

Ames School PTA Meeting

May 9, 2014

Meeting called to order at 8:54 am.

Rachel Franchescina – Ran the Reflections Program and had some of the children present their submittals.

- Amaya had a photograph that was submitted at the State level.
- Ana Kanatas read her poem she submitted.

Administrative Report –

Todd Gierman, Principal

- Mother's Day Tea going on today in the 1st grade classrooms
- An emergency bus drill evacuation is set for today at 11am.
- It's Teacher Appreciation week - Thank you for the support of our teachers, we really do appreciate you.
- Map testing, F & P testing will be taking place in May.
- Assessment time of year – the data will be used to make instructional decisions
- Science Fair was great, as well as Science demonstration
- Did first Book switch-a-roo, collected over 3,000 books. Brownies and Mrs. Prodanich were amazing! Each student can come home with 4-6 books and others will be provided to students that could really use them.
- Spring Culvers fundraiser was a hit - \$320 made.
- Kindergarten graduation- want to make it a special, thinking about a separate event vs Awards assembly. Some concerns were raised by parents about not having siblings or whole student body there to celebrate. Will keep you posted.
- Working with Mr. Zyed - Getting estimates from contractors who put cubbies in at Hollywood. Need to present and get approved by the District Board first. May be able to put in next year, or if not, the following year.
- Happy to be putting Principal, Parent, Staff (PPS) advisory team together– many teachers volunteered quickly - Katie Samuels, Mrs. Lauritsen, Kristen Mimlitz, Ryan Bookler.
- We are out of compliance in Special Ed and early childhood Ed program. They are adding two Early Childhood sections at Hollywood.
- With regard for Kindergarten next year, it looks like there is enough to justify a 3rd section, anticipating more people registering over the summer. Question is where to put the students – going to discuss enrollment and class size with the Board at the May 20th meeting. Won't be a decision, will continue reviewing and discussing.

- Need to look at shared spaces – a parent suggested that we try to keep next year at 2 sections and then reevaluate the following year.
- There is an architect firm to look at 5 year structure and safety review to consider how we accommodate – whether that’s taking walls down and reconfiguring rooms.
- Another parent question about how to handle the gap of another teacher since there will be a gap – Mr. Gierman said they are interviewing and looking right now. But can we also consider increasing class size instead?
- Another parent suggested that communication is key in getting parents to understand how and why decisions are/will be made.
- Mr. Gierman wants parents to come in and talk to him and share their ideas.
- Elizabeth Koz suggested that parents email the District Board about ideas/concerns. Also, feel free to email, meet with Dr. Sharma-Lewis and Mr. Gierman as well.
- Mr. Gierman said to encourage parents to come and meet with him directly as well.

Teacher Report -

Mrs. Orlowski, 2nd Grade Teacher

- Thank you so much to the PTA for all of the treats for Teacher Appreciation week and everything you’ve done and the support you provide.
- Impressed with the Talent Show, so polished & professional – thank you!
- Please read summer school offerings online.
- Thank you for those that supported the teachers for the additional time allotted (with early dismissal next year) for preparing for Common Core.
- Happy Mother’s Day to all!

District Report –

Dr. Sharma-Lewis

- It has been a busy and quick school year
- 5 month project that was started to incorporate things into Professional Development
 - ELL
 - SST – Student Support Team for Students with Special Needs
- Met with Lisa Swicionis, Deanna Hall and Mr. Gierman to create a principal, parent and staff group to meet on a regular basis.

Officer Reports –

PTA Co-Presidents, Lisa Swicionis and Deanna Hall

- A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from April meeting, it was seconded and approved.
- School Gift Discussion – An Eagle Scout has come to the school with a project to build cubbies outside of Mrs. Munson’s classroom (3 total). In the event a school solution is implemented in the near future, these cubbies are movable and can be used for other places/purposes. A request has been made for the PTA to support this Scout project by contributing \$300. A motion was made, seconded and passed, to provide the \$300, and there was one vote against the solution.
- We need to make a motion to approve the Slate again, since we are now including a new incoming Secretary and also an opening for Fundraising. A motion was made, seconded and approved.
- We made a motion to approve the new board members. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Lisa wanted to acknowledge all of the outgoing Board members
 - Moey, really streamlined the ornament process and teacher collection procedures, as well as so many other things
 - Lisa, did so much and everything with a smile on her face.
 - Stephanie, kept us organized, informed and with detailed notes.
 - Cristin was very creative, passionate, reliable and always willing to help.
 - Deanna, is the true definition of a partner – always willing to provide assistance, support, amazing during this transition year.
 - Also wanted to acknowledge Kim Marrero for her work on the website and Feedblitz.

Treasurer Report -

Tracy Stanard

- Artsonia
- Parent Night Out – another big success, 80 Students
- Booksale – we will get \$1,200 in cash and \$1,000 in book credit from Scholastic.

Fundraising Report –

Cristin was not able to attend

Hospitality –

Lisa Carlson was busy setting up for the Teacher Appreciation lunch

Room Representative –

Maureen Dvorak

In a few weeks, we will send out an email to room reps to send end of year contributions letters out. The letters will be run by Mr. Gierman first. Maureen will also do the main collection for all the Specials teachers/staff – we will clarify who should be on the list, so we are sure not to miss anyone.

Cultural Arts Report –

Flavio Gonzalez

Recap of the year:

- Ideas of how to make the assemblies age appropriate for next year.
- Artist in Residence was great, results were amazing – a movie premier will be at Awards ceremony and there will be display of the photography.
- Ideas for next year – attending a webinar on how to recoup some costs through the State.
- Columbia College has a program to develop a partnership with a school to promote arts in the community. We are going to start having some discussions. Idea is maybe to have some type of performance.

Other Announcements –

Melinda Yachnin ran the Be Fit Program this year. The goal was to try and get kids motivated to participate. They decided to add charms as rewards and we had a great participation rate. We are going to give Medals to kids that did it every month. Mrs. Golitz is retiring and she is the one who had the items for the raffle, so we will have to see how we handle next year, from a cost basis. We will need to review/assess this next Fall with new PE Teacher. Melinda is asking for any feedback.

Talent Show – thank you Joan Kanatas and Lisa Swicionis for the effort and success of the Talent Show.

Movie night 2 – happened and it was great.

Market Day – offering free delivery this month and Kirsten has a lot of ideas to boost sales for next year.

Yearbook Collections in process

No RAIN Report for today

Meeting Adjourned at 10:14 am

In Attendance:

Elizabeth Kos

Joan Kanatas

Liz Buoscio

Karen Nishimura

Melinda Yachnin

Gelse Thalek