

HASTINGS PTA – WE GOT PEOPLE!

7:00 ARRIVAL *sign in, get name tags, say hello*

7:05 WELCOME *Sharon*

- Teacher/staff introductions New Hastings vice principal Shelly Selwin introduced,
- District news *communication system, achievement gap, response to volunteer training: instant messaging (pilot at Fiske)* What did Dr. Ash say ? should PTA fund this as it was in the school district system goals—it is a goal to get it in the budget-if the PTA did implement it, perhaps eventually the system would fund it
- Boston school committee meeting/Sheryl W., Vito L. working on study to determine as how Lexington compares to rest of country in the achievement gap results
- METCO began in Lex. in 1966—MCAS data reflects a gap in test scores, percentage of students below proficient higher for black and Hispanic students. lower for white and Asian students
- Hastings has a METCO tutor, support with specialists here
- PTA presidents meeting—Dr. Ash would like to know more of Hastings model for volunteer training: NCLB does encourage parent involvement in schools

PTA BUSINESS *review check request form, status of bylaws revision, budget amendments*

VOTE on nomination of Kelly L. as PTA Treasurer for 07-08 –official vote unanimous vote of “yes”

PTA check request form for any bill, receipt, in advance request, bill, reimbursement
Sir Speedy, tax exempt form

Bylaw revision committee (see Sharon if you would like to participate) it is an open process, they have not been updated in approximately 4 years or more

Budget amendments—need to revise as we passed it last May, would like to get any amendments by next Monday (10/22)

7:20 FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Fall Membership Drive *Heidi or Shannon—we are up from last year already, up 40 families total --277 (250 family memberships) 19 people bought directory w/out membership; you can still get a copy of from the PTA, if it is a financial issue please call Shannon/what can you do if there needs to be corrections ? tell the room parents, also let Mrs. Tripi know, tell Shannon/also Linda S.*
- Sally Foster Gift Wrap *Deb C. you can still order on line; we are down in sales again, from last year --just under \$4000 raised, 135 families participated,5 years ago the school made \$12,000*
- *suggestions: we need to examine this-do we need to do something different ? change or do a different marketing program; any suggestions for what we could do differently, it is important to have an easy way to give money/maybe we can continue shopping via the website all year/help needed to distribute paper*
- Family Fun Fair – *to be held in spring*

7:30 PTA STANDING COMMITTEES

- Anti-Bias Committee for Diversity (ABCD) *Maud*: *monthly meeting 7:45 a.m.*, if people want to meet other time, they can meet and then report to Maud, hope to encourage more participation. Potluck will be held in January this year—date tbd. The meeting will also feature the diversity book bags and open circle books—We want to illustrate that there are more universal issues than just race, religion family style, want to continue disability awareness program-class room, ASM speaker, video produced in school “Everyone Belongs, Everyone Learns” will be shown on one specific night. What was enjoyed was that it was the kids responding to their own issues—good opportunity to bring things out. Also, we will have pizza served. (Jessie quickly asked: Would there be better attendance at the meeting if there was child care?)

Parent has offered to do a monthly survey via Survey Monkey.

- Arts Created Together (ACT) *Emily L*: we need help planning, getting groups into the school. 1st Monday of the month at 7:45 a.m. in vice principals office
Events scheduled: December –David Coffin—whaling voyage in song—history, active participation
These are assemblies that take place during the school day. Parents are invited
Jump rope team for January—45 minute performance (3 during the day) work with PE and recess, late winter/early spring some kind of dance residency/ We did not do any fund raising for ACT, this is now 100% funded by the PTA
- Big Backyard (BBY) *Janet or Sharon*: all fall trainings are done, up and running
- STAR Newsletter *Betty*: published 3x a year, outline for fall issue-Betty needs writers for the articles—she has ideas and topics, also she needs people to take photographs
- Family Math *Jessie*—a series of evening events, we are now “sheep without a shepherd”—just need someone who help to do the scheduling —a good opportunity for parents who can't do things during the day. Need now, as dates need to be set. These nights are usually held in January.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS AT HASTINGS

- Trick or Treat for UNICEF *Jane H* Darfur is the topic for this year. Jane wants to do an information booth
- Halloween Party Friday Oct. 26 – *Fund raiser run by Fifth Grade, All Welcome!* will be 6:30 -8:30 p.m. in the gym.

EXTRA CURRICULAR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Odyssey of the Mind –all ages – *contact Ilene B., Kristine A.or Jessie S. every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m. , parent meeting soon to form teams*
- YES – explorations in Science for 4th graders *thank Barbara Franks and Diane Bigelow*
- Math Club--4th and 5th grade—try to do out of class math-sign ups from Nov-Dec

7:50 PTA PROGRAMMING *Carin C.*

- PTA Café- *first or early Friday of month before All school meeting in the library, Lynn K. is a great P.E. educator, everyone is very pleased to have her here. Potential for new equipment discussed: \$3500 for Dance Dance Revolution—perhaps grant*

partnership from LEF (?)

- PTA Meetings – *generally second Tuesday of month (no meeting in Dec.)*
- Brainstorming future speakers /topics survey will be coming out-please let us know for the future/topics around diversity for November; December-no PTA meeting, but will talk about ACT at PTA cafe/ January: assessment, testing, how are children measured: Town Budget/ February: Boys, Sons March: Girls April: grief and loss May: budget and elections, June : Thank You ! please email any ideas or suggestions to the executive board
- Oct. PTA Café with L. Kerouac *Jessie*
- Parent Volunteer training *Jessie and Nancy: teachers are “regrouping” to get more parents in the classroom. Nancy says thanks to all*
- news—best practices for all school, for any parents who can't attend Parent teacher conferences, use a cell phone with speaker, so absent parent can at least listen in.

8:00 PARENT / TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

- Parent teacher conferences *Nancy, Ann & Jessie*
Role play by Jessie/Nancy—kids self-evaluation; “3 praises and a wish” ask your child before your conference what do they like at school/parents like if the parents get prompted before hand by teachers, teachers benefit from before had knowledge, so the points or interests can be reached quickly within the short time frame of the conference/ the difference between the November and Spring conferences are great, it might be good if the parents could send ahead of time /reflecting listening preparation to hear difficult things/lots of kids different at school than at home/could there be a common agenda form for conferences ? /parents should feel comfortable about asking for more time/concerns for working parents not able to have contact enough with teachers/phone calls are highly recommended/New parents—how can you help us know who are kids friends are ? Also, don't hesitate to let teachers know of any difficult situations/ongoing assessments done in the Fall, but also throughout the year; could you make a list of strength and weaknesses ? There was a form used, some parents felt it was intrusive, but this is helpful to the teachers/be social, be honest, get back on track if you are off/when you kids are young you are still learning, partnership is still the best/perhaps a conference tip posted to the website. Nancy gave a handout concerning conferences/ some teachers used to include the kids as well—it was very beneficial

Parent teacher book club *Nancy November 1st—at least 5 definite teachers, book is well liked Best Friends/Worst Enemies*

8:30 ADJOURN –continued conversation at Not Your Average Joe's for anyone interested