

Gayhead Elementary PTA
General Membership Meeting
Friday February 23, 2007

The General Membership meeting was called to order at 9:35AM by Mary Jean Staudohar, President.

Recording Secretary: Noreen Healey

Quorum Established

1. Principal's Report - Mr. Bruce Downer

- Mr. Downer noted that the focus on more block instructional time and related schedule changes have received good feedback from teachers so far.
- Due to security reasons, starting in March, classrooms will be locked after dismissal, and students & parents will not be able to re-enter those classrooms to retrieve forgotten homework assignments. It was suggested that children obtain the names of 2-3 children in class to contact if he/she forgets his/her homework assignment. Some parents suggested that perhaps more teachers can focus on posting their hw assignments to the school web to help ease this transition
- Followup from prior meeting: it doesn't appear that an additional librarian or reading teacher is in the budget
- There is the possibility that incoming kindergarten and 1st grade students will exceed the limit for Gayhead. Kindergarten is capped at 150 students. The district will not know final student counts after next week's K registration...a final student count is determined sometime over the summer
 - There were concerns raised that elementary children from one family may be split up into different schools due to the overcrowding possibility. There was no information available on how the district decides which children will attend GH and which will be re-routed.
 - It was suggested that parents write letters to Mr. Downer and cc: Superintendent Powell stating your concerns.
 - It was suggested that the GH PTA ask Mr. Powell if he can meet with parents at a tea/coffee (there is an upcoming Council Meeting on 4/12)

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Fusco to create a petition letter signed by all of the parents concerned about the overcrowding issue at GH for incoming kindergarteners and 1st graders, and potential splitting up of families across different elementary schools. The letter will be submitted to Principal Downer and Superintendent Powell. The motion was seconded, and was passed.

- President-elect, Kelley Lewis volunteered to help draft this petition, and it was suggested that the petition letter be

presented to the registering kindergarten parents on registrations days next week.

- The interviews for a new Principal were rescheduled to 3/2/07 due to weather

2. Reading & Approval of Minutes (President, Mary Jean Staudohar)

The minutes from the January 17, 2007 General Membership meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report (Sue Kline, Treasurer)

- The fall fundraiser raised \$13,548 in funds, just under the \$16k budget
- Received a check for fall pictures for \$2,222
- Received the year-end excess usage bill from Atlas Star for the PTA copier. Last year, 15k copies above the 125k max were made, but this year (jan to jan) 40k copies above the 125k max were made. This resulted in a much larger bill - almost \$600 compared to \$250 last year. The monthly savings gained in renegotiating the annual service agreement will be offset by this overage. If this overage continues in future, the budget line will have to be increased. The Executive Committee will meet to address the issue.
 - Lee Bukofsky (Corresponding Sec'y) stressed to please use the family distribution lists hanging above the copier in order to reduce the extra copies being sent home
- The budget was analyzed to determine final numbers for end of year...carryover will be \$2000 less than last year
- The budget committee members: Kelley Lewis, Michelle Frego, Beth Brofman, and Sue Kline are looking for more committee people and will be starting to meet around 2nd week of March. An email will be sent out on the topic. Please contact one of them if you are interested.

4. VP Administration (Rebecca Yeager)

- A letter went out to teachers regarding membership in the PTA...they are aiming at 100% teacher membership
- There will be a Cybersafety seminar at GH during the last week of April with Deputy Hanlon
- Staff Appreciation will be the week of 5/7/07
- Trying to get a parent trained in CPR to come and speak

5. Correspondence (Corresponding Sec'y, Lee Bukofsky)

- There was a date misprint for Career Day on the PTA meeting notice that went out
- Received thank-you cards from Van Wyck and Brinkerhoff as well as the Wappinger PTA Council president for our support during the recent tragedies

6. VP Communication (Lisa Fusco)

- Senior Breakfast will be 4/18 and 4/19 Kim Barnett and Kristen Whelan are the co-chairs of the event
- No TV week will be the week of 4/23
- Webmaster info: various information regarding PARP and wellness month have been posted to the Gayhead PTA website... please be sure to visit
- Karen Gomba noted that the PARP & Wellness packets are going home today...please take a look at the packet
- Kathy Spinella noted that the 5th grade musical went great...there were 7 performances including dress rehearsal...next year, she will not chair the musical...she would like to still direct, but is looking for someone to act as the PTA Chair of the musical to help her...the role would be to help with paperwork/copies/organizing volunteers, etc. Karen Gomba expressed an interest in helping her

7. Fundraising

- Sweats and tees will be sold this year, and the Gayhead Grizzly bear has changed a little.
- Book Fair is 3/21-3/23/07

8. SLT

- Citizen of the Month-children are seeing the pictures on the bulletin board, but are not understanding what it means...to increase understanding, SLT will work on character education utilizing the center board/case if they can

9. Parent Playground Committee (Rose Kelly)

- The parent playground committee/group has been officially setup/incorporated
- It was stressed that the PTA and the playground committee need to work together...we need to show parents that we are not competing for funds
- Mrs. Smith will work with teachers to hold a teacher fundraising event, and the committee would like to plan other events such as family nights, game nights, etc.
- A website has been created for Project Playground and can be accessed through the GH PTA website or through the link:
<http://projectplayground.homestead.com/>
 - It has drawings of the 3 playgrounds as well as expected costs, and fundraising efforts information

10. General

- **MOTION:** A motion was made that Rebecca O'Mara be appointed to the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded, and was passed.
- If anyone is interested in helping at Kindergarten registration on the PTA table, please let MaryJean know
- Tristate Committee meeting...if you are interested in being on the Tristate Consortium committee, the meetings are 2/27 at 7pm and 3/8 at 7pm
- 3/29 is PTA Recognition night at RCK HS
- 3/16 Taconic Region Lunch
- 3/10 District Science Fair

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45AM and followed with a presentation and walk-through of the Gayhead Cafeteria led by School Lunch Director, Abe Nuchman, WCSD Food Service Dept.