

2015-2016 Happy Hollow PTO Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 18, 2015

8:45 a.m. Happy Hollow Cafeteria

Attendance: Kara Harrington, Melissa Hartford, Kathy Steinberg (School Committee), Cathy Caulfield, Samantha Richter, Jen Pearlman, Allison Cohen (teacher rep), Stephanie Leong, Julie Suratt

Internet Safety seminar: good? bad? Cathy C really liked it for her daughter.

Teacher Appreciation: Jen: should have two different people organize recess and lunch (just Jill Z did it, and it was a lot for one person to coordinate)

Foster Child Holiday Gift Drive: 60 families; Cathy C: did it get advertised enough? Sam agreed. Jen: Let's start advertising it earlier.

Gift Your Child: approximately \$43,000; need someone to help them with Gift Your Child

Teacher Concerns:

Allison Cohen (teacher rep): field trip application forms are lengthy; paperwork; it's a HUGE amount of time to coordinate;

Allison: have to shop around for buses (bids and multiple quotes), sign over every check in front of Leslie. Service Learning Project: need to have a parent present when money is exchanged.

Kathy: it's the controls that have made it a lengthy process; we're trying an online process that is accessible daily; Finance Committee meets January 11, bring the concerns to them. It's online: Student Activity Accounts guidelines. Excellent time to comment. Teachers say they don't have the time to do all the work to plan/execute field trips, so they are canceling them.

Kathy: use online system to pay for field trips;

Construction:

Kathy: On Dec. 11, Ben Keefe said: we have HH project and Loker kitchen; the schedule on that is for next summer, right after school gets out. Proposals will go out to bid in the spring. Anticipates the design process to take about 6 weeks, starting after the holidays. Still gives a cushion if there's a hiccup. Design the whole project at the same time, meaning including cafeteria and nurse's office.

Competing interests of who gets what space. Stephanie: \$80,000: to move the nurse's room, and then additional money to address cafeteria, old art room; Stephanie thinks it was for the construction; Kathy thought maybe it was for design. Kathy says they typically ask for money for design and then additional money for construction.

School Council: Amanda Miles is a first grade parent, elected to council; still need community member

Aidan McCann's Math Presentation: survey and presentation. What do parents want? Stephanie: math-based scavenger hunt at middle school was very successful. Jen: we should do something that involves the kids (rather than simply parents).

Jan. 4 School Committee: Dr. Stein's presentation of his recommended budget: We need an increase of 2.99% to educate all the kids (without changing anything —level services). But guideline is 2.5% increase. So he looked for places he could save: recommended budget increase of 2.79%; Here's what would have to come out to hit the 2.5% budget: Claypit Hill and HH could use an assistant principal. \$1,000,096 to have level services (an increase from last year) Whether you agree or don't agree: there are a couple ways to respond: emails to finance committee, school committee, come to meetings and public comment; Jan. 4, 7 pm: Q&A: come to it. 3.35% would include unmet needs. Halftime principal at Claypit.

Garden: the Eagle Scout who was going to build the fence is not doing it. Need someone to do it.

Reserves: We will be spending down reserves based on a new guideline to have only 50% of one year's budget in reserves

Playground update: want to get it designed ASAP; we need a design; but how can we spend money on design when it's not been approved yet at Town Meeting?

Comedy Show: for social event?

Ball Locker: bad balls; where are the nice balls?

Next meeting? Jan. 8: only 3 weeks