

AMES PTA MEETING
Monday, December 8th, 2008

Call to Order 8:42 am

Motion to approve PTA Minutes from November 3rd, 2008 with correction noting there is not a slate endorsed by the Board of Education or Dr. Lamberson. Motion approved.

Administration Report:

Superintendent, Dr. Jon Lamberson -

- Thank you for the Parent/Teacher/Student Conference feedback. The feedback was very constructive and positive. The kids' feedback was great to hear as well.
- A survey will be distributed after the first of the year inquiring as to the future plans of families in the district, including whether there may be neighbors with children that could potentially be future students. The district would like to get a head start on kindergarten enrollment. 190 students are projected next year. The district is contemplating what to do with all 9 sections. There have been no discussions about a third section at Ames.
 - The district is not looking at increasing class sizes. The trailer option will be explored at Central since Hauser will need the space in the future.
 - The district would like to get the class back to 20 so it may need to open another section to do so.
 - Question asked regarding multiple kids of kindergarten age on one block. Would they all go to Ames? Principal Lieggi answered that they need to register on time. Once Ames gets 40 kids, then the remaining kids bounce to other sections.
- Residence verification - Dr. Lamberson asked for feedback on a residency verification proposal.
 - The district considered validating residency not only in kindergarten but also in 3rd and 6th grades. Community feedback indicated that they'd like to see annual verification, done one to two weeks before school begins, sometime in August.
 - Dr. Lamberson would like to offer two ways to verify residency: traditional and community-based.
 - Traditional would consist of verifying as the district currently does, by a parent or guardian who brings five original documents, in person, to be reviewed for residency. New students to the district would have to verify using this method.
 - Community based would allow district 96 families with children already in the schools to verify residency any time during the spring or summer, would not require so many original documents, and would allow Residency Authenticators to vouch for families.
 - The Residency Authenticator would be community-based, and approved and bonded by the district.
 - Why introduce this idea? Dr. Lamberson thought it was disingenuous to current residents to insist on an annual verification using the traditional method. The amount of verifications is also a consideration - about 85 new students versus 1400 existing students.
 - Some parents expressed concerns about the role of the Residency Authenticator
 - The idea still needs to be presented to the Board of Education and voted on.

Teacher Representative Report: Mrs. Munson

- Thank you for the great dinner on the PTA conference evening.
- Thank you to the room moms for the ornament idea.
- Garbage bags are needed for snow gear especially for grades 2-4. The PTA will provide as it has done in the past.

Principal, Colleen Lieggi-

- Thank you's
 - Sheila Gentile for organizing Carson Days coupons. We raised over \$140.
 - Becky Levine for organizing the Election Day Bake Sale and to all of the parents who contributed items for the sale. Over \$500 was raised.
 - Patti Ackerman for organizing Kid's Art Note cards.
 - PTA membership for providing dinner for the teachers on parent/teacher/student conference night.
 - Mrs. Lauritsen for organizing the Veteran's Day event and to all of the students for their talented voices.
 - Liz Gomorzczak for organizing the Box Tops.
 - Karen Dachota for organizing the Reflections program.
- Riverside Township received a grant for bullying prevention and they are educating the teachers about this topic
- The Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences generated great feedback and were successful
- Irene and Vasko Day is Tuesday, December 9.
- The holiday festival takes place on December 16. Grades K-1 are at 6 pm and grades 2-5 are at 7:15 pm.
- Update on the 5-for-4 program. The team wrote the job description for a project manager and it will be posted in February. The team is meeting with a consultant from Apple and is also planning on going on site visits to other schools where the program is already in place.
- There will be a goodbye to the Juracks on December 18 between 11:30 and 12:30 in the gym. A treat donation would be appreciated. Contact Julie O'Brien if you'd like to help.
- The Ames podcast will be shared at the next board meeting. Principal Lieggi will share the podcast with parents at the next PTA

meeting.

- The next early release day on December 19 will be spent on school improvement planning.
- The Striding Lion theatre group will be at Ames in January. K-1 will spend 45 minutes with them once that week; grades 2-3 will spend one hour with them that week; Grades 4-5 will spend one hour with them three times that week.
- CogAT scores are in. Please make an appointment with Mrs. Lieggi if you'd like to review. The scored will go home with the next report card.
- Information about Northwestern University's Gifted Program is in the office. The deadline for enrollment is January 1, 2009. Classes begin on January 15.

Officers' Report:

Co-Presidents-

- Gratitude- Thank you to everyone that Mrs. Lieggi mentioned. We'd also like to thank the Ames School Staff for their continued dedication to our children and their education.
- "Kung Fu Panda" family movie night will be shown at Ames on January 16, 2008. Michelle Van Nice and Christine Kawiecki are organizing this evening.
- Searching for other election location, possibly the VFW. Waiting to hear more information.
- Halloween Windows - The clean up after decorating the windows is a problem due to paint on the cement and sidewalks. We would like alternate ideas to review. Some suggestions so far include painting pumpkins, creating posters, decorating scarecrows, etc.
- Changes to the before and after school programs are being discussed.
- Landscaping Update (Brick Paving) - Ames is having a poster contest for use on the "official" flyer. The theme is "Paving the way to a more beautiful Ames." Look for information to come home before the break.
- The Board of Education meeting and the Holiday festival overlap. Could a K or 1st grade parent attend the Board of Education meeting and report back at the next PTA meeting?

Board of Education parent report from November meeting - Mary Stimming

- Jennifer Leimber and Mary Stimming presented Network 96 responses to the District's "Statement on Civility and Discourse" and website improvement plans. The former is a set of parent recommendations on communication within the district.
- Superintendent Report
 - Dr. Lamberson presented the audit of the district finances. 77% of the budget is salary/benefit related.
 - Kindergarten enrollment: The 2008-09 class is projected at 190+.
 - A detailed presentation on initiatives within the district over the past 13 years was given. It will be available on the new District web site in January.
 - ISAT results are up across the board; see the State Board of Education web site for more information.

Science in a Bag - The program is for grades 3-5 and needs eight volunteers. There will be new experiments for each grade. The kids will meet before school on Thursdays. By the next Monday they must return their completed experiment. There will be four experiments total. If the kids complete all four experiments they can participate in the Science Fair.

- Student Council is recycling every Friday before school. Please send recyclables to Ames.

1st Vice Presidents:

- Art guides
- Artist in Residence - Striding Lion Theater

Treasurer's Report: See the report on the back of the agenda.

Kaaren Jurack - Thank you for all of your support for MDA

Announcements:

Holiday Gift Shop

Board of Education Meeting at Hauser's LRC

Holiday Festival **** (K - 1st @ 6 pm & 2nd - 5th @ 7:15 pm) ****

(Rehearsal for Holiday Festival available to those unable to attend

School Spirit Day/Bank at School

Early Release day AM Kindergarten attends only

Winter Break begins

School Resumes

Striding Lion at Ames

School Spirit Day/Bank at School

Kung Fu Panda Movie Night

No School - Martin Luther King's Birthday

Early Release Day PM Kindergarten attends only

Next PTA Meeting

December 10th 3:05 - 5 pm

December 16th 7:30 pm

December 16th

evening performance Dec. 16th @ 9 am)

December 19th

December 19th at 11:30 am

December 22nd

January 5th

January 12th - January 16th

January 16th

January 16th evening

January 19th

January 30th at 11:30 am

February 2nd at 8:30 am