

HORIZON ELEMENTARY PTO

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2010

1. Opening

The regular meeting of the Horizon Elementary PTO was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on September 14, 2010 in the Learning Center by PTO President Heather Fagan.

a. Present

Maura Contreras, Karin O'Donnell, Pam Murdoch, Laura Nykaza, Diane Hansmann, Jessica Wegrzyn, Heather Fagan, Geraldine Ackley, Johnnie Zurek, Maria Gherardi, Rosmary Aurand, Padma Narayana, Bridget Glenn, Jeannie Lee, Deborah Gehrig.

b. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

c. Approval of Minutesⁱ

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Heather Fagan stated that after today's meeting, minutes will only be posted online and written copies will be provided upon request.

2. Treasurer's Report – Maura Contreras

- a. Checking balance at beginning of school year - \$14,215.79 (August, 2010)
Cash available after all approved allocations paid (\$2,861.12)
- b. See report for details.
- c. Fagan spoke about the Profit and Loss Statement from August, 2009 through July, 2010. Based on the P&L, expenses exceeded revenues by \$1,873.99. She stressed that allocations will need to be carefully scrutinized this year.

3. News/announcements

- a. Dr. Gehrig

The school added a fifth/sixth split class and moved 30 students. Some fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students were assigned to a different teacher. The new classroom assignments began on September 15.

When speaking with parents, Dr. Gehrig commented that about one-third were mad, one-third offered no opinion and one-third gave no response.

Enrollment is at 552. Some kindergarteners were sent to the bilingual program.

The school will be holding a fire, tornado and bus evacuation drill in the following weeks. No date was set for lockdown drill. However, lunch staff was trained on lockdown procedures.

Picture day on September 24.

Student council elections and MAP testing begins next week.

Dr. Gehrig tried an electronic email and will be sending home a newsletter and calendar monthly. She is looking for someone to translate the newsletter into Spanish as online translation services are deemed inaccurate. Maura Contreras volunteered her services.

All specials (art, music, gym) are held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Children generally go in 90 minute blocks.

Library services are now every other week. This week is a "B" week and there is no library for students.

U-46 is looking for representatives for Hispanic Parent University. Dr. Gehrig has information for those interested.

b. Teachers – No Report

Fagan questioned if computer times on Read About will change. Dr. Gehrig said this probably won't be true.

c. CAC News

Murdoch outlined the committees of the Citizens' Advisory Council. She said that you do not need to be members to attend meetings but you have to be one to vote. She said it is a place to see what is going on in the district.

The next CAC meeting is October 7 at Elgin High School at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Gehrig said that Deborah Devine from the U-46 math department will come to Horizon and give a presentation if requested.

SB2499 would have changed the school funding formula for U-46. The school code change would stop the State Board of Education from estimating tax rates for determining general state aid in multi-county school districts where one county estimates the limiting tax rate. The bill was vetoed by Gov. Pat Quinn after approval by both houses of the Illinois General Assembly. It was requested that PTO members sign a petition in support of the bill. There is a push to have the veto overridden.

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Family Math Fair and Book Night - October 7
Scholastic will provide cash registers and scanners.
- b. Family Movie Night – January 21, 2011
Fun Fair – March 11, 2011
Bingo Night – April 15, 2011
- c. Fall Fundraiser will be from Mr. Z. There was no date set yet from Stacy Moore. The spring fundraiser will be Butterbraid.

5. New Items

- a. Need volunteers urgently for fourth grade Accelerated Reader Wall and Kindergarten sheets. The volunteer does need to come in to enter points on the computer
- b. Market Day needs volunteers to sort orders on pickup day. Dr. Gehrig suggested National Honor Society members or those from St. Peter Damien.
- c. Ultra Foods Cash Rebate from now until December 31.

6. Committee Chairperson Reports

- a. Accelerated Reader – Heather/Pam/Avis

Need volunteers to help clean board and wall. AR listings are at local libraries

- b. Book Fair – Jim Dimas – No Report

See above under Upcoming Events for date.

- c. Box Tops for Education – Pam Hetzel – No Report

- d. Campbell Soup Labels – Kim Lag

Currently at 8,000 points. A teacher's name will be drawn out of a hat. There is also a contest online.

- e. Spirit wear – Kimberly Mahoney – No Report
- f. School Supply Kits – Karin O'Donnell – No Report
- g. Shop for Stratford for School – Deb Ellington – No Report

Unsure if Shop for Stratford will continue this year.

h. Market Day – Lisa Dzik – No Report

See above under Upcoming Events.

i. Yearbook – Cindy Lenart – No Report

j. Bingo – Dora and Francis Figueroa – No Report

See above under Upcoming Events for date.

k. Fun Fair – Padma Narayana/Victor and Enza Zamora – No Report

7. Meeting close

Maria Gheradi suggested Quizlette.com for online learning games and quizzes that can be printed. Quizzes can be made available to entire classes. Another site is Spelling City where games can be created using spelling words.

Narayana suggested a possible afterschool chess club.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. by Heather Fagan, The next general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on October 12, 2010 in the Learning Center.

Minutes submitted by: Laura Nykaza

ⁱ Minutes corrected to say that Dr. Gehrig said Deborah Devine will speak at Horizon