

Holmes PTA Meeting

January 28, 2010

Present: Jennifer Raven, Autumn Labbe-Renault, Mary James, Joanna Littell, Lesli Chuck, Derek Brothers, Teri McNamara, Jennifer Thompson, Nancy Loeb Williams, Gene Ashdown, Anne Finkelston, Rachel Aptekar, Anne Quilter Goldstein, Xiaobo Lin, Cathy Farman, Amy Labson, Lea Darrah, Shelley Bronzan, Carolee Gregg, Heather Wade, Kiley Athanasiou, Moret Chavez, Anne Ternus-Bellamy

I. **Meeting called to order**

- Cathy Farman, PTA president, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Library

II. **Minutes from December 2009 PTA meeting**

- Rachel Aptekar moved to approve the minutes from the December 2009 PTA meeting; Nancy Williams seconded. Motion approved

III. **Library Report – Amy Labson**

- Amy thanked the PTA for funds used by the library and read a Dr. Seuss-inspired poem.

IV. **Teen Activity Specialist Report – Moret Chavez**

- Moret reported on recent teen activities, including a junior high dance and said the next dance will be April 16, where she intends to teach kids line dancing and/or hip hop and stomp. They plan an all-school tournament of sports soon, possibly cooking activities at the Veterans' Memorial Center and a summer drop-in program at Martin Luther King Jr. High School.

V. **Davis Media Access – Autumn Labbe-Renault**

- Autumn said there are many media-related services and activities available for youth at Davis Media Access, including paid high school internships.
- Many camps this summer will be free or low-cost, including animation camp.
- They are working with Harper Junior High on a media production pilot program.

VI. **Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Raven**

- Jennifer moved to approve the profit and loss statement for Jun. 1, 2009, to Jan. 27, 2010. Lea Darrah seconded. Motion approved.

VII. **Aviation Club Request – Cathy Farman**

- Cathy reported that the executive board had recommended not funding a request for a junior high aviation club because PTA has not historically funded student clubs. Gene Ashdown requested a letter be sent to club leader Chad Prizmich explaining the reason for turning down his request. Cathy agreed to do so.

VIII. **Nominating Committee – Shelley Bronzan**

- Shelley said by the February meeting there should be a committee in place. It should have five to seven members, preferably parents of seventh and eighth graders. The committee should have a slate in place by the April meeting.

IX. **Un-Fundraiser Report – Carolee Gregg**

- Carolee reported that our goal was surpassed, with a total of \$10,271 raised as of Jan. 12.
- 140 families donated – approximately ¼ of all Holmes families – and 13 donated in a teacher's name. Not corporate matching donations were made.

- Thank yous are going out and a list of donors will be in the February newsletter.
- X. **Parent Education Report** – *Anne Finkelston*
- Holmes will host a parent education program on Feb. 10. The topic is study skills for teens and all parents of junior high and high school students are invited. Students are also welcome. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the MPR.
- XI. **Counselor’s Report** – *Joanna Littell*
- Joanna said counselors are busy setting up presentations for sixth-graders and parent information nights and coordinating high school presentations to ninth-graders. Also dealing with semester schedule changes.
 - She described a typical day as a counselor – essentially nine straight hours of talking to, listening to and helping students – and said the proposed 50 percent cut to the counseling department would severely limit services for students.
- XII. **Teacher’s Report** – *Heather Wade*
- In keeping with the spirit of the evening, Heather recited her own poem about Holmes students and staff and thanked PTA for recent lunch.
- XIII. **Principal’s Report** – *Derek Brothers*
- Derek – after performing a high school cheer – said Zangle is improving and parent-connect is up and running with straightforward instructions. Student-connect should be available by March.
 - Regarding the budget, what has been proposed is the worst-case scenario. The impact on Holmes will be larger class sizes in 9th grade English and some math classes; fewer cluster classes if seventh period is eliminated for 7th graders and the counseling department cut in half. If 7th graders do go down to six periods, students will have to choose between music and foreign language and more will have to take health in the summer. Both foreign language and cluster teachers will lose sections. Support staff will also be lost.
 - Derek said he needs a parent volunteer to serve on the family life committee.
- IV. **Budget-Related Discussion**
- Lea suggested a town-hall style meeting at Holmes to better inform parents of the looming budget cuts and their impact on Holmes.
 - Cathy said parent leaders from all of the schools have met, along with Davis Schools Foundation leaders to try to coordinate fundraising. DSF will be focusing on four core areas for fundraising: class-size reduction, core high school courses, counseling and school safety. DSF needs at Holmes liaison.

Meeting Adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Anne Ternus-Bellamy, PTA secretary