

Ames PTA Meeting Minutes February 1, 2013

Teacher's Report, Mrs. Kristen Mimlitz –

- Principal Lieggi has been very impressed with the literary instruction in Mrs. Mimlitz' fourth grade class, so she asked her to provide a presentation to the PTA.
- Mrs. Mimlitz uses CAFÉ strategies to approach reading instruction. CAFÉ stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expand Vocabulary. She divides students into reading groups based on MAP scores, observation and discussion with the students.
- Mrs. Mimlitz reports that the CAFÉ lessons, goals and strategies are very effective for reading instruction.

Global Connections Committee Representative, Lisa Gaynor –

- Mrs. Lisa Gaynor is a member of the district 96 Global Connections Committee. She explained that the committee is trying to help students reach out into the world beyond Riverside with the use of current technology. She would like to make reaching out globally equitable for all students of District 96.
- Parents will be asked to reach out to any friends or relatives located in other areas of the United States and throughout the world. There will be a form that parents will be able to fill out via a live link. Each school will need a point person to organize and monitor the information and activities. Teachers will also complete a form in order that all D96 schools will have access to all resources.
- Principal Lieggi added that lessons developed by the Global Learning Connections Committee will be implemented this spring in the Ames classrooms and will relate to and enhance the current curriculum.

A motion was made to approve the PTA Meeting Minutes from the December 7, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Officer's Report, Co-Presidents Lisa Hennelly and Deanna Hall –

- Lisa Hennelly reported that the Nominating Committee for the 2013-2014 Ames PTA Board will include Lisa Carlson, Gelse Tkalec and Michelle Black. The slate for the new Board will be presented at the March 5, 2013 PTA meeting.
- Lisa thanked Tracy Stanard and Lisa Swicionis for organizing the Ames Family Dance. It was a great night for all and the event came in under budget. Dick's Donuts sent the Ames PTA a check for \$50.00 and waived his travel fee for the event.
- Lisa Hennelly related that the Math Incentive Program "Mad Math Mad Money" is hugely successful with 75% participation school wide. Due to the popularity of this event, the organizers requested an addition \$200.00 from the PTA. The PTA Board approved this expenditure at the last Board meeting.
- Deanna Hall reported that planning for the 2013 Ames Auction will begin soon. Many volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact Deanna, if interested.

RAIN update, Gelse Tkalec –

Gelse Tkalec stated that the next RAIN meeting will be held on February 20, 2013 at 6:30 at the Riverside Library and candidates for the District 96 Board will be there.

Treasurer's Report, Tracy Stanard –

- Tracy Stanard reported that the Innisbrook Gift Wrap fundraiser was very successful raising \$5,800.00 in profit.
- She also mentioned that Field Trip expenditures are starting. The budget may be viewed online.

Cultural Arts and Education, Flavio Gonzalez –

Lisa Hennelly reported for Flavio Gonzalez that an anti-bullying program entitled "Power of One" was presented on February 1, 2013 for all Ames students.

Fundraising Report, Lisa Swicionis –

- Lisa Swicionis stated that Market Day continues to do well. She also reported that the Five Below fundraiser raised \$38.00 and will be offered again next year.
- Spring Spirit Wear sales will begin soon with some exciting new products available.
- A Mixed Bag Fundraiser will begin soon for the first time at Ames and will be organized by Moey Dvorak. The fundraiser will begin March 1st and run for two weeks. Catalogs will be distributed to all students and parents can place orders on the sheets provided with the catalog.

Administration Report, Principal Colleen Lieggi –

- Principal Lieggi provided a presentation on the Common Core Standards for education that are being adopted by the state of Illinois and nationally.
- Common Core Standards were written to determine what students are expected to know coming out of High School. These criteria were then back mapped from 12th grade down to Kindergarten.
- The Common Core Standards are divided into Mathematical Practice Standards and English Language Arts Standards.
- The Common Core promotes teaching for depth with higher order thinking and critical thinking at all grade levels.
- The Common Core Curriculum will be implemented for the 2013-14 school year, so Ames teachers are examining the current curriculum and making necessary changes or adjustments. The standards and depth of teaching will be more rigorous under the Common Core Curriculum.
- Principal Lieggi reported that security at Ames has been heightened. Six walkie-talkies have been purchased so paraprofessionals can radio Principal Lieggi when they are outside on the playground. Each teacher has also been given a keychain with a wrist strap and whistle that they can wear at all times.
- An Intruder Drill will be held on April 11th at Ames.
- PUMPED Field Days will be held on June 4th with a rain date of June 6th.

- Family Math Night will be held on Thursday, February 21st.
- Kindergarten Information Night will take place on March 7th from 7:00-8:00 pm.
- The Ames Science Fair will take place on March 14th at 6:30 pm.
- The artist, Kevin Olis, will be at Ames April 1st -5th creating another sculpture of the students of Ames. It will be an exciting week at Ames and volunteers will be needed.

Elizabeth Kos reported to the PTA that the District 96 World Language Committee will present their recommendations to the D96 Board at the April 16th meeting. The committee is suggesting that foreign language instruction in Spanish begin in the fall for all grade levels.