

# Highcrest Middle School PTO

## General Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2006

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the November 1, 2006 meeting were approved.

### Video Presentation: "Monday Broadcast" - Debby Atwater

Debby Atwater, the moderator for the Broadcast Club, showed the October 10, 2006 edition. Students see this weekly video in their homerooms on the first school day of each week. The Tuesday and Thursday Broadcast Clubs tape special segments that are included in the broadcasts.

### President's Report - Jenny Frentzel

Parent Party - Thanks to Barb Shields, Maria Secaras, and Allison Bischoff for putting on a successful and fun event.

Variety Show - The show has a new date - Friday, March 16, 2007 - and Margaret Sinn Pong is currently putting a team of parents together to help run the show.

Family Fun Event - This will be held on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007 at the Wilmette Junior High. The event is a "Battle of the Bands" (bands comprised of parents of Highcrest and elementary school kids).

Village-Wide PTO Nominating Committee - Two parents are needed to volunteer for this committee, which will select officer candidates. If you are interested in a position on the Village-Wide PTO, please let Jenny or Maggie know.

Highcrest PTO Nominating Committee and Board Positions - If you are interested in sitting on the nominating committee, or are interested in a 2007-2008 board position, please let Jenny or Maggie know. All current board members and committee chairs are asked to maintain good notes regarding the responsibilities of each position in order to pass this information on to your successors.

Directory - These were delivered to the classrooms last Wednesday, November 29. Some homeroom teachers may have elected to send the directory home in the Friday folder. Many thanks go out to Cecilia Clarke who worked very hard to compile the information given to her by the district. The district is looking closely at the problems that caused the delays this year, in order to help alleviate them next year.

### **Civics and Safety - Paul Berquist**

Paul updated us on what was happening from a safety perspective at the school, in the district and in the village:

\* Auto-Defibrillators: District 39 has ordered auto-defibrillators for every school, including Highcrest. These systems will have pads sized for both adults and children. The district will train certain individuals in each school on how to use the machines.

\* Construction Ordinance: The Village of Wilmette has passed an ordinance that limits the times that construction crews can do work near schools; work is prevented during the half hour before school begins and after school lets out. This will help to ensure safe passage along the designated walking paths to/from schools.

\* Traffic Flow Study: The district is looking at the traffic flow pattern at Highcrest - they are hoping to improve the pickup and drop-off areas and increase parking.

### **Environmental Awareness - Tina Rice and Nina McCune**

Tina and Nina gave an extensive presentation on why it is important to reduce, reuse, recycle and respect our earth. They gave suggestions on how to reduce our energy usage and showed examples of what types of items can be recycled in Wilmette.

They are kicking off an initiative in school, which will help educate the students and will encourage the kids to pass the information to their parents. Kids will get weekly tips during the Monday broadcasts and parents will get weekly recycling information in the Hawk. In the upcoming months, Highcrest will collect gym shoes, cell phones and printer ink cartridges for recycling - watch the Hawk and Headlines for more information.

They also passed around a petition which requests the Village of Wilmette to set up a commission that will advise residents and our local government officials on environmental issues. Therese Heyek and Beth Drucker are sponsors of this petition.

### **Teacher's Report -- Hilary Harvey**

Highlights include:

\*many classes, as well as the Student Council, are doing service projects during the next few weeks (i.e. collecting winter clothing, books, duffel bags/suitcases and items for Toys for Tots). Watch

for fliers and the Hawk for info.

\*German classes are making St. Martin lanterns and learning about St. Nicholas Day

\*French classes are celebrating the seasons as well as St. Nicholas Day

\*Music Dept. is holding a number of concerts (at the Regina Dominican High School Auditorium):

12/11 at 7:30pm – 5<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra

12/12 at 7:30pm – 6<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra

12/19 at 7:30pm – 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> chorus

\*P.E. will be sending home permission slips for the skating segment (these are also on the PTO website)

### **Principal's Report – Dr. Cathy Rosen**

Highcrest was recently awarded the 2006 Eisenhower Distinguished School Award. This was given to us by People to People, a federally-funded group that encourages youth leadership. We were one of 14 schools (out of approximately 100) to receive the award, mainly because of our how involved our teachers are in nominating students for the leadership programs. Five teachers were specifically mentioned for their effort.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legislation – Lori Goldstein**

A committee has been established to review the current bylaws and improve them if necessary. Anyone can give their comments and suggestions to Lori regarding the bylaws – please do so by January 10, 2007.

**Minutes submitted by Kathy Freedman**