

HPTO Meeting Minutes October 13, 2009

Attending: Jen A., Terry C., Jennifer C., Sara H., Chelsea H., Karen H., Christine M., Laura W.

September minutes read and approved.

Treasurer's report: No changes.

Volunteers: Sara H. has volunteered to fill the position of Volunteer Center Coordinator. The last remaining open position is E - Script Coordinator. Only 30 families have returned the green volunteer sheets that go home each year indicating which activities parents are interested in helping with.

Fundraisers

- Wrapping paper: Final numbers are not in yet. Late orders can be placed online only. Marcy will send information regarding online orders via listserv.
- Fun Run: Event ran smoothly. Money is due on Friday, October 16.
- Campbell's Soup Labels: We have not had a chairperson for this fundraiser for the past two years, although several older members of the community continue to donate their labels to Hoover. Schools do not receive cash for these labels, only equipment (mostly playground balls that are not high quality.) The decision was made to discontinue this fundraiser and remove it from the volunteer list. Since none of the other Corvallis schools participate in this fundraiser, we will donate the labels we have to Good Sam.
- Scrip: To increase participation, Laura is planning classroom competitions and incentive programs. The goal is for each family to buy a total of five gift certificates/cards, the dollar amount doesn't matter. Each family that meets the goal will receive a raffle ticket for a \$50 gift card of their choice. If the school meets the participation goal, the students will be rewarded with extra recess. Scott B. is working on an order form that could be emailed to Laura. Marcie will link this form to the school website.
- Magic Show at LaSells is scheduled for October 29. This event is sponsored by the Corvallis Schools Foundation. Hoover will be hosting a fundraising table at this event.

Principal's Report

Our custodian, Axel, has been promoted to a new job at CHS. Mike B. will be filling his spot at Hoover.

H1N1 information sheet will be going home with students. Anyone who complains of feeling ill will be sent home. All students will be reminded of good hygiene habits and required to wash hands frequently, including at transition times when they will be going to spaces that are shared among multiple classes.

Focus on Writing: The school wide focus for the year is on writing. For the past several years, Hoover students have achieved high scores on both reading and math standardized tests (with approximately 90% of students meeting the state goal), but the writing scores have been significantly lower, indicating a relative weakness. For the past two years, only 50% of the 4th graders at Hoover met the state standards, down from 60-65% the preceding three years. These tests are an authentic way to assess writing skills. Students are given two topics to choose from. They are expected to go through the entire writing process and produce a final copy approximately three paragraphs in length. The papers are read by two readers and scored for six writing traits on a six point scale with an average score of 4 required to meet the state standard. The writing traits are: ideas, organization, conventions, word choice, fluency, and voice.

Teachers were asked to compile a list of reasons why students struggle with writing. Not a single external (out of the control of the school) reason was on the list! Grade level teams put together pacing guides outlining the time frame and manner in which each of the writing traits will be taught within the class curriculum.

Further information on the state writing assessments can be found by going to the district web pages and clicking on the link to Departments and then Instructional Services.

The next HPTO meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.