

Highland Creek Elementary PTA

General Membership Minutes

December 9, 2009

Location: Highland Creek Elementary Multi-purpose Room

The second General Membership meeting for Highland Creek Elementary (HCE) PTA, for the 2009-2010 school year was held on December 9, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Gretchen Biedrzycki.

Welcome

Gretchen welcomed everyone and made the following announcements:

- Please check the lost and found. All items are donated to charity at the end of each month. Lost glasses are in the office.
- Thank you to everyone who took an apple from the Giving Tree for our needy families here at HCE. All apples have been taken.
- Heidi Hines is sponsoring a Toys for Tots drive in the HCE parking lot on Saturday, December 12, 2009.
- Minutes from the September General Membership meeting can be found on the HCEPTA website.

Bylaws Committee Report

Lorna Dore gave the Bylaws Committee report.

- Bylaws committee members Lorna Dore, Denise Lynch, Helen Borbor, Karen Peterson, and Lisa Lee met on September 24, 2009, to conduct a 4-year review of the bylaws, discuss officer terms and elections, and discuss an increase in dues.
- Lorna moved to waive the reading of the by-laws and substitute a reading of the recommended bylaws changes. The motion was seconded and passed.
- The bylaws committee recommends the following changes to the Highland Creek Elementary PTA bylaws:
 - **Officer elections are currently held at the May General Membership meeting. The committee recommends moving Officer elections to the March General Membership meeting to allow more time for a smoother leadership transition.**
 - **Members of this PTA are members of the NCPTA and the National PTA. This year the NCPTA increased its membership dues by \$.75/member. Our bylaws are written to allow us to increase, without amendment, the amount of our dues if the State or National PTA raises their dues. It is the feeling of the Bylaws Committee that dues are better collected in whole dollar increments. It is recommended that the HCE PTA raise its annual dues to \$6.00, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.**
 - **Council delegates will be elected in March and will serve a one-year term (previously was May).**
- Gretchen moved to approve the recommended changes to the HCE PTA bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Gretchen moved to adopt the revised HCE PTA bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed.

School Leadership Team

- Gretchen announced that the following parents volunteered to serve on the HCE School Leadership Team (SLT): Erik Arneson, Jeanne Bost, Brett Frankenberg,

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Kim Hester, Adreina Lynch, Denise Lynch, Christine Morrow, Millicent Powell, and Denise Sabo.

- Gretchen moved to approve the above listed parent volunteers to serve on the SLT. The motion was seconded and passed.

Report of Officers

- *Advocacy Report:* Gretchen read the following Advocacy Report on behalf of Tiffany Morgan:
 - As you all probably know, HCES has lost Teacher Assistants due to the CMS budget cuts.
 - Did you know that we have also lost valuable learning tools such as decodeable books, workbooks and we are slated to lose the Investigations workbooks next school year? This poses a major problem because these books are the main support tools for our teachers.
 - At last week's Executive Board meeting we discussed that our teachers at HCE are doing a supreme job making do with their limited resources. In addition to the PTA giving money to the teachers, they spend their own money to ensure our children get what they need.
 - We challenge you to get more involved in your child's education. Contact the school board, our school board member, Rhonda Lennon was just sworn in yesterday, attend the school board meetings, make some noise. Let the board know that we are not pleased!
 - Additional information will be put on the PTA website shortly. In the meantime, should you have any questions, suggestions or ideas, please feel free to contact Tiffany Morgan. Her information is on the PTA website under the news and information tab, click "officers."
- *Fundraising Report:* Denise Lynch delivered the fundraising report.
 - The PTA profited \$36,400 from the Boosterthon fundraiser. We had budgeted to raise \$20,000.
 - Each teacher received 10% of what their class collected by the first collection deadline. As a result, almost \$6000 was given to teachers to spend in their class rooms.
- *Treasurer's Report:* Holly Sims delivered the treasurer's report. See Financial Summary 2009-2010 for details.
 - The Executive Board voted to receive Book Fair profits in the form of Scholastic Dollars, increasing what we have to spend from \$4000 to \$12,000.
 - Through the success of the Book Fair and the Boosterthon, the PTA has an additional \$6200.
 - The PTA recommends the following:
 - **Purchase three additional smart boards from Scholastic Dollars.**
 - **Use \$1500 toward smart board extras (wiring, installation, etc.).**
 - **Give \$1000 each to the PE, Art, Technology, and Music departments for a total of \$4000. Media already has a separate line in the PTA budget and receives funds.**

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- Gretchen moved to spend \$4000 on the specials departments and \$1500 on the smart board installations as recommended by the PTA. The motion was seconded and passed.

Principal's Report

Dr. Ann Nivens welcomed everyone.

- Thank you to everyone that had worked so hard on the Holiday Program, especially Mr. Hill and Mr. Ablan music directors, Mr. Maranchello and Ms. McCall for the set, and Ms. Geary for the powerpoint presentation.
- HCE has earned the School of Distinction rank in NC. This rank is awarded when 80% of the students score on or above grade level on the End of Grade (EOG) tests. HCE is at 85%.
- HCE achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We are working toward 90% and are showing growth to ensure the success of every student.
- Dr. Nivens introduced assistant principals Heidi Copeland and JR Beavers who said a few words to the group.

Announcements

See attached agenda for a list of upcoming events.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colette Chenault
HCE PTA Secretary