



Hill Elementary PTO Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2016
Meeting Minutes (approved on February 16, 2017)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by PTO president, Debbie Ballios. There were 19 in attendance.

Special guest, Dr. Machesky, Superintendent of the Troy School District: Dr. Machesky shared the Troy School District's mission, vision, and values.

- The mission of the TSD is to *ensure learning for all members of the school community*. The *One Troy* logo came from this mission.
- The vision is for our school district to be *World Class by 2020*.
- The core values are: *deepened learning, focusing direction, and cultivating a collaborative culture*. These values emerged out of three questions that were asked in the community: (1) What do you like? (2) What do you not like? (3) What can we do to help you be successful? Focusing direction means not being stretched too thin with too many goals.

What does it mean to be *World Class*? The District is researching and visiting world class school districts and building connections. They chose like-school districts that are outside Michigan and that are high performing. There were about 20 districts that they identified and we were about in the middle. They picked some of the higher performing schools and will be visiting these to find emerging themes. This winter/spring they will make all of these details public at a televised board meeting. They are looking for 3 or 4 characteristics that emerge that we can strive to commit ourselves to over the next four years, which will help us reach the District's vision to be World Class by 2020.

Successful schools have collaborative teachers. Collaborative teaching is actually a recent thing. In the past teaching has been an isolated profession where everyone did things their own way. Dr. Machesky spent nearly an hour with the PTO and he answered many questions relating to the value of homework, services to clean the blacktop, examples of focused direction, standardized testing/ranking of schools.

Minutes approval: A motion was made to accept the October 20, 2016 PTO meeting minutes by Matt Sackrison and seconded by Julie Mistretta with no corrections. The minutes were approved.

President's report, by Debbie Ballios: At the last presidents' council meeting, Dr. Machesky talked about his trips to the district PTO meetings and they had sharing time among all the PTO presidents. We are lucky to have a hands-on superintendent administration.

Treasurer's report, by Jeff Weeks: Motion to approve was made by Anne Sackrison and seconded by John Grayson. Motion approved.

- Revenue: \$19,565.42
- Expenses: \$6,729.96
- PTO net revenue: \$12,835.46
- Total fund balance is \$31,203.27

Teacher report, by Mrs. Mason:

- Mrs. Mason thanked the PTO on behalf of the teachers for all the enrichment funds.
- Kindergarten: The students are learning about different holidays and customs around the world for social studies and are concluding the unit by making gingerbread houses with their big buddies. They are learning about their superpower reading strategies and starting addition and math.
- 1st Grade: They are studying non-fiction in reading and writing. They had their music informance this week. They finished up their solids, liquids and gases science unit. They had fun learning about words such as *rigid, flexible, translucent, and viscous*.
- 2nd Grade: They went on their field trip to Troy Historical Village. They dressed like children from long ago and enjoyed being taught in a one-room schoolhouse, going to the general store and making candles. This extended their unit on *Troy: Long Ago*. They are becoming strategic readers. They have been writing up 5-page science lab reports after their experiments and they know what a hypothesis is now. In math, they are learning to add double digit numbers.
- 3rd Grade: No report
- 4th Grade: No report
- 5th Grade: Mr. Pennewell's class is making gingerbread houses with their kindergarten buddies and creating holiday skits to perform for them to show how holidays are celebrated around the world. They are working on science units about weather and rock-formation. They are reading Wonder.
- PE: They are working on basketball skills. They did a 20-minute jingle-bell jog to work on fitness and incorporating fun ways to stay active.
- Media: Thank you to all the parents that helped with the book fair and to everyone who shopped at the fair. This is one of two big fundraisers for the media center so they can buy new books. It seemed to work well having it in conjunction with the Holiday Shoppe event.
- The Raz Kids license is ready to be renewed and with the addition in classrooms (for kindergarten and 1st grade) we need to add licenses. We may need another one next year because we are growing and hoping to have another 3 kindergarten classrooms. Ms. Mason will get us figures on the licenses.
- Scholastic News is slightly higher this year. We need to add for budgeting purposes in the future.

Principal's Report, by Mrs. Brzezinski

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day will be extra special this year. Stay tuned for info from Kerry Birmingham.
- Report cards will be released January 30, 2017.
- Mrs. B is on a pre-school planning committee for the District. We may lose our PAL preschool program next year if we need another classroom. There is a push for 4-year olds to go to full day preschool. Changes are all in the preliminary stages.
- Thank you to all the dads who have been coming in to volunteer for the Watch Dogs program.
- We have a new computer tech—Matthew. He is great!
- Our writing program this year is amazing. Mrs. B has been sitting on these at all grade levels.
- Mrs. Detmer was chosen to attend a 4-day Lucy Calkins writing workshop in New York.
- We are not sure of the status on the signs in the parking lot. We will send a reminder about the drop-off and parking rules.

Old Business

Leaf-raking update (Debbie Ballios)— The District pays for leaf clean-up as a part of the lawn cutting service.

Caps for a Cause (Nicole Wilson)- This not going away, but the school will handle the program going forward.

Watch Dogs (John Grayson) – We had our kick off Oct 25 and 11 dads signed up. It is nice to see more dads participating. Interested dads can contact John directly . Dads that come in the morning get to join KIDS and participate in the Pledge of Allegiance. The dads have shirts to wear so people recognize them as Watch Dog dads. We are excited about the program growing. Dads are helping in the classrooms, helping at lunch, in the gym, wherever needed. They supported the Husky Dads on leaf raking day.

Husky Dads (Matt Sackrison)—The leaf cleanup went well. We didn't get a full blizzard this year while we raked—just sleet! We are looking to replace the birdhouses this spring. Mrs. Garner is excited to support this since she handles Hill's green school program.

Yearbook (Matt Sackrison)-- The cover competition is wrapping up. The candid pictures are loaded on the website but the portraits are not. Pretty soon Matt will send an email requesting candid photos from parents.

New Business

Lego Robotics (Steve Smitka)- Steve teaches Robotics in Waterford and runs all the competitive robotics teams (K-12) there. He is interested in starting a stem club at Hill. There would be some start-up costs (in Waterford they charge \$100) for some basic costs and tee shirts. We could start in Aug and end in December. Some of the good programs to consider are Dash & Dot or Vex IQ?. We will need parent involvement to coach small teams. Steve could talk to Matthew (our new computer person) to see if we could add the free software to the iPads the 3rd-5th grade programs. We will get a flyer out to find out the interest and have a meeting this spring.

School Dance (Julie Mistretta) – The dance is Feb 3 and we'll have a winter theme. Flyers will be coming out when the kids return in January. This will be for just K-5th grades (no middle schoolers or younger kids). We have a former Hill student for the DJ. \$5/person. Families must purchase tickets by Jan 24. Parents will need to remain at the dance. Pizza and drinks will be included.

Girls on the Run (Nicole Wilson)-- The program runs Tuesdays and Thursdays and they need a co-coach.

Upcoming Events:

Skateworld Party: January 25

Hill Dance: February 3

Science Night: February 9

PTO Meeting: February 16

Chris Cakes: March 2

Open forum:

- Parking problems- if parents want to form a committee, they can.
- We have a PTO code for the copier and you are supposed to record your number of copies.
- Debbie shared some good ideas for our room parent program and we had a good discussion about

the inconsistencies and transparency issues with room parent funds. We will work on communicating rules and brainstorm some changes so next year is smoother and more parents will be willing to volunteer for this important position.

Julie Mistretta motioned to adjourn, Michelle Ketterman seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

-Respectfully submitted by Anne Sackrison, Recording Secretary