

Ames PTA Meeting Tuesday, October 5, 2010

A motion was put forward to approve PTA minutes from September 7, 2010. The minutes were approved.

District Update, Dr. Lamberson -

District 96 Superintendent, Dr. Jon Lamberson, thanked the parents of District 96 for their support of the students and staff during the Jeanie Kustock tragedy. The district provided a crisis team to offer counseling for students at Central school as well as Hauser and Hollywood. Central school was closed on Friday, October 1st in order to allow students to spend time with their families and staff to spend time together to process the tragedy. A memorial celebration for Jeanie Kustock will be held at Central School on Thursday, October 28th at 4:00 p.m. .

A total of 1,575 students are now enrolled in District 96. This is the highest enrollment in the history of the district. A growth of 2% is predicted this year bringing the total enrollment to 1,600 by the school year's end. Dr. Lamberson noted that the second and fourth grades have the largest enrollment. If enrollment increases as expected, our district will have nine sections of Kindergarten next year rather than eight, increasing the need for classroom space within the district. Plans are being considered to convert Blythe Park School into a true two section school. One possibility would be to bring existing basement space up to code and then use that space to free up additional classroom space upstairs.

The Building Committee is putting together a 15 million dollar capital improvement plan to meet the heating, plumbing and electrical needs of each school in the district. Building improvements would be made without a referendum, and the improvements could begin as early as this summer. Improvement will probably be made to one school at a time, most likely beginning with Blythe.

Lastly, the Flexible Boundary Committee, headed by Jennifer Leimberer and Mary Stimming, will be making their recommendation soon. The committee will be looking for input on the recommendation from parents and teachers in District 96 before making their official presentation to the school board.

Administration Report, Principal Lieggi –

- A math incentive program named “Medieval Math” will begin soon at Ames school. This program will help students master basic math facts. Ames will not have Readers R Leaders this year; we will alternate yearly between the two programs.
- The Ames Veteran’s Day assembly will take place on Thursday, November 11th at 9:00 a.m.. Students are encouraged to wear red, white and blue clothing and bring a relative or friend who is a veteran to the program.
- More information on the Ames Running Club will be available soon.

Teacher's Report, Mrs. Jennifer Ohlman –

Mrs. Ohlman, teacher representative, thanked the PTA for its \$100.00 contribution to each classroom – the teachers truly appreciate it and the money goes a long way. She also mentioned how much the children enjoyed Ames Movie Night and Grandparent's Day and thanked everyone who helped coordinate these fun events.

Officers' Report, Jen Kaiser and Lisa Freel –

- Directory and membership - online registration has made collecting directory information and membership dues challenging. These challenges are occurring at all the schools in the district, as the PTA/PTO materials often seem to be forgotten during the registration process. Going forward there may be an option in the online registration process which would allow each family to simply check a box on the school registration form to have their contact information included in the directory.
- PTA Board is considering the possibility of becoming a PTO rather than a PTA. Lisa Hennelly and Lisa Freel are exploring the process and benefits of this change. Possible benefits of becoming a Parent Teacher Organization include automatic membership for all families, and being able to write our own by-laws. Additionally, a PTO would be a locally run program rather than a national one. PTOs cannot participate in the PTA Reflections program, so if a switch was made we could potentially organize a similar program. Before any move from PTA to PTO could be made, all families would have the opportunity to be informed on the differences between PTA and PTO organizations, and a vote would be held.
- PTA Fundraisers
 - Taste of Market Day – offers the best-sellers from the monthly grocery program, and Ames receives 40% of all sales. Orders deadline is October 22nd, and pick-up will be held on November 15th between 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.. Volunteers are needed for pick-up day. Parents can also make special arrangements if the current pick-up time is not convenient.
 - Square One is a new company that Ames will be using for the children's artwork fundraiser. In addition to note cards, various other items will be available including mouse pads, aprons, bags and necklaces. All purchases will be ready in time for the holidays.
 - Poinsettia Sale – Flowers will be sold and ready in time for the holidays.
 - Box Tops – monthly contests among classrooms and individual students will begin shortly – watch for more information. Additionally, parents can register with the Box Tops for Education website and shop at various stores including Land's End and Barnes and Noble. A portion of each purchase will benefit Ames.
- The first “paperless” edition of Ames Aims Newsletter will be available in mid–October.

Thank You -

- Christine Kawiecki and Michelle Van Nice for another wonderful Movie Night
- Lisa Swicionis and Tiffany Agne for bringing back Market Day
- Susan Georgopoulos for recruiting and coordinating room representatives
- Kate Nolan for creating our on-line newsletter, Ames Aimes
- Susan Georgopoulos for organizing a delightful Grandparent's Day
- Vicki Manchen for researching and facilitating the Kid's Art Note Cards
- Lisa Hennelly for heading up Box Tops for Education and also Kirsten Bell, Lorraine Kollman, Liz Gomorzak and Jennifer Smith for joining the committee

Announcements –

Be-Fit Begins	Friday, October 1
Ames Gift Wrap Ends	Wednesday, October 6
Grandparents Day	Wednesday, October 6
Early Release –Parent/Teacher Conferences	Friday, October 8 at 11:30 am
NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day	Monday, October 11
NO SCHOOL – Institute Day	Tuesday, October 12
Spirit Day/Bank at School	Friday, October 15
Board of Education – Hollywood	Tuesday, October 19 at 7:30 pm
Halloween Assembly and Parade	Friday, October 29 at 1:00 pm
Ames PTA Meeting	Tuesday, November 2 at 9:00 am
Board of Education – Blythe	Tuesday, November 16 at 7:30 pm
Ames Craft Fair	Thursday, November 18 at 2:00 –
7:00 pm	
Spirit Day/Bank at School	Friday, November 19
NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences	Monday, November 22
NO SCHOOL – Institute Day	Tuesday, November 23
NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	November 24 – 26
PTA Reflections Deadline	Monday, November 29