

Hoover PTA Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2017
MINUTES

PRESENT: Cristina Battaglia (President), Ann Werzyn (Vice President), Nicole Giehl (Second Vice President), Nancy McKenna (Historian), Lauren Taylor (Treasurer), Melissa Harman (Secretary), Shannon Harpst, Sara Vogt, Emma Nelson, Paula Hogenmiller

Start time: 9:03 a.m.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Emma Nelson (1st); Paula Hogenmiller (2nd)

Correspondence: Penguin Patch wishes us a Happy Holiday!

Executive Committee Reports

- a. Historian, Nancy McKenna: No report.
- b. Treasurer, Lauren Taylor: \$9,056.69 currently in the account, which includes Read-a-Thon; however, it does not include Bake Sale which is about \$1,000 extra after expenses. A few people have turned in Halloween receipts, but not many. We have submitted the majority of our dues to PTA; supposed to send in PA PTA dues by Dec. 1. Any parent, guardian or teacher is allowed to join though at any time. About 140 families/200 parents have joined to date which is fantastic!
- c. 2nd Vice President, Nicci Giehl: Our K-2nd graders went on wonderful field trips this fall (4th grade went yesterday) and it's so great to have the PTA bring the cost down for these awesome outings. All the kids have had such a great time, and we can't thank the PTA enough for their help with the cost of these off-site excursions. PTA provided refreshments at the principal's coffee—thank you! The Read-a-Thon was a tremendous success. We got the kids motivated and excited to read and blew through our goal! We think for next year, the Read-a-Thon will no longer be a challenge; it will be a common goal to work toward together and we will partner with Howe to reach a high number of minutes. We want everyone to be excited to win TOGETHER, instead of making it a competition. We couldn't have done it all without the great PTA support, and the kids loved it. Our kids

together read about 300,000 minutes – an amazing accomplishment. Halloween parties were a lot of fun – we had many volunteers who led great games and crafts for the kids. The election day Bake Sale also helped out the PTA and school. The book fair is going on right now, and we are still looking for helpers this week. Parent-Teacher conferences happen this week, and the PTA provides snacks – thank you so much for these little extras that make a big difference. The holiday shop is coming up, and I know what a big undertaking this is and we are all looking forward to the kids going through and taking the time to pick out things for their loved ones. Or parent co-chairs for the Maker Space – Cristina Battaglia and Jamie Freeman – will meet often to find new ways to involve the parents as well. They want to have a night to bring in parents and share the space with them for the 20 spots available for seating and viewing. We could have another one if it proves to be popular and more parents want to visit the space. Need parent volunteers for the Maker Space, especially to take apart the projects and restock the space with materials. Regarding class parties... we will keep food for the rest of 2017-2018 school year. But moving forward in 2018-2019, we no longer will have food at parties. We have to look out for the safety and inclusivity of all the students, including those with allergies and other restrictions. We can find new ways to keep the parties interesting and fun; we're not worried that we cannot fill the "food" time with other fun projects and activities. We can look at this as an opportunity to do a service project and/or help others. [A question came up about meeting with a child's "second" or extra teacher in a grade to have a conference with them, too (the non-homeroom teacher). Ms. Giehl said to reach out to the teacher and ask if you can meet with them during conferences or even another time.]

- d. Vice President, Ann Werzyn: No report.
- e. President, Cristina Battaglia: All members should know that they "own" their MySchoolAnywhere account and should login anytime to see everything. We are looking into still providing a printed directory, but we aren't sure how that will be done yet, and when we can do it, due to privacy concerns. The Hoover Talent Show will be in the January/February timeframe – again at Jefferson – we will do our best to accommodate everyone. We had about 30 people last year...so we might have to figure out what to do if there are 50 or so who want to participate, which we think will happen. Two minute acts are long, and may have to add intermission. Also, might have a jewelry basket to raffle during the event if we do an intermission. Cristina will chair it this year. Might look into having a "shadow" this year to watch what Christina does to prepare for next year. We will need a lot of helpers to help with the event, and will ask 5th graders to help as the crew and for announcements/introductions.

Committee Reports

- f. Holiday Shop, Cristina Battaglia for Carol Rossetti: At first, we were worried that we would not get enough handmade items, but we have been overwhelmed with the help and support of items given to Carol to sell at the Shop coming up! Cristina worked with Carol to price items and review all items, including jewelry,

aprons, cups, canvasses, glass pieces, etc. If we still have items left-over on Friday late afternoon, we will open it up to parents to be able to walk through and purchase all items still left. She does still need volunteers to work the shop and will be asking parents in the next few weeks. This year it will be held in the lobby area outside of the gym since we now have the Maker Space in the library room. This year we did narrow the margin of what we will make through Penguin Patch since we know we will make 100% profit on the handmade items.

- g. Adopt-A-School, Ann Werzyn: Once again we will sponsor a school in Beechview, which has a high poverty rate and the students really can use the help. All items have to be new – School supplies, toys, food and coats starting Nov. 27 for two weeks. My basement last year was covered with items and there is a higher need this year. Hoping for same response. Can't wait to see what Hoover does! Spread the word – we will send a blast out soon!
- h. Bake Sale, Cristina Battaglia for Kara Trant/Sharyn McGill: The bake sale went well, we sold out of everything including the peperoni rolls. Netted about \$600 from the event. It was cold, and we also gave some items to the janitorial staff.
- i. Read-a-thon, Cristina Battaglia for Jen Vaughn: Jen says thank you to everyone for their diligence during the event.
- j. Kids of Steel, Shannon Harpst: We are going to hold an assembly on Friday, Jan. 5 to get the kids excited about participation and explain the entire process for the winter/spring Kids of Steel program. We will offer different kinds of new workouts this year, and will integrate some fun stuff with new helpers as well.

Old Business

Nothing else to discuss at this time.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Adjournment at 10:20 a.m. – Werzyn (1st) Vogt (2nd)

Next PTA meeting – January 16, 2018 at 7 p.m.