

PHT MEETING MINUTES

10/11/07

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

In Attendance: Parents in attendance represented 21 primary (K-4) students and 6 middle school (5-8) students. There were 3 members of staff/faculty in attendance.

PHT Committee Members: Jenni Corbett (Chair), Lori Jandl (Vice-Chair), Sara Thurston (Treasurer – was not in attendance), Lynn Tupy (Co-Secretary) & Mary Wollman (Co-Secretary).

Presentations: Barb Cummings spoke about the Title I program and who is eligible for these services. She helps students in grades K-5, with reading and math. Barb will receive a referral from a teacher, and then she must verify eligibility. Students are eligible if their home school district participates in the Title I Program. Title I is a federally funded program and participation is based on those regulations. Her hours are M, T, & W from 7:30-12:50. She works with each child between 15 to 30 minutes per day. She offers assistance through group work, individual assistance, and computer aided programs. She encourages parent involvement by holding conferences and welcomes any parent to visit her Title I classroom. You can also contact Barb if you have any questions at barb.cummins@srsmn.org or 763-504-9450, ext. 301.

Lisa Sjogern also spoke to us about increasing parent education on technology. She has been working with PHT to provide trainings on technology applications. What's new? Staff Blogs: Teachers can post homework assignments, class notes, etc; Parents can leave comments on the blog, but everyone will have access to view those comments. If a parent needs to review an old assignment, these blogs are archived and can be accessed at anytime. Lisa received input last year from parents regarding online grades. Parents wanted to be able to review all grades at once. The system has been upgraded to allow everyone to do that. When viewing the Grade Book, there is specific coding to watch for. MI=missing assignment/test, AB=absent, and a red star= score has not yet been recorded by the teacher. Parent Portal vs. Student Portal: If only the parents are reviewing the grades, go to Parent Portal. If parents are reviewing grades with students, still go to Parent Portal. Lisa keeps track of how many "hits" are made on this site for statistical purposes. This will help her in the future when she is working on more technology enhancements. Under the "Grade Book" section of the online grades, there is a category labeled "Private Notes". Teachers may leave notes for parents in this section. They will also e-mail or send home a note if necessary.

Old Business:

Book Fair: Jennifer Reynolds spoke to us about the Fall Book Fair which is scheduled for Saturday, November 17th, 2007. It will be held at Barnes and Noble in Maple Grove from 11-4. This is a brand new idea that PHT is very excited about! For every dollar that is spent, 15% of all profits will go to the school. Everything is eligible: Starbucks Coffee, games, and all books (children and adult). The only thing that is not eligible is gift cards. Jen sent out a wish list to teachers so that she can notify Barnes and Noble ahead of time if there are books that need to be special ordered. Some of the teachers have volunteered to read aloud to kids. Student Council will be gift wrapping purchases for a free will donation to their group. Besides picking out books, there will be games for the kids. Flyers and e-mails will be coming out soon with even more information.

New Business:

Peaceful Playgrounds: We watched a segment from Kare 11 News on this topic. Everyone was very excited about the program. The cost is approximately \$2,349. We need to find out if the paint is included. It could be a little more, but a program definitely worth checking into. If we pursue this, Mr.

Johnson has offered to instruct students and to train the playground volunteers/teachers. The blacktop is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2009. Mrs. Bialke will check to see if this can be done sooner if we decide to go ahead with this program. More information will follow at the next PHT meeting. Please plan on attending if you would like learn more about this program.

Fall Family Fun Night: This event will be held the evening of Friday, October 26th at St. Raphael's School, (same day as Rake-A-Thon). It will be from 6:30-8:00 and there will be a \$3.00 charge per bingo player with a \$15 max per family at the door. There will be bingo, popcorn, beverages, and prizes. We are in need of bingo callers. Please e-mail Jenni Corbett if you can help, jincorbett@msn.com.

Fundraising Brainstorming:

Scripps – We buy gift certificates from vendors like Cub and rather than going directly to Cub, we purchase the gift certificates from the school. 3% of the profits will go directly to our school. It can add up to a lot!

Home Business Fair – Buy products that are sold by a home business and a percentage of the profits are donated to our school. Many of these items can be gifts or things we would typically buy for ourselves.

Food Tasting – This would be similar to our Beer and Wine Tasting event. You pay a certain amount at the door and you get to sample all different kinds of foods. Many of these restaurants may donate their time and food just to get free advertising.

Macy's – You pay \$5 for a 20% discount card that can be used for an entire day.

Dinner Feed – You pay a certain dollar amount at the door for dinner. Many times the food is donated.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Principal Report:

Foreign Exchange Students - There has been a request from South Korean families to enroll their middle school aged children in our school for 12 weeks to one year. These families would pay the tuition. We need to know how many families would be interested in hosting a student and how long. Please contact Mrs. Bialke and let her know if you are interested or have questions.

Rake-A-Thon: Kick-off for Rake-A-Thon was September 14th. We are trying to encourage students to collect donations by offering some incentives. For every \$50 that a student turns in, their name will go into a drawing for (Ipod and digital cameras for the middle schoolers, Build A Bear certificates for the primary students.) We truly need 100% participation for the school to operate on budget.

SAC (School Advisory Commission): The focus is on fundraising for the school. For 2009, the goal is to fundraise at least \$100,000. This is a substantial increase from previous years. We need to have at least two or three major fundraisers in order to meet this goal. We also need someone willing to chair some of the larger fundraisers. Another way to help the school is by taking advantage of corporate matching at work. The United Way Program is an excellent opportunity to contribute money to our school. If your company participates in this program, you can list St. Raphael's School as your charity of choice. Most corporations will match your contribution up to a specific dollar amount. The Rake-A-Thon donations can also be corporate matched. Please check with your HR department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next meeting is Thursday, November 15th, at 7:00 P.M. in room 22. This meeting will be preceded by training on "Google Apps" from Lisa Sjogren.

All parents/guardians of students at St. Raphael's school are members of PHT (Parents Helping Teachers). Please mark your calendars to join us at future meetings.

2007 PHT Meeting Dates

November 15, 2007 – 7:00 p.m. – Room 22

December 13th, 2007 – 7:00 P.M. – Room 22