

Highcrest Middle School PTO
General Board Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2007

Maggie Belliel, PTO Co-President, called the meeting to order at 9:15am

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 2, 2007 meeting were approved.

Principal's Report - Margaret Clausen, Interim Principal

Margaret gave a brief welcome to all and introduced Heather Glowacki, Assistant Principal and Elizabeth Brown, Assistant Principal. She was very pleased with the Meet and Greet turnout. The event was well attended and a good start to the new year in spite of the parking challenges, the impact of huge local storm and recent emergency electrical outage.

The new lunch payment program is the biggest change starting off this year requiring some adjustments. Pin pads will be immediately replacing the thumb print payment procedure. Payments will be possible online shortly, until then, checks are required. The new online system will allow parents to see what his/her child is purchasing on a regular basis. A photo of each child will appear as he/she enters a code into electronic pad. Cash sales will no longer be an option.

Teacher/conference sign-ups will institute a new change requiring the use of an online system. Access to this process will begin the week of 10/22. Please call the school office if families have no online access.

In light of the prior day's storm/emergency repair power outage impacting the area and delay in the start of the Highcrest school day, it was reiterated that the district has an extensive crisis plan with pending weather issues. Communication is vital during these rare instances when utilization of district wide phone messaging takes place. This is an issue if homes have lost electricity/phone access.

Students attended a code of conduct meeting during a recent recess outlining expected behaviors which include being responsible, tolerant, respectful and using appropriate behavior. This code is being reinforced in homeroom advisory.

Please do not use the school directory for any personal use or solicitation. The directory is a resource encouraging person to person contact and not mass emails.

It was noted that the drop-off and pick-up procedures are under investigation. Attendees agreed with Margaret in that the procedures need to be clarified and redistributed in the next several weeks. This is a high priority and part of everyone's safety during high traffic periods.

Curriculum night will be held on September 19th for 5th grade parents and September 24th for 6th grade parents.

Teacher's Report: Hilary Harvey, 5th grade social worker, introduced herself and thanked the PTO for the constant support that the Highcrest parents give the faculty and staff.

Debbie Atwater, Technical dept head, discussed the weekly Monday Broadcast which is telecast via closed circuit to every homeroom. This is possible due to the PTO funded Highcrest TV studio now 2 years old. Every week a homeroom will feature anchors with current events, stories, headlines and interactive quizzes. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn presentation skills. Special thanks to Greg Noreen of Optimus, who has helped with the overall production and with the future parental access on the PTO website. Once finalized, password protection will be required for safety issues.

President's Report: Maggie Belliel reported that for the 07/08 school year the PTO will have a total of 4 general meetings taking place quarterly instead of instead of monthly.

During the next general meeting on Nov. 7th, the PTO "Super" meeting at 7:15 pm will have reps from the district as well as the interim superintendent.

The Highcrest Hawk will be issued only 4x times this year (instead of monthly).

Each release will be in concert with the quarterly PTO meetings.

Weekly headlines/week at a glance will be sent to all families every Friday morning from Margaret Clausen and will also be posted on the internet.

Prior to each PTO meeting, an agenda, copy of the minutes for prior meeting and budget details will go out.

Committee Reports-

Treasurer: Rachel Lee, Assistant Treasurer, noted that there are only 3 fundraisers: PTO Membership enrollment, kidsarekey campaign and gift-wrap sales. All contributions go directly to enrichment.

Monies collected for Birthday books and Book fairs go directly to Library resource Center.

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Ways and Means: Barb Shields and Alison Bishoff noted that the 3rd annual PTO kidsarekey campaign will kick off with an upcoming mailing to parents soliciting funds. Apprx \$25,000 is projected to be raised to support the enrichment per student. The PTO spends apprx \$60 per child on enrichment, but a donation of any amount will be accepted.

The 3rd annual Parents Night Out will be held on November 2nd at the Michigan Shores Club. This is not a fundraiser but rather a self-funded event. Tickets are \$50, which includes a light buffet and live music. The purpose is for parents to meet each other and enjoy a night out together.

Enrichment: Laurie Cavalier reported that 6th grade enrichment ties into curriculum with field trips (Field Museum and Egyptian Exhibit) and other programs. Other areas in consideration include poetry, Cybogenics and eco system related events.

Jennie Dart and Kim Decker are exploring several 5th grade opportunities including a motivational speaker, math programs, Lewis and Clark studies and King Arthur musical performances. Civil War Day will be held on May 19, 2008.

Special Events: Freaky Friday will be held on Oct 26th. Wrist bands will be sold for this carnival type event. Volunteers are still needed. There may be a change in start and end times so that there is not a direct conflict with the Junior High Monster Mash (new event) scheduled the same evening.

Youth Connection/RAD: Bill Perkins discussed how this non-profit center works with the schools in many ways. The drop-in after school program is a safe place for students. The TGIF party for 5th and 6th graders is a YC event to be held on February 1, 2008. The Highcrest PTO donated \$1000 gift to YC last year.

District 39 Foundation: Mimi Brault reported on the upcoming "Make a Difference Day" to be held on October 20th.

Outdoor Garden: Jenny Higgins reported that parent volunteers are still needed

Gift Wrap: Sally Foster catalogs will be sent home soon. Orders may be placed online through October 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Minutes submitted by Pepe Miller