

Horace Mann Elementary School PTO

Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2014; 6:30pm

Media Center

Meeting Attendees:

Gretchen Kenagy

Lisa Kirk

Sara Yount

Nicole Cahill

Doug Rainey

Heather Smedstad

Beth Siegel

Cheryl Sullivan

Cheryl Hover

Jenny Ruland

Val Desiderio

Melissa Watters

Jen Harden-Finn

Wendy Barrett

1) Welcome and Introductions:

A. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. A motion to approve the February 5th meeting minutes was proposed and seconded. The February 5th meeting minutes were approved by a voice vote, without opposition.

B. The February 5th meeting minutes will be posted to the PTO website.

3) Principal's Report:

A. No report.

4) Student Support Specialist's Report:

A. Staff members and parents have developed a new family/welcome brochure. It will be a good reference for families who are new to Mann School.

B. PARCC testing begins March 9th. The testing sessions for each section tend to be longer than with ISAT testing. 3rd -5th graders will each take three language arts and two math tests. The test will be administered via paper and pencil in District 97, this round, due to technical issues on the end of the testing company. It is fully expected that the test will be administered via computer, in future years. As students in grades three through five will be taking the PARCC tests twice per year, they will no longer take the spring MAP tests. Second graders will continue to take the MAP tests. COGAT tests will be given to 2nd graders and 5th graders, as well.

C. School wide, the Pasta for Pennies challenge raised almost \$9,000.00 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Mrs. Pecora's 1st graders won the friendly competition among the classes.

5) Presidents' Report:

A. Thank you to Gretchen Kenagy, Lisa Lazarra, and all parents for planning and donating to the teachers' conference-day luncheon.

B. The Spelling Bee went well. All grades had a good turn out.

C. Girls' Choice was the 'best' according to many of the girls in attendance. The mechanical bull ride was a huge hit!

D. The Mann School Block Party will be held on Saturday, March 14th. Volunteers are needed.

E. The Mann School PTO makes an annual donation to support the work of the OPEF. This year, an additional donation will be made to the OPEF in honor of the work Peter Traczyk did on behalf of the children in District 97.

F. Nominations for the 2015-2016 PTO board are needed. There will be many returning board members, however a few positions remain open, including both treasurer positions.

G. The PTO Council met at Mann School last month. The PTO Council is hosting a school board candidate forum next week at Brooks Middle School. A majority of the candidates will be in attendance. The PTO Council also discussed a district program called, Research for Better

Teaching. It is a program for teachers and staff based on a book called, “Mindset” by Carol Dweck. Often after attending the training, teachers and staff share tips and ideas with their peers. We would like to invite Mann parents and teachers who have attended the RBT to speak at the next PTO meeting. It would be nice to share this information more widely.

6) Treasurers’ Report:

- A. The Oktoberfest numbers are close to being final. Two “sign-up” parties remain; additional revenue is expected, as extra guests are likely to participate. The event has met budgeted goals.
- B. MannPower numbers fluctuate until the end of the year when the final expenses are paid. However, the program is on-target to meet budgeted goals.

7) Programs Report:

- A. MannPower session III registration starts on Sunday, March 8th. Every family needs to update their child’s teacher information prior to registering. An email reminder to this effect will be sent prior to the opening of the registration.
- B. In-school assemblies have been completed for this year.

8) Volunteer Coordination Report:

- A. Volunteers continue to be needed for the warming center.

9) Fundraising Report:

- A. The fall fundraiser/auction (formerly called Oktoberfest) will be November 14, 2015 at The Wire. The event was pushed back to allow more time for planning and to not overlap with other community auctions that take place annually in October.

10) Community Relations/Special Events Report:

- A. Planning for the fifth grade transition ceremony continues. Anne Delmelle took pictures of all fifth graders. Beth Siegel will take a group photo in the spring. The programs, certificates, and slide show are being organized. Ellen Maliff is coordinating the 5th grade gift. The class plans to add to last year’s class gift of large decals to spruce up the gymnasium walls.

11) Green Initiative:

- A. April 22nd is earth day. The Adler Planetarium will send a couple of representatives to do a school-wide presentation.

12) Other Business:

12) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Minutes prepared by Sara Yount