

Ames PTA Meeting - September 6, 2013

Meeting called to order at 8:47am

Teacher Report from Danielle Munson, 3rd grade teacher (at Ames 10 yrs)

Thanks to Mr. Gierman and thanks to Parents

She wanted to share with the parents that although there have been some changes at Ames, the teachers are still the same and here for the parents and kids.

Thanks to the PTA for providing the coffee makers for the staff. Also, the monetary donation to the teachers for the classrooms is so appreciated.

To the Parents, thank you for helping your kids – homework, breakfast, getting lunch together, getting them to school on time. Do not be afraid to contact the teachers – you can meet, call, email – all the teachers are here for you, please communicate with us for an awesome partnership.

Administrative Report from Todd Gierman, Principal

Mr. Gierman introduced Caitlin Collins, a Resource Teacher at Ames. She is working on an administrative degree through Concordia and has been so helpful to Mr. Gierman with getting the school year kicked off.

Mr. Gierman welcomed everyone to the Ames 2013-14 school year. Thanks to PTA and parents; thank to the PTA board. Mr. Gierman gave some background about his wife and three children. Here to serve you as principal at Ames – students and parents.

Principal meet and greet was wonderful – thanks to PTA for organizing. Beginning assembly great as well – thanks to the PTA, especially Mr. Gonzalez. Thanks again for the coffee machines.

Assemblies – concerned about the fire code limit and safety (events like Veterans Day, Talent show, etc), 239 Families, 340 students. Ideas – possibly do an online RSVP for parents for assemblies? Talent show to move to NR rec center? Open House/curriculum night - stagger start times K-2 and then 3-5? Mr. Gierman will talk to the Board immediately about these ideas.

Talent Show – We are having the talent show, but it will need to be run by a 10-15 parents. PTA will fund it and will work with the parent group. Mr. Gierman is in full support of it. Maybe a flier on e-backpack about needing volunteers to run the Talent Show. PTA is going to send out a survey to see where the parents stand on supporting it and volunteering. Question could be: do we want the talent show every other year? Make it classroom based? We want to be sensitive to 5th graders that this is their last year for the Talent Show.

Mr. Gierman has experience in Scripts spelling bees and he is looking into bringing that to Ames In the future.

A parent suggested we rework the first day of school – maybe have a meet the teacher, drop off supplies day/night before the first day of school. Mr. Gierman will bring it up to the District.

Dr. Sharma Lewis & Dr. Ganan, Director of Academic Excellence – coming Oct 4th to the PTA meeting. A parent wanted to know if he is going to address what the changes are to the curriculum. Also MAP Testing and the changes to align to the State of IL. If we are expecting drops in MAP score will kids not qualify for gifted programs. Mr. Gierman said they need to look at this and will need to revamp – Mr. Gierman will talk to Dr. Ganan.

School/Residence Boundaries – becoming more flexible so may see more students that have been displaced in the past come back to Ames. Need to have a plan in place, and to discuss with Staff. Newly approved student levels - 25 students per class for grades 3-5, and 23 students per class for K-2. Any further changes need to be approved by the District Board.

President's report from Deanna Hall, PTA Co-Chair

Approval of Meeting minutes from May – Approved and second, so passed.

Introduction of PTA Officers:

Deanna Hall – Co-Chair

Lisa Swicionis – Co-Chair

Tracy Stanard - Treasurer

Lisa Carlson - Hospitality

Cristin Evans - Fundraising

Flavio Gonzalez – Cultural Arts

Stephanie Hart - Secretary

We have a number of volunteer opportunities – Ames Fall festival, 5th grade class events.

Fall festival is 11/15 at Riverside Golf Club

Treasurers Report from Tracy Stanard

Budget presentation

Off to a good start with PTA member sign up but always looking to add more

Artsonia to replace Square One – so budget is an estimate

Took the bake sale out

All other fundraising events are continuing – gift wrap, Mixed Bag, brick pavers, Spirit wear, parents night out, Target red card (suggested we send a feedblitz reminder on this)

Hospitality – added some \$\$ in there as we meet with teachers about things like Fall auction

Thanks for the PTA for supporting the Reading and Math initiatives – budget has been increased this year.

Cultural Arts – added an in school project with Ms Klaus. PTA will cover cost of supplies, and mounting/hanging, etc.

We currently have excess funds and will be meeting about what we'd like to fund.

Budget was approved and seconded and Budget was passed.

Fundraising, Lisa Swicionis gave Fundraising report for Cristin Evans

Mr. Gierman will send a note out about Feedblitz, what it is and how, why parents may want to sign up.

Spirit wear ordering is underway – we are having a contest for classrooms with most participants and the winning class each month will get to hang a dolphin in the classroom.

Market Day is back – we do well with it. Will do pennies for pies again too.

Innisbrook – Orders due 10/9 – it did not show up on the calendar so we will make sure to Feedblitz it. Out of town relatives can order (through an account you've set up with your child).

New fundraiser with NASCAR car wash in December and January. The kids will receive 2 cards that will be scanned and Ames gets a \$1 for every car wash.

Mixed Bag – it was so successful that we are going to do it again this year, instead of every other year.

Artsonia – it is a 50/50 split between the PTA and the Art program. This is a much more comprehensive portfolio of their artwork and what you can do with it.

Paver bricks – we are going to move it to earlier in the year instead of end of year. Again, they are \$100 per brick and they will be laid in the Spring.

Cultural Report by Deanna Hall for Flavio Gonzalez

5 Assemblies set up throughout the year - Halloween (local H.s student to do magic); Smarty pants and the Mousetrap Machine; Musical about Albert Einstein; Veteran's Day (program will be on Veteran's day at 1pm).

Need to inquire about whether there will be a St. Patrick's Day assembly – organized in the past with Miss Orr and Ms. Lauritsen

Room Representative reports from Maureen Dvorak

Need additional room reps for Mrs Samuels, Ms. Giger, Ms Allen, Ms Wright, Mrs. Mimlitz, Ms. Munson, Mrs.Hickey

RAIN report from Paige Fox, Head of RAIN

Met a few times over the summer. They meet the 1st Tuesday of month at 9am at the Public Library quiet room. The next meeting is 10/1. On the 3rd Wednesday they meet in the evenings at 6:30. The first hour is business-related and the second is a support group. Dr. Karen Judy will be speaking at the next meeting.

PTA Meeting Adjourned at 10:06am