

Springman Attea PTA Minutes
March 2, 2010

In Attendance: the Secretary apologizes that the list of attendees is not available.

Call to Order: Candy Pullano called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved. Sandy Brennan asked chairs to email her with any volunteer needs, which will be included in the next email blast.

Treasurer's Report: Susie Feldstein reported large spirit wear sales at the 5th grade parent orientation. The budget will have to be adjusted to send a paper copy of the last issue of the Focus to incoming 5th grade students in June. Susie asked the principals to ask staff to submit invoices for their approved Wish List requests as several items are outstanding. Free and reduced lunch families will be receiving gift cards soon.

President's Report: Candy Pullano is looking for volunteers to form the slate committee. Key chairpersons needed are the wrapping paper fund drive chairs, book fair chairs and spirit wear chairs. The idea of adding team parent volunteers to promote PTA initiatives and also to work open houses was discussed. Liz Price will chair the By-Laws Revision committee.

Candy wished a happy birthday to Heather Hopkins, who said she has the best job in the world.

PTA Council: Kris Haramaras, PTA Council president, announced the next meeting PTA Council meeting will be March 11th. but is usually the first Thursday of the month. The PTA Council's goal is to share ideas and best practices, and present district wide ideas. All parents are welcome. The PTA presidents, the first vice presidents, Gerry Hill and Brett Clark attend. The meeting is well attended and very informative. This month Principals Woell and Walther will talk about transitions. The slate for next year is being formed and looking for the following chairs: environmental, character counts, ELL out reach, community outreach. Anyone can be a chair position.

Principals' Reports

Heather Hopkins reported the following items:

- Fifth grade transition is in process. The fifth graders have already visited and had a chance to talk about global language options. A FAQ sheet was prepared for the fifth graders with the most often asked questions. Parents are always concerned about the kids learning the block scheduling, but staff finds that it only takes kids 3 days to become

- comfortable with the system. Staff will again survey students to assess the transition process. About 270 parents attended the parent orientation night. Heather Hopkins will hold parent coffees to provide parents a chance to speak one on one with her. The incoming 6th grade Open House at Springman will be held August 16th.
- The spring musical was a great production. Springman appreciated the help of the GBS students who coordinated the sound and lighting, borrowing Glenview TV equipment to record the production. The only problem this year was sound quality. The school has body mikes, but Heather isn't sure actors were using them properly but will do research into this problem.
 - Builders Club, with help from teacher Deb Faermark, held another Canned Food drive. Students were asked to donate canned goods or a \$1 for a bracelet. Most students made the donation without taking the bracelets.
 - ISATs are next week so best attendance is encouraged. Heather Hopkins also asked kids to have a good sleep and breakfasts. Make-ups occur because a certain percentage of students have to take test to make it count for No Child Left Behind. 77% of students have to meet or exceed standards. Both Springman and Attea have exceeded this criteria for many years. The State also looks at sub-groups, which also must meet standards for making adequate yearly progress. Staff use NWEA as a tool to make predictions to help students who may not meet state standards. Recent news indicate President Obama and Secretary of Education Duncan are looking at revising the No Child Left Behind program.

Jim Woell reported the following items:

- NWEA testing occurs after spring break.
 - The musical Mulan Jr will be presented March 19 thru 21. Check the website for times. Attea may need a sound board replaced, which will be done prior to the next production.
 - Fifth grade transition continues. Fifth graders took an online survey before they came for the visit and Jim Woell answered their questions during their lunch period. The parent orientation was successful with 350 attendees and approximately 150 parents signed up for the principal coffee klatches. Over 100 "letters to the principal" have already been received, which is a great response. The summer open house for incoming 6th graders is August 15th, 1 to 3pm.
 - Builders Club, with Dave Paget's leadership, held a spare change donation week with the money going to Haiti relief via Feed My Starving Children. Kristin Borth is willing to share her movie about her Haiti experiences before and after the earthquake.
 - Attea will hold more parent-principal coffees, even though

these have been poorly attended. This is a way to focus on parent concerns.

Wrapping Paper Sales: Liz Price reported Sally Foster changed its business model to sell gift cards rather than the wrapping paper. The profit margin also shrunk to 40% for partner schools. For these reasons, the PTA has decided to try Innisbrook as our wrapping paper vendor next year. Innisbrook has a wider variety of products and more incentives to build sales, but requires the schools to have a 10% participation rate, which Liz feels our kids have done in the past. If less than 10% participate, the profit margin drops to 40% from 50%. Innisbrook also has internet sales which the PTA can promote through email blasts. Wrapping paper sales is the main fundraiser for the PTA.

Teacher Appreciation: The luncheons at both schools will be held from 11am to 1pm Thursday during parent teacher conferences. Kristi Carroll will discuss teacher appreciation week at the April meeting.

Membership: The district will be going online for registration on April 14. Liz Price will be emailing the board to do a PTA test registration March 24th. The district registration will prompt families to pay for PTA registration. The PTA will then email families who have paid a questionnaire for volunteer information. A parent suggested "Week at a Glance" list the PTA meetings.

School Board Update: Since Board members did not receive the team and class size packet until the day before their meeting, the Board asked the team and class size presentation be delayed until March 15 so they could have time to digest the materials. How remediation and enrichment occur was discussed. All District 34 principals reported they all use the same vocabulary but not necessarily the word X-Block. Sometimes students use X-Block for reading. Although that's not the purpose of X-Block, it's a positive use, especially for middle school students who have little time for leisure time reading.

A parent asked if staff is talking about X-Block outcomes. Jim Woell said some teachers rotated kids through successful programs, creating a consistent approach to enrichment. Often the teachers are trying to get the same kids for remediation. This is resolved by math teachers only doing remediation during X-Block and not doing enrichment. Again, District 34 is the only school system doing both remediation and enrichment during X-Block so Attea and Springman are building the model.

Empty Bowls: Susie Feldstein, the parent chair, reported the Empty Bowls fundraising event will be held May 20th from 5:30 to 8pm in the Attea Cafeteria in conjunction with the Middle School Art Fair at the Park Center. Candice Wu, Attea's art teacher, already started making bowls with 6th grade. Springman is starting this week. Jill Brinkman said summer is hardest time for Food Bank so the proceeds will be much appreciated. The committee's goal is to make over

\$5000.

Team Newsletters: Heather Hopkins asked the group for feedback on team newsletters. A parent suggested that briefer, more succinct newsletters would be more effective. Some parents reported they get newsletters, some are not. Parents should contact the teams to make sure their email is correct on the team distribution. Perhaps the team newsletters could be put on the Attea and Springman websites.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be held April 6, 9:15am at Springman Middle School.