

METCALF PTO MINUTES
Thursday, February 4, 2010
6:00-7:30PM
Fairchild Lounge

ATTENDEES:

Barb Jacobsen, Amy Coffman, Lynn Litwiller, Kathy Wetter, Patti Koranda, Polly Bedford, Michele Southerd, Sheryl Chambers, Angela & Howard Henderson, Heather Marshall, Chris & Beni Kawakita, Kathy Wetter, Becky Camp, Rebecca Africano and anyone else who did not sign in ☺

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Around the room introductions. Barb welcomed everyone, treats were served.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Gym and Swim was a success. Gondolas from Avantis went over much better than the hot dogs. Food portions were also better this year.
- Mini-Courses were a success, however concern was raised that younger grades were not able to choose their courses. Grades 4-6 were able to choose but younger grades were assigned. Michelle Chow has volunteered to be chair next year. Becky, Rebecca and Lynn expressed concern that their children were disappointed that their children were not able to choose their courses from the entire list of options. Suggestions for next year included: having older kids or ISU students help if there aren't enough parent volunteers, start earlier on calling people to get them to come present, let younger kids also choose one course and be assigned to one. Beni Kawakita volunteered to be a co-chair for mini-courses
- A thank you note from Ms. Wutz was read thanking PTO for the mini-courses.
- A thank you note from Mrs. Irvin was read thanking PTO for the soup lunch`
- Rissa Hinton-Smith must step down as Vice President due to work demands, there will be an opening for Vice President which would need to be filled soon in order to start lining up chairs for next year.
- Will also need a chair for Holiday Bazaar and Absent Tea & Montage

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account balances as of 1/31/10:

Checking \$3,799.52

Hayden \$236.48

Kalin Fund \$250.00

Foundation \$7,510.18.

Money Market \$20,106.32

Total \$31,902.50

- Credit card processing for Montage will be done via paper forms instead of obtaining a machine. Checks, cash and major credit cards will be accepted.
- Dan Deneen has completed the audit, he will come to the March meeting to discuss

Special Guest – Heather Marshall, school lunch program

- Heather passed out handouts regarding the lunch schedule and average weekly caloric guideline requirement from the state.
- Discussed the following
 - Lunch Schedule
 - Expectations – general behavior rules
 - Discipline
 - Consequences – match the offense (ie throwing food means sweeping, “hands” issues mean assigned seats)
 - Process - line up to get food, eat, after silverware and trays are put away, they get to go to recess. If they can't go outside (above 25 degrees including windchill) they go to the middle school room.
 - Food – some food is cooked on site and some comes from ISU. Metcalf is signed up for a government program that supplies fresh fruits. Also looking into a program through Heartland Community College that would provide fresh vegetables and fruits. Sheryl and Polly would also like to see edibles added to the gardens at Metcalf.
 - Dietian has food menus on a 4-5 week rotation. 7th & 8th grade advisories reviewed the food choices.
 - Ingredients – vary by product, it is best just to contact Heather or Diane Feasly 2 weeks ahead of the rotation in question. Heather does have a folder with labels and can provide some information, however products are subject to change quite often.
 - Federal Guidelines
 - Extras/counts/ordering – older kids are allowed to come back for seconds, but not until everyone has gone through once. They can have extras on anything but desserts.
 - Cooking – part of the issue with cooking on site is there is only one stove available and one sink. The health department won't allow food prep and washing in the same sink.
 - Staff
 - Renovations – A new stove/sink is needed, however this requires plumbing and electrical renovations. Not feasible at this time due to the budgetary constraints, however Dr. Dean has been trying to allot some money for renovations. As of Dec 2010, schools are not allowed to have self-serve lines anymore which will also require reworking of the current system.
 - Ideas for the future – research has indicated that recess is beneficial for all grades, not just younger children. Would like to find a way to offer recess to all grades. Also there is research that shows it is better to have recess prior to eating instead of after.

- Cold lunch supervision only, no hot lunch program
- Parent volunteers
- ISU volunteers
- Teacher volunteers
- Concern was raised by parents that the lounge should remain for older students only as that has always been considered one of Metcalf's "rites of passage"
- There will be a survey available online again and teachers have been given graph charts to fill out with student input.
- Special days (ie Avanti's) are a big hit!

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Dr. Coffman

- Bike Safety Grant – Metcalf was awarded the bike helmet safety grant through Children's Hospital. Children will be measured on March 1st and helmets will be in on March 31st to take home. Parent volunteers will be needed to help on those days.
- This year admission applications are available online and 4 days into it, there are over 100 applications submitted already.
- Metcalf has a new mascot uniform – come to a game and see!
- There was an RTI at the end of January and another will occur in March. The administration will be working on communication with parents regarding these, be watching for more information to follow.

OLD BUSINESS

January Meeting minutes - Accepted

Chair Reports –

Rebecca Africano, Montage – There have been 200 tickets sold so far. Tickets will not be sold at the door. There is concern that parent turn out doesn't seem very good. The suggestion was made that in the future, it might be beneficial to track parent involvement from Pre-K through 8th grade to see if there is a definable point that interest wanes.

NEW BUSINESS

Classroom Grant Committee - Committee is needed to determine which requests to grant. It consists of the President, Treasurer, 1 teacher and 2 parents. Any parents wishing to attend may. (PK, Michele S, Rebecca A, Beni K, Sheryl C, Polly B. Lynn will send an invitation out)

Chili supper, Howard Henderson – As soon as Montage is over, Howard will be starting meetings for the chili supper committee.

Meeting Adjourned 7:25 pm

Next meeting Thursday, March 4 2010

<http://www.tmsmontage.com/>