

Highcrest Middle School PTO

General Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2006

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

Teacher's Reports

Highlights from Katie Fox include:

- * Ms. Davis, Ms. Flanagan, Ms. Einum and Ms. Straub's Winter Clothing Drive was successful - thanks for the donations
- * General music classes are having their recitals on Jan. 18 during the children's regular class time - parents are welcome
- * General drama classes are having their recitals on Jan. 18 also, during the children's regular class time - parents are welcome
- * Frau Polley sends thanks to the PTO for sponsoring the German classes' recent field trip to the Christkindlmarkt. Extra money left over will be used to fund events surrounding Carnival
- * French classes enjoyed their holiday celebrations and are now working on time concepts (5th) and verbs (6th)

Highlights from Hilary Harvey include:

- * 6th grade Science Expo is coming soon - watch for information in the backpacks
- * Dr. Penny Frese, Ph.D. will be speaking to parents on Wed. Jan 17 in the cafeteria on childhood and adolescent mental health issues

Special Presentations - LMC and Technology

Elizabeth Kaiser - Library Media Specialist

Liz explained that her work in support of the classrooms is very much project-based. She provides the students with print and online materials and resources that they use to complete classroom projects.

She suggested that students use the Highcrest LMC Website (www.wilmette39.org/highcrest/lmc) as a good starting point for research, since she has screened these sites for appropriateness. Highcrest pays for online subscriptions to certain sites (news banks, encyclopedias, etc.) and some of these require a login ID, which you can get by emailing Liz at kaisere@wilmette39.org.

Debby Atwater - Technology Department Head

Debby discussed what types of technological resources (both hardware and software) are available to the students and teachers. There are a wealth of software applications (i.e. iMovie, PowerPoint, Keynote, Garage Band) available to the kids both in the lab and on the mobile laptop carts. The technology department works in conjunction with the LMC to support the students in many of their projects (i.e. the explorer unit, the colonial job fair, the 6th grade science expo and the artist dioramas). Highcrest is set up for wireless computing, so the mobile PC carts are able to be used anywhere in the building.

Principal's Report - Dr. Cathy Rosen

ISAT results have not yet arrived, but the IOWA test results should be coming in next week. These will be sent to the homes via mail on Friday, Jan. 19 so expect them in your mailboxes a few days after that. Remember that this is just a "snapshot" of your child's progress at one moment in time.

4th grade Foreign Language Night is scheduled for either Jan. 30 or 31 from 7-8pm.

Highcrest is getting attention for work in bridging the gender-based learning gap. Michael Gurian (who has written books regarding gender-based learning issues) has been holding workshops with the Highcrest teachers.

President's Report - Maggie Belliel

Highcrest Nominating Committee - Two volunteers are needed to sit on this committee.

Village-Wide PTO Nominating Committee - We also need 2 volunteers to participate in this committee. There will be one meeting at the end of January, and then the rest of the work will be done via email.

Rock for Reading - This K-8 program is being sponsored by the district on Friday, January 19, but the funds that Highcrest raises will go to our sister school in Waukegan, Greenwood Elementary School. There will be a variety of reading activities throughout the school day and the children can get sponsors for the number of pages they read. In addition to gaining sponsors, each child can donate one of his/her favorite books and they can write a personal note inside. Donations can be made online (although these funds will go to an inner city school, not our sister school) or by writing a check to Highcrest.

Yearbook – If you haven't done so yet, please place your orders with Tara Kochman soon.

Kids are Key Campaign – The campaign has ended and was a huge success – over \$28,000 was donated to support the PTO enrichment activities.

Family Fun Event – This 1st annual community building event, being held on Feb. 25th, will be a Battle of the Bands which the whole family can attend. The idea is to mimic a “Ravinia” setting, but in the Junior High auditorium. The ticket order form will be coming home in the backpacks soon.

Career Day– Parent volunteers may be needed to help with this on Friday, Jan. 26. Contact Meg Madvig if interested.

February 7th PTO Meeting – This will be held at 7:00pm to accommodate schedules of parents who cannot attend during the day.

Committee Reports

Cafeteria – Sharon Darcy

Sharon needs cafeteria workers to fill slots on Fridays in February, Mondays in April and Wednesdays in May. Please contact her if interested.

Legislation – Lori Goldstein

A committee has been established to review the current bylaws. All board members should review their job descriptions to see if any changes need to be made.

Chris Wiedrich - Hospitality

Chris needs baked goods for a Valentines Day treat for the teachers. Room parents will send a request for 1 parent per homeroom to bake. She will need to collect the baked goods on Monday, Feb. 12.

Tina Rice - Environmental Awareness

The front lobby bulletin board will now be used for environmental awareness information. The committee is considering create a website to showcase kid-produced media (i.e. iMovie's or podcasts) that have to do with environmental issues. The committee is also looking to get “No Idling” signs to place outside near the car-waiting areas.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Freedman