

## **Ames PTA Meeting Minutes December 7, 2012**

Dr. Jonathan Lamberson provided a District 96 update. He reported that in the past 10 years, District 96 has experienced a historic increase in enrollment. District 96 enrollment has increased 37% since 2002 with our current enrollment over 1,600. Even with this unprecedented growth, District 96 continues to thrive academically. Dr. Lamberson also reviewed the district's residency requirements and procedures.

As Dr. Lamberson is retiring this year, Dr. Sharma-Lewis will be the new District 96 Superintendent effective July 1, 2013.

### **Teacher's Report, Ms. Angela Bursich –**

- Ms. Bursich thanked the PTA for the dinner provided the evening of Parent/Teacher conferences. She also thanked the PTA for funding the PUMPED program. Conduct referrals have dropped tremendously since the implementation of this program and it is a delight to celebrate great Ames citizens.
- Ms. Bursich discussed the Looping Pilot which she is currently engaged in with her 5th grade class. The idea of “looping” or keeping the same teacher with the same students for a number of years was initially introduced by Rudolph Steiner of the Waldorf School. He contends that keeping a teacher and students together for multiple years increases academic achievement because of a stronger home/school relationship. Students have reduced anxiety because of the teacher continuity, and it helps foster an atmosphere in which the students feel accepted, recognized and appreciated.
- In Ms. Bursich's experience this year, the students in her class began instruction immediately with little start up time because the classroom procedures and behavioral expectations were already known and followed. As a result, academic achievement has skyrocketed in her class.
- Principal Lieggi and Ms. Bursich are monitoring the success of this pilot in order to determine if looping should be implemented in the future with other classes and teachers.

### **Principal's Report, Mrs. Colleen Lieggi –**

- Principal Lieggi reviewed the Illinois Interactive Report Card for Ames, including Ames demographics.
- Mrs. Lieggi announced that the Ames Holiday Music Program, led by Mrs. Lauritsen, will be held on December 17th for students in Kindergarten through Third grades. Holiday attire is encouraged. The Fourth and Fifth grades will have their music program in the spring.
- The last day of school before winter break is Thursday, December 20th. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 3rd.

A motion was made to approve the PTA meeting minutes from the November 2, 2012 meeting with the correction of two misspelled names. The motion was approved.

**Officer's Report, Co-Presidents Lisa Hennelly and Deanna Rosenbaum -**

Lisa Hennelly and Deanna Hall invited parents to attend "Parenting Under Pressure," a District 96 parenting seminar held at the Hauser Auditorium on January 14, 2013.

**Treasurer's Report, Lisa Hennelly -**

- Lisa Hennelly provided the Treasurer's Report for Tracy Stanard. She announced that the Ames PTA raised \$793.10 from the Election Day bake sale and thanked Cristin Evans for organizing the event.
- Lisa Hennelly also stated that the Ames PTA raised \$1,700.00 from the "Pennies for Pies" Market Day program, and thanked Lisa Swicionis for organizing the event. Lisa Swicionis announced that pies were provided to Seguin, Ronald McDonald House and other charities as a result of this fundraiser.

**Cultural Arts and Programs Report, Flavio Gonzalez -**

Flavio Gonzalez announced that an anti-bullying program will be held at Ames on February 1, 2013. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Fundraising Report, Lisa Swicionis -**

- Lisa Swicionis reported that the Chicago Steel fundraiser was a success with over 70 people attending and \$200.00 being raised. Michelle Black has volunteered to organize the event next year.
- The Square One fundraiser will continue and items will be received before Christmas.
- Market Day continues to be a success. Thank you to all volunteers!

**RAIN Update, Gelse Tkalec -**

The RAIN Resource Fair was a huge success with great attendance. The next RAIN meeting will be held on December 19th at 7:30 in the Riverside Public Library. There will not be a meeting in January.