

Ames School PTA Meeting  
September 12, 2014

**Teacher Report**

*Mr. Ryan Bookler, 5<sup>th</sup> grade*

- Thank you to the PTA for the First Day Assembly
- Thank you for all the PTA does – assemblies and field trips provide students background knowledge that helps them in the class room
- Thank you to BOE for approving Math Interventionist position which has been a huge addition
- Common Core Standards are being implemented in the class rooms
- Administration has started teacher committees and training
- Mr. Gierman started building level committees last school year to build and share lessons
- The time teachers spend working together allows them to reflect on what works well and what can be improved
- PPS (Parent, Teacher, and Staff) committee
  - Will meet four times this coming school year
  - A chance to work together, to assess, and make changes
- The PTA thanks the teachers for the Teacher Meet and Greet before the first day of school
  - Helped students in getting supplies to school more easily
  - Helped reduce student anxiety

**Administrative Report**

*Mr. Todd Gierman, Principal*

- Briefly explained the extensive process for hiring new teachers and staff
- New teachers/positions this year
  - Mr. Sean Bartelt, PE
  - Mrs. Alejandra Govea-Lopez, Bilingual Teacher
  - Mrs. Maria Bloom, ELL
  - Mrs. Christina Duve, 4<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Mrs. Kathryn Samuels, AM/PM Kindergarten
  - Ms. Gianna Mandarino, AM Kindergarten
  - Ms. Melissa Caby, School Pyschologist
  - Mrs. Katie Novosel, Math Interventionist
  - Mrs. Elizabeth Whaley, QUEST 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> grades
- New cubbies
  - 275 installed over the summer
  - Approximately another 100 will be installed either over Winter Break or next summer
  - Official name plates and room numbers will be installed
  - Fire and Phone systems were redone
  - The Multi-Purpose Room is now being used as the Music Room

- Interactive white board installed
  - All things present in previous Music Room is now in new room
  - Creates a busier lunch time, since tables are closer together
    - Student helpers push garbage cans to expedite clean up
    - Tables sanitized between each lunch with State recommended solution
    - 20 minutes allotted for eating which is about 16-17 minutes of actual time after grabbing milk and getting settled
    - Looking ahead for solutions to possible 3 sections of Kindergarten next school year such as a Cafetorium
    - Elizabeth Kos encouraged parents to email the BOE directly with any concerns so it is on their radar screen
- Pizza with the Principal
  - Special student lunch with Principal Gierman
  - One child from each class room will be chosen
  - Criteria for selection is being established
- Breakfast with the Principal
  - Parents are invited to meet with Mr. Gierman before scheduled PTA meetings starting in October (October 17<sup>th</sup> 8-8:20 AM)
  - Food will be provided by the PTA
- Girls on the Run
  - Headed by Cristin Evans and Kim Marrero
  - Starts next week
  - Available to 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls
  - Fall GOTR has two groups with a total of 35 girls
  - Kim Marrero reported
    - That several parents responded within a week to volunteer in order to increase the program to two groups
    - There will be a Spring session – girls on the waiting list for Fall will be given spaces first
- Fundraising
  - Innisbrook –
    - Mr. Gierman has posed for a photo as Superman to support the fundraiser. (See Feedblitz for the photo)
    - Students that sell 6 or more items will have the chance to join Mr. Gierman in Superhero costumes and run through the school during lunch time
  - Market Day - Students that sell a set amount will receive a piece of tape to tape Mr. Gierman to the wall
- Bike and Hike
  - Great turn out
  - Teachers offered raffle tickets to participating students based on honor system
- Fall Parent Night – Thursday, September 18 6:30-8 PM, Please come!
  - An overview of Common Core Curriculum will be given
  - PTA, Boy Scouts and others will have booths set up

- Specials Teachers will be available as well (possibly including QUEST)
- Common Core University for parents
  - Tuesday, September 30 6:30-8 PM
  - Dr. Ganan and building principals will discuss Common Core Standards

