

Hubbard Woods PTO Executive Meeting

May 7, 2014

Attendees: Heather Pigott, Georgie Geraghty, Jenny Keller, Amy Boehm, Linda Vagra, Kate McLellan, and Meredith Meyer

Heather made a motion to approve the April minutes. Linda seconded the motion. All were in favor. The April minutes were approved.

Kate McLellan's Update:

Kate reiterated how much the teachers loved Teacher Appreciation Week. Jenny Keller shared the teachers' thank-you notes from Teacher Appreciation Week with her committee; they enjoyed reading the thank-you notes. The teachers also enjoyed having Georgie at their meeting and being included in putting together a wish list for the PTO's surplus funds. The teacher's union meeting was yesterday. The teachers will probably start the year without a new contract.

Georgie Geraghty's Update:

Georgie has been getting responses from the PTO position sign-up for next year. There has been feedback from parents about having a class archivist for each class to help with photographing the class throughout the year. This position will greatly help the 4th Grade Farewell Committee with the class video. All at the meeting were in favor of creating this PTO position. Jenny Keller suggested that Georgie talk to Katie Minturn about how this position might work and be organized.

Crow Island is getting ready to celebrate its 75th anniversary. It has a dedicated Facebook page for the 75th anniversary with 458 likes. In addition, they have a gmail address for the 75th anniversary as well as a blog. They are also actively looking for Crow Island alumni as well as looking for the oldest Crow Island alumnus. Georgie suggested that our 100th anniversary committee might want to look at their efforts as a model for our celebration.

A parent had a question about having a wedding shower for Ms. Connell. The PTO discussed what might be an appropriate way to handle class celebrations for individual teachers. The PTO felt that the room parents should be able to organize activities, such as showers, for teachers, but that these activities should remain low-key and based on the teacher and children's relationships.

Several teachers are still interested in running a Great Books program at Hubbard Woods. The PTO will create a Great Books committee to explore creating a Great Books program that is supported by the PTO but run by the teachers.

There are very little volunteers for next year's Mayfest.

Heather Pigott's Update:

This year's Mayfest is coming along well. There are many wonderful raffle prizes.

Field Day is also coming along well. The t-shirts have been ordered and will tie-in with this year's Spring Sing Olympic theme. Teachers will also receive t-shirts that are a combination of red, white and blue.

The Fourth Grade Farewell is on track. There was some discussion about the Fourth Grade Beach Party being part of the Fourth Grade Farewell. The Beach Party is not a PTO-sponsored event and is not part of the Fourth Grade Farewell. Teachers are not involved or present at the Beach Party.

Lunch Program 2014-2015 Update: We will be using Kiddo's Catering, a restaurant-managed lunch program for next year. The price of each lunch is \$5.00. Heather proposes that the PTO add \$.25 to each lunch to cover the additional environmental costs that the restaurant-managed program will add. The announcement about the new lunch program will come at the end of this school year. There will be additional information in the announcement letting parents know that although the food will not contain nuts, the food will be processed in kitchens that do contain nuts.

Hubbard Woods will be giving a retirement party for Mrs. McMillian at the Happ Inn. The PTO would like to do something for her retirement as well. Heather suggested that the PTO donate the money to build a loft in the Resource Center and name it after Mrs. McMillian. Georgie suggested that families may donate a book on her behalf to the Resource Center, and the PTO will put a book stamp on it that lets people know that the book has been donated on her behalf. The PTO approved of both of these ideas.

Joanne Decker is retiring as well, so the PTO will need to present something to her as well.

Wish List Update: Turf for the field was the teacher's number one wish. Georgie had extensive talks with Annie Ross, who had previously led the movement to get turf and Adam from the WPD, which takes care of the field. Both spoke of the numerous obstacles that we face in getting turf. There will need to be much coordination between District 36; who owns the field; the Winnetka Park District, who maintains and possibly uses the field after school hours; and the Village of Winnetka, who determines zoning and approval of this project. After much discussion by the Board, we felt that the PTO could agree to an underwriting committee that would raise the funds for the turf, but that District 36 needs to own this project as well as the on-going maintenance of the turf.

The PTO proposed granting the following requests for our surplus funds:

- 1) 2 iPad carts (\$22,000)
- 2) Stand-Up Desks (\$4500)
- 3) Cultural Arts Funding for 3 years (\$9000)
- 4) Loft for Resource Center (\$2000)
- 5) Theater Lighting for Auditorium (\$6000)

These requests total \$43,500, which is under our proposed budget of \$47,000. We will ask Jay Dillon to request wooden blocks (\$1000) and Daniel Ryan to request a new light fixture for the hallway (\$600) for next year's Ways and Means budget. The PTO will also review next year's budget to determine how we may want to allocate money between Ways and Means and the Cultural Arts in the upcoming years. The PTO also wanted it to be known that while we are sponsoring the Cultural Artist in Residence that we will not pick the artist. A proposed committee of Daniel Ryan and a few teachers will pick the artists. The PTO will send a representative to these meetings to observe.

Georgie Geraghty will draft a final proposal for the surplus funds, and the Board will vote on this final proposal at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.