

AMES PTA MEETING
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Cathy Louthen spoke in place of her son Elliot about this year's Halloween windows.

Mr. Chris Harvalis spoke as the teacher representative. He thanked the PTA for everything they have done for the teachers, especially for the checks for the teachers' classrooms.

Call to order 8:58 am

A motion was put forward to approve PTA minutes from September 10, 2009. The minutes were approved.

Administration Report:

Principal Lieggi -

- Thank you to the PTA for the recent movie night, the school spirit sale and the first day of school assembly.
- MAP testing - The School Leadership Team reviewed the results. Those results will guide our reading and math instruction for the year. Results will be available at the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Grandparents Day will take place on Thursday, October 8.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences that are taking place on Friday, October 9 are at the teacher's request.
- There will be no school on Monday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 13
- CoGat testing takes place the week of October 19
- The new playground equipment will be installed on the weekend of October 24
- PUMPED program is working well. There have only been three conduct referrals so far this year.
- Preliminary ISAT results:
 - Math scores are up in 3rd grade
 - Science, math, and reading scores are up in 4th grade
 - Reading scores are up in 5th grade

Dr. Lamberson

- Enrollment currently stands at 1,509 students. This is a huge number not seen since 1973. This year could be our highest enrollment ever.
- Kindergarten enrollment seems to be decreasing for the future
- District 96 has a new website (www.district96.org). Some features:
 - Email announcements - sign up with your email (right side, halfway down) and you will get an email each time something new is posted. This is also available for the Ames page of the district website (www.district96.org/ames).
 - Power School - At the grade school level, this is currently used for keeping track of attendance (5th grade)
 - About District 96 - district finances information is located here
 - Resources - curriculum information
 - Calendar - We are trying to make it as good as possible with more immediacy
 - School Board - View all of the Board of Education members along with committee assignments
 - Planning documents - Studies about enrollment; district goals
- ISAT Challenges at Hauser - In the past there has been a decrease in math and reading scores from the start of 6th grade until the end of 8th grade.
 - The scores have improved over the past two years in reading and math from 5th to 6th grade
 - If they increase for a third year, the district will qualify for academic excellence award from the state (for exceeding 90% in reading and math for three years in a row)
 - How did this happen?
 - District went to a Middle school program
 - Provided more help to the students who needed it
 - Better assessment due to MAP testing
- District 96 is a Bright Apple awardee
 - We are 1 of 54 districts that received the award (out of 879 districts total)
 - D96 is in the middle of the 54 districts in the total number of students enrolled, but has the highest increase in enrollment of all 54 schools
 - D96 is very unique

- Questions:
 - E-Backpack
 - When can I check in on Wednesday? Goal is for all new information to be posted by first thing Wednesday a.m.
 - How are forms posted on E-Backpack archived? District plans to archive them but have not begun doing so yet
 - Will we ever get information on a daily basis? One way to get immediate info is through Principal Lieggi's page on the Ames page of the district's web site or through an email from Principal Lieggi; Also, if parents sign up for announcements email feature on the Ames page, they will get new information immediately. Feature will be live in the near future.
 - What about parents who don't have internet access? Using Hauser as an example - as of today, there are 99% of Hauser parents online. Total number of parents not online is between 7 and 10.

Officers Reports - Jen Kaiser and Steph Schulte

- New reading incentive program is in place. Thank you to Angie Reilley for all of her hard work. There will be a bulletin board in the school that will post goals and incentives. The sheets will be sent home every month on E-Backpack.
- New playground equipment is being installed soon. Thanks to Stephanie Schulte for all of her hard work.
- There will be another push to sell some more brick pavers this fall
- The first ever Ames Craft Show will take place on December 3
- The District is getting together a group of parents of special ed kids to develop a recreation program for special ed kids
- Upcoming events:
 - Gift Wrap sale ends on 10/7
 - Grandparents Day is on 10/8 from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Volunteers should be at Ames by 8:15 am.
 - Fall Festival and Auction will take place on November 13 from 7 to 11 pm at PJ Klem's. An E-Blast invite has gone out but a hard copy invite may have to go home if the response is low. The Fall Festival funds all cultural arts programs at Ames for two years, such as field trips, Artist-in-Residence, and Art Guides. The attendance goals are 200 people!
- If available, please sign up for year round teacher lounge upkeep as an extension of teacher appreciation week.
- Fun Lunch volunteers needed. Please call Jette Georgopoulos if interested.
- Thank you's
 - Christine Kawiecki and Michelle Van Nice for a fun Movie Night
 - Mary Lescher for our beautiful directories
 - Brooke Schwarz for all of the FeedBlitz updates
 - Karen Dachota and Michelle Busche for Spirit Wear Sales
 - Angie Reilley for all her hard work in implementing Readers R Leaders

Calendar:

Gift Wrap Sale ends, GREEN WHEEL DAY	Wednesday, October 7
Grandparent's Day	Thursday, October 8, 8:30 to 9:30 am
Early release day - (AM Kindergarten only) + Parent Teacher Conferences	Friday October 9
No School (Columbus Day Holiday)	Monday, October 12
No School (Teacher Institute Day)	Tuesday, October 13
Little Symphony	Wednesday, October 14
Fun Lunch, Spirit Day/Bank at School	Friday, October 16
District Board of Education Meeting at Hollywood	Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 pm
Halloween Assembly and Parade	Friday, October 30 th at 1:00 pm
PTA Meeting	Tuesday, November 3 at 7pm
School Spirit/Bank at School	Friday, November 13
Fall Festival and Auction	Friday, November 13 at 7pm
Ames Aims Deadline	Wednesday, November 18
Report Cards/Early Release Day (PM Kindergarten only)	Friday, November 20
**NO SCHOOL (Parent/Teacher Conferences)	Monday, November 23
**NO SCHOOL (Teacher Institute Day)	Tuesday, November 24
**NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Holiday)	Wednesday-Friday, November 25-28
Reflections Deadline	Monday, November 30

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am