

**Minutes of the Hill Middle School PTSA
January 6, 2009**

Call to Order: Jody Eriksen called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Attendance: Jody Eriksen, Susan Paoli, Cari Shanahan, Debora Garcia, Julie Coley, Nancy Dyer, Martha Blount, Murali Venugopalan, Greg Hubert, Renee O'Brien, Laura Falk, John Kelsey, Jennifer Streder, Allan Davenport, Alicia Burns

Minutes: December minutes approved as read.

Membership:

PTSA does not have 100% of staff participation with approximately 20 faculty not signed up.

Treasurer's Report:

We are currently on budget despite changes in revenue. The board is being careful in distribution and spending to avoid issues. Gingerbread Junction had income of \$5,843 (slightly exceeding the budget) even though actual attendance was lower than last year. Team gifts will be given in two installments; half now and half towards the end of the year. It is customary to contribute to new PTSAs at start-up. Hill is expecting to contribute \$400 to Fischer PTSA. The Special Needs PTSA started up over 5 years ago but no start-up contributions were given. At this time, Hill PTSA will be giving \$50.

President's Report:

Thank you to the great volunteers for Gingerbread Junction. Variety Show will be pursued, but do need more volunteers. The event might be scaled down and may be held at Hill if dates cannot be procured at Waubonsie. There is legislation to make age 18 as the legal age for an adult in Illinois. National PTA has been promoting this, and the legislation is currently waiting for Governor signature. Parent University is a district sponsored parenting program. Excellent speakers and programs, but has had poor attendance. Encourage everyone to take a look at it. Would like to recognize faculty on an on-going basis (similar to Hill Heroes concept). Currently recommend that Mr. Pedersen be recognized for bringing the Feed My Starving Children program to Hill and rolling it out to all the grades. Will have a student PTSA representative interview him and highlight him on the bulletin board with a thank you. Considering a Speaker's Forum for parents at Hill.

Service: No report.

Student Council Report:

Representatives presented that Spirit Week will include pajama day, crazy day, twin day and sports day. The Hilltopper themes for the rest of the year are Movies on Hollywood, Hoops for Heart, Sports, Black./White, Hawaiian

Administration Report:

Bus jumping has been a problem with too many students not riding their assigned bus home. This causes overcrowding on some routes and safety concerns. There will be random checks on the 24 buses to prevent this in the future. Kids can ride a different bus with a note from their parent signed by the office administration.

7th graders going into 8th grade can get a boundary exemption for next year to remain at Hill. However, transportation is not provided by the district.

Curriculum changes went well. Once the staffing for Fischer is finalized, schedules can be completed. Foreign language will become a 2 year program that will result in the student entering into a second year foreign language class in high school.

8th grade students received course outline books today. On January 16th, Explore test results will be given out and on January 22nd, recommendation sheets will be sent home with the 8th graders. Forms need to be signed and returned by February 2nd. Recommendations can be appealed by getting permission from the high school department chair to enroll in a different class.

Thursday, January 8th, the high school principals will hold a meeting about general issues for parents of 8th graders. On January 26th and 28th, Metea specific meeting will be held for parents and students.

Faculty Report:

Thank you for the holiday snack gifts.

Claudia Parker had her baby.

Karen Popovich will be moving to Metea.

The next Hill Heroes is on February 4th.

Final meeting for 8th grade D.C. trip is in January.

There is a guys night out (2/6) and girls night out (2/13) being planned by the administration. Students would attend with their same gender role model (parent, aunt, grandparent), and there will be food, fun and a relevant speaker.

The next Hilltopper is on January 23rd.

ISAT testing breakfast will be more complex to allow for allergy concerns. Breakfast will be provided in two separate locations based on whether the student's 1st period class can have food in the classroom

Ways and Means:

Gingerbread Junction went well. Doughnut sales were a hit with attendees and raised some additional funds. 40% of the signs were lost so need to consider changing the advertising plan for next year. Still looking for a lead volunteer to take over for next year.

Education:

Internet Night is being planned for February 18th. The police department will present with some local teens that have been impacted. Parents and their middle school students come together for this event. The discussion will also address what kids are posting on-line and the long term ramifications and cyber bullying. Need 12 volunteers and teachers on the night of the event. This was very successful in the past. There will also be a raffle prize and smaller gift card prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Susan Paoli
Secretary