

AMES PTA MEETING
Monday, April 6th, 2009

Call to order 7:12 pm

School Leadership Team presentation: Ames Lunch Program

The team consists of Carol Murphy, Maria Berekis, Paula Stephens, Nicole Temple, Gail Goletz, and Wendy Howell. The team began by reading the book "Six Habits of Highly Effective Teams." The book helps teams manage conflicts and problem solves using a process called "lateral thinking."

The SLT tackled a problem that is a result of the growing enrollment: the lunch hour. Currently Ames has 317 students. To manage this number of kids, Ames has split the lunch hour into 3 periods of reading, recess, and eating. However there has not been enough time to eat during the scheduled period. The team took a six hat approach that looked at the problem based on facts, on emotions, and on positive, cautious and creative perspectives and finally determined a solution. They decided to keep the current lunch period but to fine tune it by adding 5 minutes to the eating portion of the lunch hour. By using the six hat approach, the team found that the pros outweighed the cons and came up with a workable solution to the problem. The PTA board thanked the SLT for coming to present their results to the PTA.

Administration Report:

Superintendent, Jon Lamberson

- Thank you to Colleen Lieggi and the Ames parents for a successful Kindergarten registration. The number of students at Ames exceeded the number of spaces. Five parents opted to go to Blythe Park. It is likely that the Board of Education will increase the class cap size to 23. If so, only one Ames family will have to go to another school.
- Visit the new District 96 web site: www.district96.org There is a request for feedback link. Please give your feedback. Also there will be a rotating scroll on the site that will contain quotes from students.
- The next step for the landscaping project is to meet with Riverside's Historical Advisory group. The plans will then go before the Village Board on April 20. If approved, work will be put out to bid.
 - At Ames, the front walkway will triple in size. There will be a study circle in front of the butterfly garden that will accommodate 23 to 25 kids. The pavers used will tie in with the building's style.
 - The budget for the Study Circle exceeds the PTA's expected contribution. The Building chair indicated the Board of Ed will absorb the cost of the entire project.
 - Money from the fundraiser can go to other projects at Ames.
- What are the kindergarten numbers district wide (actual versus expected)? The demographer estimated 190+ but currently fewer students than that are enrolled. This number could rise over the summer as the school year draws near.
- Will the existing landscaping beds be repurposed or transplanted? Yes they will. The sidewalks will also be enlarged. Enlarging the sidewalks should help with the crowds in front of school.

Principal, Colleen Lieggi

- Kindergarten placement - 38 out of 55 students requested AM kindergarten. A lottery took place to determine those spots. Also, a letter went out to those families without siblings at Ames to see if they'd like to attend Blythe Park. Five families did so voluntarily. Three families pulled out on their own. A question was raised that if the class cap size is raised to 23, how will those additional three spots in the morning class be filled? This has not been decided yet but a lottery may be a solution.
- After Care - The PAV YMCA will be providing before and after care at each school. Thank you to Christine Kawiecki, Julie Tucek, Karen Foley and Dr. Limperis for their work on this program.
- Election Day will take place on April 6.
- Ames Talent Show auditions will take place on Tuesday, April 14 for grades K-2 and on Wednesday, April 15 for grades 3-5. The dress rehearsal is on May 4 and 5. The talent Show takes place on May 12 from 1-3 and on May 13 from 7-9.
- Spring Open House is on Thursday, April 16 at 7pm.
- Hop-a-Thon for MDA takes place on May 22. The Juracks may do this again this year. The Leukemia Foundation was suggested as another fundraiser.
- The Awards Assembly is on June 3, the fifth grade clap-out is on June 4, and the last day of school will be June 5.
- The Ronald McDonald House is looking for families and organizations to make meals.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Tropical Paradise Days.
- Visitors from District 106 will be at Ames on April 7 observing the social studies curriculum for grades 3-5.

Officers' Report:

Co-presidents

Gratitude:

- Christine Kawiecki, Michelle Van Nice, Donna and Alan Keller, Phyllis Lukas and the Brownie Troup as well as the many volunteers that made Kung Fu Panda night such a huge success.
- Wendy Winkler and her many volunteers for organizing and running the famous Tropical Paradise. Fun was had by all!! Congratulations to Heidi Wolfer for winning the overnight stay at Timberland Water park.
- Lorraine Meyer, Donna Cermak and the many volunteers for organizing another successful Donuts with Dads. The kids and their dads gave us great feedback!
- Debbie Alm for her constant help with Bank at School/School Spirit Day and organizing the upcoming Election Day.
- Becky Levine as well as the many bakers and sellers for our upcoming Election Day Bake Sale.

- Election Day door watchers.
- Kate Nolan for organizing Pop Tops contest to raise money for the Ronald McDonald house as well as her help with the Irish Dancers during St. Patrick's Day.
- Miss Orr for her wonderful leadership of the Irish Dancers.
- Miss Allen and Carrie Levine for all of their hard work with the Ames Student Council.
- Kris Taber and Kim Urbanski for their work in organizing the upcoming 5th Grade Games night. Thank you in advance to the 5th grade parent volunteer for this memorable event for our 5th graders.
- Lisa Carlson, Jessica Mieczkowski, and Lindsay Hayes for organizing and running the School Supplies Kits for our students.
- Mrs. Goletz and Donna Jones for another successful year of Be Fit!
- Mrs. Lieggi for organizing the Talent Show and Mrs. Munson and Mrs. Orłowski who will be judging the auditions.
- Laura Culafic for running the Ames Aims Newsletter.
- Darcy Lewis for organizing Little Symphony events again this year.
- Terri Lynne Culloden for organizing the future landscaping for the Ames Campus.
- Tony's Finer Foods for their generous donations to Donuts for Dads and to Riverside Foods and Costco for their generous donations to Breakfast Club
- District 96 leadership for guiding our children's education and helping them strive for excellence.

Announcements:

- Calendar change: There will not be a kindergarten visitation on April 24th. Incoming kindergarteners will get a chance to tour the school in the late summer during the kindergarten teddy bear picnic. Information will be sent to incoming kindergarteners over the summer.
- Landscape updates
- 2009-2010 Ames Fall Festival will take place on Friday, November 13 at PJ Klem's. Ames will be using the money raised for both Cultural Arts and other expenditures such as new playground equipment.

Re-election and Election of new Ames PTA Board Officers:

- Co-Presidents: Steph Schulte and Jen Kaiser
- First VP Cultural Arts: Lisa Muldowney
- First VP Educational Programs: Joan Kanatas
- Second VP Room Reps/Membership: Susan Georgopoulos
- Second VP Hospitality: Nancy Moyer
- Treasurer: Mary Lescher
- Secretary: Phyllis Lukas

Motion to approve the PTA meeting minutes from March 2, 2009. Lisa Muldowney motioned and Mary Lescher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Calendar Announcements:

All District Band Concert at Hauser

April 22nd at 7pm

Green Wheel Day

April 22nd

5th Grade Tour of Hauser

April 28th at 2pm

All District Orchestra Concert at Hauser

April 29th at 7pm

Early Release Day

April 30 at 11:30am

No School Teacher Institute Day

May 1st

Talent Show Rehearsal

May 4th 3:05-5pm

Next PTA meeting Installation of Officers

May 4th at 8:30am