

**AMES PTA MEETING**  
**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

Call to Order 7:10 pm

Motion was introduced to Approve PTA Minutes from September 25 and October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Lisa Muldowney put forth the motion and Lisa Freel seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Teacher Representative Report: Ms. Allen

- Thank you for the teacher gift.
- Math night will be Thursday, November 6 from 7 to 8:30. We will review the Everyday mathematics program. Parents please review math facts or read a book about math every night.
- Student Council store hours begin this week.

Administrative Report: Principal Lieggi

- Thank you's to:
  - Ames School Staff - for their hard work and dedication to our children. Great Halloween skit!
  - Vicky Schander for buying the room snacks for Halloween under budget by about \$60. Way to go, Vicky!
  - Joan Janopoulos for organizing the Halloween Windows. Thank you to the entire window taping volunteers too.
  - Jette Georgopoulos for organizing Fun Lunch. Thank you to all of the volunteers for this event.
  - Lisa Freel for organizing the Metra Train assembly and the Mad Scientist for Halloween.
  - Becky Levine for chairing the Bake Sale
  - Math Night - Thank you to Ms. Allen and Mrs. Murphy for organizing the evening.
- Veteran's Day Program 2-3 pm on November 11
- Thanksgiving holiday begins on Friday November 21. Report cards and MAP scores will be sent home.
- Holiday Gift Shop will take place on Wednesday, December 10
- The Holiday Program will take place on December 16
- Data from the 2008 ISAT testing
  - Third grade scores increased in both reading and math
  - Fourth grade scores were down in all areas (reading/math/science)
    - Ames is looking at the curriculum and classes
  - Fifth grade scores increased in reading and went down slightly in math (from 100% to 97.8% - still great!) Writing scores - 98% meet/exceeded standards
  - Chicago Tribune state rankings - In 2007 Ames ranked 354 out of 3093 (top 11.5%); in 2008 Ames ranked 724 out of 3698 (top 19%)
  - Why is Ames successful? Motivated students, staff, parental support, innovative curriculum
  - Where do we go from here?
    - Book club; math journals in grades 1-5; multi-age level instruction; homework group and breakfast group; parent support of initiatives; PTA commitment
  - Summary- Ames is performing very well and scores continue to improve
- Mrs. Lieggi just completed her first pod cast for the new district web site

Board of Education representative report - Mary Stimming

- Enrollment is currently at 1,438
  - 315 at Ames
  - 152 at Blythe (+20 ECE)
  - 361 at Central (excluding fully supported - max 8)
  - 116 at Hollywood
  - 944 students total (excluding Hauser)
  - 1053 total capacity
- Flexible Boundary Displacement (21 total)
  - 12 from Ames were displaced (11 went to Blythe and 1 went to Central)
- KITE (Kindergarteners Improving Towards Excellence) - 32 students or 19% of the kindergarten class were identified. Six are at Ames. Twenty-nine students out of the 32 accepted placement but one has since dropped.
- The board approved spending money to have the Illinois School Board review the District 96 school board policy
- At the November 18 meeting, Dr. Lamberson will begin speaking about next year's kindergarten class. It's expected to be

close to 190

- The Board of Education elections are coming up
  - The current Board of Education has endorsed a slate of candidates to run
  - Mary Stimming and Jennifer Leimberer will also run
- The laptop proposal (laptops for fifth graders to use through their time at Hauser) is being developed. Three teams (strategic, tactical, project manager) are involved in this proposal. The earliest this program would begin would be in the fall of 2009.

Officers' Report:

Co-Presidents:

- The Reflection program has started. The theme this year is "wow". The deadline is December 1.
- Appreciation/thank you's are being routed.
- Breakfast Club - The PTA budget of \$75 was spent in the first 6 weeks of this program. The PTA would like to increase the funding for The Breakfast Club (\$60 a month for seven months). There are 22 kids in the Breakfast Club (the kids who are also on the free lunch program). Motion passed.
- Landscaping Update from Terri Lynne Culloden - In the past we discussed landscaping the front of the school and considered a brick purchase program.
- Dr. Lamberson contracted with a landscaping company who reviewed plans for all of the District 96 schools. The school board will cover the landscaping cost at a basic level. To pay for the brick pavers, Ames would need to have a brick paver fundraiser and sell the bricks for \$100 each. The bricks would be engraved with the names of the families or classes that purchased them. Motion introduced to move ahead with the brick paver fundraiser in the Spring of 2009. Motion passed.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents:

- Lisa Muldowney -
  - Additional art guides are needed. Three more slots are open (two for kindergarten and one for the fifth grade). Please contact Lisa Muldowney if you are interested.
  - Artist in Residence - In January, the Striding Lion theatre group will come to Ames and work with the kids. They will spend 45 minutes with the Kindergarteners and first graders. They will spend one hour twice that week with the second grade through fifth grade.
- Save your box tops to help Ames Schools. See Liz Gomorczyk for more information.
- Ames will host a movie night in January. Kung Fu Panda. Christine Kawiecki and Michelle Van Nice are organizing.
- Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> is an early release day. Only the PM Kindergarteners attend on that day.
- The December PTA meeting is a Breakfast Potluck. We would like to solicit charitable donations for the Breakfast Club. Please bring non-perishable breakfast items for the Breakfast Club or donate some money to the Breakfast Club.

Treasurer: See the report on the back of tonight's agenda

Announcements:

Election Day and Bake Sale

Math Night presented by Ms. Allen and Mrs. Murphy

Veteran's Day Program

Carson Community Days

**Board of Education Meeting at Blythe**

Ames Aims Deadline

**Early Release Day (PM Kindergarten attends only)**

School Spirit Day and Bank at School

Thanksgiving Break

Reflections Deadline

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Orchestra & choir concert at Hauser

**Next PTA Meeting breakfast potluck**

Tuesday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm-8:30pm

Tuesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm

Saturday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**

Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>

**Friday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Friday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>

Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

Wednesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm

**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am**