacDonald, Jill Russell, Erin Magee, Tim Kelley, Donna Cormier, Bonnie Frisard, Linda Falcone, Diane Barrett, Janet Listowich, Marie Degulis, Anita Moynihan, Karen Dintino, Debi Davis, Lisa Schmalz, Dianne Bonta, Merle Carrus, Cathy Lovas, Betsy Cotton, Dot Hyde

Minutes of September 20, 2007

Janet Listowich made a motion to accept the minutes. Betsy Cotton seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

An informal summary of garden expenses was presented. A request was made that last names be included on such lists in the future. Last names will be included in formal treasurer's reports.

See attached for expenditures and balances of accounts.

Mr. Kelley's Principal Report

Discussion has begun on next year's school budget. The school population is over 900. Space issues in the school are critical. The cafeteria is overcrowded. Students are eating "in the halls." When the weather gets cooler, the overcrowding will get worse as students who are eating outside will be moving indoors. Some teachers do not have classrooms and are teaching from carts. There is the possibility of losing quality teachers if this issue is not addressed. All classrooms are used for most periods of each day. There will be a proposal put forward at the district meeting to address these space issues. A query was made about keeping the monies under \$1 million dollars to avoid bonding issues and the 2/3 majority vote. The suggestion was raised of making a video to demonstrate to the public the overcrowding issues in the school. This would be a student-led project if the idea is pursued. The possibility of raising private funds to help with an addition was brought up. The concern was that this might conflict with other projects underway (Smart Boards, for example) that might also be tapping the community for fundraising.

A question was raised about the MRSA bacteria that has been in the news lately. What precautions is the school taking? The discussion included cleaning football equipment, washing hands, cleaning equipment used by multiple students, and cleaning the weight room. There have been no reports of MRSA in the school to date.

There was a brief discussion about the dumpsters outside the cafeteria, but there is no other place right now to put the dumpsters. They need to be by the cafeteria.

The teacher's workshop day has been changed from October 31 to November 1 to coincide with the workshop days at other district schools.

There will be parent conferences available on the Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Please sign up with your students' teachers.

Staff Appreciation

There will be a luncheon for teachers on Thursday, November 15, from 10-1. The PTSA will provide soups, salads, appetizers, breads, desserts, cider, and water. Please let Lisa Schmalz or Kristen Berry know if you would like to donate food for the luncheon or if you are available to help out with set up, serving, or clean up.

There will be a decadent dessert day on Valentine's Day and another luncheon in the spring.

Book Club

The first meeting of the Book Club was very successful. The next meeting will be on November 15 at 3:15 in the library. The book to be discussed at that meeting is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Please come. Books by Jodi Picoult will be discussed at the December meeting.

Peace Pole

Cathy Lovas brought in an example of a Peace Pole. This project (putting up a peace pole) has done by the Nashua High Schools. Would the PTSA like to be involved in organizing an HBHS community project to put up a Peace Pole at the school? This project would involve getting wood for the pole, making the pole (choosing languages; translating), and putting it in the ground in the garden. Trish MacDonald will follow through by finding out more information. She will explore the possibility of student groups (Interact, NHS, Friends of Rachel, Amnesty International) becoming involved. She will be in touch with Mrs. Hilliard, who was involved in the Peace Pole in Nashua. You can see the Nashua North Peace Pole on their website. See attached for more information about the Peace Pole.

Other Business

- Betsy Cotton asked about using volunteers from the PTSA for future apple and strawberry festivals sponsored by the Women's Club.
- Barbara Boucher is looking for afterschool volunteers in the library.
- Mrs. Southwick would like volunteers to make cookies for the school store.
- The SAU is making a district-wide policy for school volunteers. In the meantime, at HBHS, volunteers who are working with students under the supervision of a teacher do not need to have a criminal check. Volunteers who are not supervised by teachers when they are with students should have a criminal check. For more information about getting the check, go to the SAU office. You can pick up a form and more information there.
- Donna Cormier has directories. People who were at the last meeting can pick their directories up after the meeting.

The next meeting of the HBHS PTSA will be on November 15 at 8:30 am. The location will be posted in the office. Please come. The December meeting will be an evening meeting at Trish MacDonald's house. Meeting times (morning, evening, or alternating mornings and evenings) will be discussed at the December meeting. If you cannot make the meeting but have a preference about the times of future meetings, please let one of the officers or other PTSA members know your preference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha Cone-Roddy