

Ames PTA Meeting
Monday, October 6th 2008

Call to Order 8:35 am

Village Representative - Ben Sells from the Village of Riverside came to speak about the tax increase referendum that is on the ballot on November 4.

Teacher Representative Report - Paula Stephens

Questions from the parents:

- 5th Grade patrol has been very eager in their duties but Mrs. Allen has spoken with them.
- Will the teacher web pages be updated soon? Mrs. Lieggi answered that the web site is currently being redesigned and at that time the teacher web pages will be updated as well.
- Fun lunch - Donna Cermak asked if the teachers would be able to go out to lunch on fun lunch days? Mrs. Stephens said the luncheon at the end of the year is much appreciated and that the teachers can get out to lunch at other times if they'd like.

Administrative Reports-

Principal Lieggi:

- Thank you's
 - All of the volunteers who helped with registration
 - All of the families who helped with landscaping the Ames Campus. A huge thank you to Terri Lynne Culloden for organizing this wonderful project.
 - All of the parents who volunteered to be Room Representatives. What a rewarding role you will play in your child's educational experience.
 - Karen Dachota and Michelle Bushe for organizing school spirit wear
 - Lisa Carlson, Jessica Mieczkowski and Lindsay Hayes for organizing gift wrap fundraiser
 - Denise Swallow and her team for organizing Green Wheel Day
 - Debbie Alm for organizing Bank at School
 - Susan Georgopoulos and the many volunteers for organizing and helping with Grandparents Day
 - Joan Janopoulos and her many volunteers for organizing the Halloween Windows
 - Jette Georgopoulos and all of her volunteers for helping with the upcoming Fun Lunch
 - All of the families who participated in the MDA walk at Brookfield Zoo
- ISAT results - Mrs. Lieggi will have a detailed presentation on these results at the next PTA meeting. Here are some of the highlights:
 - Overall 92.5% of students met/exceeded standards in 2007. In 2008, 90.1% met/exceeded standards. This is a drop, but not significant. It is not in the range that we worry about.
 - The 3rd grade is up in both Reading and Math. Ames had the highest increase in reading among all the schools in the district. Reading specialists will be at Ames three days a week.
 - The 4th grade is up district wide in Reading/Math.
 - The 5th grade Reading is up but there is a slight decrease in Math (from 100% down to 98%)
- Friday, October 10 parent/teacher conferences will take place at the initiation of teachers but parents can initiate a conference as well. The November 24 Parent/Conferences will be for all students.

Superintendent Dr. Lamberson:

- Enrollment is up. Next year the district estimates that enrollment will be up 3-4%.
- Where do the kids come from?
 - Last year, 1/3 was local, 1/3 was from outside of the area, and 1/3 was from downtown Chicago.
 - This year, 80% are local and 20% are from outside the area.
- District goals:
 - Evidence "best practice" standards of courtesy and civility. We're trying to implement these by year's end.
 - Support initiatives such as writing curriculum, District 96 Cadres on curriculum mapping, Inquiry (PD on demand), Technology, MAP, Phase 1 of Response to Intervention, collaborative teams, PowerSchool with parent portal, new district website
 - District is also designing "5 for 4" program - every fifth grader in 2009-10 will be issued their own laptop to use for the next 4 years - using only new funding that does NOT increase local property taxes.
 - Pilot Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences in Grades 3-8

Principal Lieggi:

- Communication Guidelines - Respectful; Student-focused; School staff will try to reply back within 24 hours.
- A math workshop will take place on October 23 from 7 to 8:30 pm. It will be similar to the reading workshops. Carol Murphy and Lauren Allen will present the workshops. The workshops will then break into grade level groups.
- If Principal Lieggi does not get back to you by email within 24 hours, please call her.

Officers' Reports

Co-Presidents: Brooke Schwarz and Stephanie Schulte

- Sign up sheets are circulating for parent representatives to attend Board of Education meetings and for Art Guides

- School Reach and phone trees for emergency school closings - Parents if you have unlisted phone numbers, please reconsider because it makes it hard to contact homes if there is a school closing
- District 96 is redesigning its website. Please send examples of good websites to Dr. Lamberson.
- Campus Safety and use of back lot during school hours - Please do not enter the back parking lot with your car during school hours since many kids use the back lot to arrive at school.
- Calendar changes: Science Fair only, adding Math Night, Train Safety Assembly,
- A Newcomers Club is being started at Ames. Brooke Schwarz and Steph Schulte will chair the club.
- Fundraising for this year includes Target red cards, Sara Lee, and Carson Days. Consider signing up for a Target Red Card and every time you use it a portion of the sale get donated back to Ames.
- Ames is organizing the Halloween Windows this year. Contact Joan Janopoulos for more information.
- REEF Tour for grades 2-5 takes place on Sunday, October 26. The cost is \$15 per person to participate.
- Network 96, a cross-district group designed to share information of interest to parents, is meeting on Monday, October 20 at Ascension Lutheran Church. Visit their website: www.network96.org

1st Vice Presidents:

- Lisa Freel - The Metra Train program will take place on October 24.
- Thank you Mrs. Lieggi for the I-Movie that was shown at the Fall Open House. The I-Movie will be shown on local cable soon.
- Mrs. Munson and Mrs. Lieggi are organizing an Ames group to run in the Frank Lloyd Wright run on October 26. There will be a 1-mile run for the kids
- CogAT testing begins on October 20

Announcements:

EARLY RELEASE DAY (AM kindergarten only) Parent/Teacher Conf.

NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day and Teacher Institute Day)

Art Workshop in Hauser Cafeteria 5-7pm

Halloween Window Taping

Halloween Painting

Little Symphony - Chicago Winds

Fun Lunch, Spirit Day, and Bank at School

District Education Committee (Hollywood School)

Board of Education Meeting (Hollywood School)

Train Safety Assembly

REEF Tour

Halloween Assembly and parade

CogAT Testing

Friday, October 10th

Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 13th & 14th

Wednesday, Oct. 15th

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Thursday & Friday, Oct. 16 & 17

Friday October 17

Friday October 17

Tuesday, October 21 at 5pm

Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30pm

Friday, October 24th

Sunday, October 26th

Friday, October 31st at 1pm

Last 2 weeks of October

Next PTA Meeting November 3rd at 7pm

Meeting adjourned: 10:05 am