

HORIZON ELEMENTARY PTO

Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2010

1. Opening Meeting – Heather Fagan

The regular meeting of the Horizon Elementary PTO was called to order at 6:34 p.m. on November 9, 2010 in the Learning Center by PTO President Heather Fagan.

a. Introductions

Mary Doeseckle, Stacy Moore, Dawn Leonard, Karin O'Donnell, Maura Contreras, Lisa Dzik, Griselda Carrera, Deb Gehrig, Laura Nykaza, Pam Murdoch, Kim Mahoney, Jim Dimas.

2. Treasurer's Report – Maura Contreras

a. Ending checking account balance - \$23,770.57 as of Oct. 31, 2010

Available cash remaining - \$8,287.48

b. See report for details.

3. News/announcements

a. Dr. Gehrig

Parent/teacher conferences are the largest event in November. Report cards were sent home on Nov. 8. Dr. Gehrig said that Horizon has a high percentage of parents attending conferences with some over the phone. Last year only one parent was not able to be contacted. Spanish interpreters can be made available if needed. The PTO will seek out volunteers who speak other languages to help with interpretations.

YAC (Youth Advisory Council) members are taste testing menu items with Food Service.

Elgin Crisis Center came to the school to speak about bullying.

Students need to check the lost and found for missing items. All clothes should have names to make them easier to return. Very few items in the lost and found get returned to their owners.

b. Teachers – No report

c. CAC News

John Scieszka will be speaking at Elgin High School from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 8.

There is a survey on the U-46 website regarding Destination 2015.

The CAC heard a kindergarten through twelfth grade literacy presentation. Fagan commented that it did not look well rounded and subjects such as social studies seemed to be ignored. Teachers said the program does not give students enough time for other things such as bathroom breaks.

The CAC plans to continue such informative meetings throughout the year.

The Dec. 2 CAC meeting is a cabinet round table that will meet with U-46 Superintendent Jose Torres and other administration.

Horizon is looking for someone to be on the CAC Enrollment and Facilities committee. Although boundary change conversations are suspended, Ontarioville and Laurel Hill Elementary Schools are still over-crowded and program changes could move some of these children to Horizon.

Hispanic Parent committee held their first meeting last month. Contreras said the meeting provides training to get more Hispanic parents involved in school as this is a cultural issue. Carrera said about 25 parents attended the invitation only meeting. Horizon is only one of two schools to have two representatives on this committee.

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Pasta Mia night – November 16

5. New Items

- a. Mission statement

The mission statement for Horizon PTO was approved after changing school to academics and reads as follows:

The mission of the Horizon Elementary PTO is to provide all students at Horizon the opportunity to excel in academics and in life by providing committed volunteers and supplemental funding for supplies and programs that will enhance the learning environment at Horizon Elementary.

- b. Fundraising Spreadsheet

Fagan prepared a spreadsheet to see what fundraisers worked and which did not.

See spreadsheet for details.

Moore suggested a kick-off event for a fundraiser similar to the Mega Event at Tefft.

Gehrig suggested perhaps enlisting the help of a professional fundraiser.

Dimas suggested taking cash instead of Scholastic dollars for the fall book fair to raise funds. However, 55 percent of sales are given in Scholastic dollars and only 22 to 23 percent the PTO would receive in cash.

Fagan said that the PTO will need to begin paying to use district facilities and this will need to be considered in PTO budgeting.

6. Committee Chairperson Reports

- a. Accelerated Reader – Heather/Pam/Avis

Need to learn how to add tests to system.

- b. Book Fair – Jim Dimas

A successful book fair with sales at \$2,250. Dimas said it would have been more successful if held in conjunction with Family Math Night. Forty-five copies of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* were sold.

- c. Box Tops for Education – Heidi Jeffcoat

Jeffcoat is the new coordinator taking over from Pam Hetzel.

- d. Campbell Soup Labels – Kim Lag – No report

- e. Spirit wear – Kimberly Mahoney

There are several items (small children's shirts and overly large adult shirts) that are overstocked and Mahoney will do some severe discounting. Something will be put out closer to the holidays.

Boys do not seem to be in favor of the sweat pants and many have returned them. The flannel pants shrink significantly causing many parent complaints as they cannot be returned after worn and washed.

- f. School Supply Kits – Karin O'Donnell – No report

- g. Market Day – Lisa Dzik – No report

- h. Yearbook – Cindy Lenart

There will be a change in vendors from Lifetouch to School Annual.

- i. Bingo – Dora and Francis Figueroa – No report

- j. Fun Fair – Padma Narayana/Victor and Enza Zamora – No report

7. Allocations

Fagan outlined the voting rules for allocations.

November Allocations as presented by PTO Treasurer

One soccer net - Requested by Dr. Gehrig – Total allocation \$150 – **Approved** – Expires June 20, 2011

Three eight foot tables at \$70 each – Requested by school custodian – Total allocation \$210 – **Approved** – Expires June 20, 2011.

