

Harris Hill P.T.A – February 6, 2002

Approved Meeting Notes

Number present: 17

Officers present: Mary Jo Wells, Kathy Keech, Barb McKinley, Susan Regruit

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

1. Introductions
2. Shared Decision Making (Jenny Strong, Kellie Vacanti)
 - Finalizing updates made to their charter last year. Updates must be approved by the Board of Education
 - Results of 4th grade math test were reviewed at the February 5 faculty meeting. Two test problems were reviewed. Grade level meetings will be held to discuss implementation strengths and weaknesses.
 - An “essential question” is a common idea across grade levels and curriculum areas. The “essential question” at Harris Hill is revision. Revision takes place at many levels (academic areas, behavior, use of gym equipment, etc).
 - At the next Board of Education meeting Mike Maiorino will ask how the district is integrating math and improvement strategies across buildings
3. Hot Topics – Communication (Barb McKinley)
 - A replacement for schoolnotes.com will be available on the district web site
 - Parents would like information for school events, such as gymnastics observation and D.A.R.E. graduation, sent home earlier
 - Mr. Nelson has a personal expectation for teachers to communicate with parents
4. Principal’s Report (Mr. Nelson)
 - Whooping cough case in the building
 - A full time substitute speech teacher has been hired
 - Instructional Support Team (IST):
 - Teachers make referrals to IST. Many referrals are behavioral.
 - IST is a multi-discipline team which meets twice each week to discuss support strategies
 - Parents are involved in developing the plan
 - IST is doing an initial assessment of referrals and sends some directly to special areas to reduce the backlog
 - Computers are being moved into each hex
 - Investigating software to broadcast information on TV in hexes
 - Waiting for a date for the 5th grade year end activity
 - 5th grade musical is underway
 - 4th grade ELA (English Language Arts) test is completed. Teachers have done self-scoring
 - Students from Nazareth College are in the building
 - Vandalized Harris Hill sign will be replaced with funds from insurance and district

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5. Board of Education Representative (Mike Maiorino)
 - Reviewed the district Goals and Objectives:
 - Character Education
 - Communication
 - Facilities Assessment
 - Technology
 - Special Education Program evaluation and NY State audit
 - Political Action
 - Transportation
 - Board is in budget cycle

6. Recording Secretary's Report (Susan Regruit)
 - Notes from January 9, 2002 meeting were approved by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed

7. Treasurer's Report (Kathy Keech)
 - Request for \$41 for multi-age learning materials for 4 clusters was approved by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed
 - Request for \$600 for an enhanced yearbook was approved by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed

8. Corresponding Secretary's Report (Barb McKinley)
 - Thank you note received from Indian Landing for Harris Hill's co-sponsorship of the Coping with Anxiety presentation
 - Thank you note received from the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf
 - Barb and Mark Byers are preparing samples of letters which can be sent to government leaders urging support of education and funding

9. President's Report (Mary Jo Wells)
 - Mrs. McNeil, Patti Marks and Michelle Szatkowski will be the membership representatives on the P.T.A. nominating committee
 - Robert Freeman workshop on Open Meetings has been rescheduled for February 27 in the Harris Hill gym
 - New math booklets are in the front office
 - Meet the Candidate Night for Board of Education candidates will be held on May 1 at Bay Trail
 - Summary of Board of Education meetings will be available in the Hotline
 - The Coping with Anxiety workshop was very successful with approximately 150 people in attendance. Many thanks to Julie Creathorn for her participation in the planning of this event.

10. Committee Reports
 - Spirit Wear (Gretchen Hurley)
 - Spirit Wear committee has 12 people participating
 - The committee will develop 4 designs and have a vote to select the final design

11. General Question and Answer
 - Math Curriculum

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm