

MINUTES OF THE HAWORTH HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
MEETING ON OCTOBER 10, 2007 AT 8:00 P.M.

WELCOME:

The meeting began at 8:05 p.m. Co-President, Christie Manascalco, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Board of the HHSA:

Stacey Poosikian, Christie Maniscalco, Jo-Ann Larsen, Marcella Giampiccolo, Betsy Usami, Lori Epstein.

HHSA Committees:

Suzanne Kaechele, Dina O'Donnell, Lara McGinley, Maggie Verdon and MaryBeth Brace.

Non-Members:

Mrs. Wise, Haworth School Nurse and Mrs. Smithie (Grade K),HTA representative.

It was noted that no one from the Haworth Board of Education or the Administration was present for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

An extended welcome was made to all the Kindergarten parents who attended this evening's "meet and greet", which included three (3) new families, and all of whom stayed for the HHSA meeting. The Co-Presidents explained in great detail all of the programs and benefits the children of the Haworth Public School had recently received, and continue to receive, from the HHSA, specifically commenting on the air conditioned building, new laptops, updated sound systems, and new playground equipment.

In continuance from last May's HHSA meeting, a plea for new members to join the HHSA was again made. Being a member of the HHSA would entitle a member to vote on HHSA issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Ice-Cream: Beginning on Friday, October 19, 2007, ice-cream will be sold at lunch time. Please contact Devery Volpe to volunteer. Ice-Cream will continue every Friday during lunch periods.
- Trick or Trunk: MaryBeth Brace commented that all of the donators from last year are again returning, noting that one or two new families have donated a trunk. The event will be a fundraiser for HHSA on October 26, 2007 in the teacher's parking lot of the school. It will be \$5.00 per child for grades K-5, younger siblings are welcome. Anyone who wants to donate a trunk and approximately 250 pieces of candy and/or non-food treats should contact MaryBeth Brace as soon as possible.

Emerson Moto Photo is running a limited promotion to help support the HHSA. Please refer to the flyer sent home last week in your child's backpack, or call Angela Viggiano with any questions.

Don't forget to collect "BOX TOPS" and drop them off at the school. A suggestion was made to place a receptacle for BOX TOPS closer to the K-2 classrooms, so the little ones feel they are participating as well and won't have to walk to the front office alone.

- Newsletter: Current happenings and upcoming events. Please call Dina O'Donnell if you are interested in helping.
- Fashion Show: Maggie Verdon and Lara McGinley are in charge of the April 16, 2007 Fashion Show at the Rockleigh Country Club in Rockleigh, NJ. Neiman Marcus is providing the fashions. Invitations will be sent out in January, 2008. There are many sub-committees looking for volunteers. Please call either Maggie or Lara to lend your support. In addition, Haworth.org website lists all the information of the committees looking for help.

SCHOOL LUNCH COMMENTS:

Mrs. Wise asked for parent/children feedback regarding the current lunch programs from the Meals for Kids Company as well the Minute Mart in town. Many parents stated their children are really enjoying the lunches, however, the service from Meals for Kids, was a little slow, leaving children not enough time to eat their meals. Mrs. Wise said the Company is working on establishing two lunch lines to make things go faster and that the Administration is aware of this situation. A suggestion was made to have all the first period lunches on the tables, labeled, as the children come into the lunch room. Meals for Kids will be contacted by one of the parents to see if that request can be fulfilled.

In addition, Mrs. Wise stated that although, snacks and beverages are regulated by the State as far as what is sold or brought into school, lunch is not. The Administration is in the process of looking into providing smoothies to be sold in lieu of bake sales. It would be a pre-ordered selection which would allow money to be raised once a month for a different grade's benefit.

TREASURER REPORT:

Jo-Ann Larsen provided the treasurer's report. It was reported that to date, the main Operating Account balance is \$35,879.79. Details of the various projects were provided. Projects/Initiative that HHSA has contributed to during the School Year 2006-2007 included:

- Assemblies (Project Impact, Young Audiences, Arts Horizons) - \$5,460.00
- Story Teller (3x during the year) - \$6,000.00
- Air Conditioning - \$96,597.00
- Study Hall Teacher Salaries - \$12,746.84
- High School Scholarships - \$1,500.00
- Teacher Appreciation/Breakfast - \$889.69

HHSA is picking up the cost for the D.A.R.E. program for grade 5 this year.

Extensive discussion ensued over the future of the HHSA. Various ideas and questions were suggested. Parents inquired as to why the HHSA was paying for study hall teachers salaries. Mrs. Poosikian and Mrs. Manascalco reported that it has been brought to the attention of the Administration since last year.

HTA MEMBERS:

Mrs. Smithie, the HTA representative announced she is here tonight as one of the representatives who volunteered to attend monthly HHSA meetings. She continued to state that the teachers all value the HHSA and commend all of the hard work over the years and appreciate all the children have benefited from as a direct result of the HHSA, citing for example, the storyteller who visited her kindergarten classroom just today. Not to mention, the air-conditioned building, which never prevented a day of learning inside, no matter what the temperature was outside? She further stated that teacher salaries should not be paid for by the HHSA. She again stated that the HHSA is a vital organization to the children of the Haworth Public School and says Thank you. Mrs. Smithe stated that other teachers will be attending further meetings of the HHSA to lend their support.

Discussion continued with additional questions as to various fees requested of parents and asked if there could be a possibility of some consolidation of the HHSA and individual class dues. The executive board commented that class parents are a committee of the HHSA and all monies go directly to each classroom for parties and trips, etc., the dues to the HHSA will allow voting on issues presented.

The executive board stated that the Administration is aware that the HHSA may be dissolving at the end of this session, unless new volunteers come forward. In addition, the membership committee commented that many people give donations to the HHSA that do not have children currently in the school systems, like teachers, and retired parents.

Mrs. Poosikian and Mrs. Manascalco thanked everyone for coming tonight.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcella Giampiccolo, Secretary