### **Officers' Report**

- Approval of Minutes – May 2014
  - Liz Buoscio motioned
  - Tracy Stanard seconded the motion
  - All approved
- Welcome and Introduction of 14-15 Board
  - Lisa Swicionis, Co-President (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Elizabeth Kos, Co-President
  - Tracy Stanard, Treasurer (3<sup>rd</sup> term)
  - Katie Vahey, VP Fundraising
  - Flavio Gonzalez, VP Cultural Arts
  - Tiffany Agne, VP Room Reps
  - Kirsten Bell, VP Hospitality
  - Karen Nishimura, Secretary
- Membeship
  - All PTA members will receive a printed calendar and a directory
  - Calendar is also available online on PTA website (amespta.org)
  - Calendars and directories should be distributed in mid-October
- Bike and Hike Week – great turn out
- PTA Meet and Greet
  - Parents only
  - Wednesday, September 24 7:30-9:30
  - Paisans in Berwyn
- Picture Day – September 29
- PTA Communication
  - To save on printing costs communication will be more electronic
  - Sign up for Feedblitz and e-backpack
  - Updating PTA website – may include online forms and/or online payments
- PPS – Parent, Principal, and Staff Committee
  - Established during last school year
  - Improving communication between parents, administration, and school staff
  - Staff is represented by several teachers that ask for anonymous feedback from the other teachers
  - Donuts with Dads
    - Not working well in original form for teachers
    - Revamped last year but didn't serve purpose well
    - Will be replaced with Dads' Bowling Night
  - Grandparents Day

- Teacher feedback is that it is disruptive to the school day beyond the ½ hour that the grandparents are there
  - In October, PPS will discuss how it can be restructured to include D96 goal of community involvement
- Teachers have offered many great ideas to be implemented as the year goes on

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Tracy Stanard*

- Audit update
  - Audit done at the end of every school year
  - Three PTA members audit, back-up, and sign off on audit
  - Audit complete and sent to IL PTA
- New accountant has been found
- 14-15 Budget review and approval
  - PTA, Treasurer, and Principal collaborate
  - Reviewed by PTA Board
  - Look at actuals to set budget
  - Highlighted expenditures
  - Approval –
    - Liz Buoscio set motion
    - Lisa Carlson seconded motion
    - All approved
- Garden Brigade –
  - Outdoor classroom no longer fits curriculum
  - Need parent volunteers to help upkeep the school gardens
  - May be able to involve students during the school day
- R.A.I.N (Riverside Area Inclusion Network), Paige Fumo-Fox
  - Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month in Quiet Room at Riverside Public Library
  - Support group for parents with special education concerns
  - R.A.I.N. has a Facebook page and Weebly link to share articles and resources
  - Planning to hold a resource fair
  - Looking for ideas for Inclusion Week
- Fundraising
  - Fundraising calendar is being created
    - Calendar will be on Feedblitz and Ames PTA website
  - Spirit Wear, Karen Shook
    - Order online
    - Order time extended through next Saturday
    - Samples for sizing were available outside after Teacher Meet and Greet
    - Contact Karen to see samples for sizing
    - Spirit Wear sales happen once per school year

- Sport Spirit Wear on Spirit Days (1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month) for fun – no competition this year
  - Innisbrook – September 2<sup>nd</sup> – October 1 \*orders placed online
  - Market Day – Orders due September 13<sup>th</sup>/pick-up September 17<sup>th</sup>
  - New fundraisers – Fun Lunch, Fun Run, Cleaner Option Drycleaning, and Terracycle
- Room Reps
  - Still need reps for Mrs. Giger and Ms. Mandarino
  - Tiffany sent email to Room Reps to contact teacher
  - Only 5<sup>th</sup> grade Room Reps will meet at this time to discuss the special activities for 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Cultural Arts
  - Halloween Assembly will be at 2 PM
  - Historical Perspectives Assembly will be in April or May during the evening to avoid disruptions to instruction
  - Photos from last year's Artist in Residence program will be hung now that cubbies are in place
  - Reflections contest
    - Theme: The World Would Be a Better Place if...
    - Ames has been underrepresented in past years
    - Will encourage students to use photos from Artist in Residence program to increase participation
- District Updates
  - Two Board of Education members have resigned
    - They will be replaced by October 11<sup>th</sup>
    - Send feedback on what you would like to see in a board member to BOE via email ([BoardofEd@District96.org](mailto:BoardofEd@District96.org)) and all members will receive the message
- Other Announcements
  - Board of Education Meeting – Tuesday, at 7:30 PM Hauser Library Resource Center
  - Board of Education meetings can be found on YouTube.com (search District 96 meetings)
  - PTA will be displaying information in the school once a location for the display is found
  - Please attend PTA meetings – bring your kids!

In attendance:

Lisa Swicionis, Lisa Carlson, Kirsten Bell, Liz Buoscio, Joe Lombardo, Mina Lombardo, Paige Fumo-Fox, Anne Adams, Karen Shook, Dawn Eagleson, Flavio Gonzalez, Tracy Stanard, Maureen Dvorak, Kim Marrero, Elizabeth Tomasek, Emilia Kowalski, Julia Lembeke, Lora Gardiner, Karen Nishimura