



School Council Meeting
November 10, 2009

Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Brian Murphey

Attendance:

Rajnish Singh, Principal – **Present**
Nancy Jester, Chair, Parent - **Present**
Robert Clayton, Teacher - **Present**
Robert Thien, Parent – **Present**
Donica Johnson, Teacher - **Absent**
John Oselette, Parent - **Present**
Brian Murphey, Parent – **Present**

Guests:

Jolie Nolf, PTA Co-President
Tony Tiberia, PTA Co-President

The meeting was called to order at 7:15AM by Nancy Jester. Nancy distributed copies of the agenda. The items below are a summary of the events of the meeting and are not necessarily in order.

Guests recognized

Minutes from meeting held on 10-28-09 approved by unanimous consent

Principals Report:

- New traffic plan to go into effect on November 12th. (Principal Singh has since issued a detailed description of the new traffic plan via the PTA e-mail system.)
- Dekalb county police officer Rowe (community policing officer) to provide occasional assistance with traffic control. If school wants an officer to be there every day, we will need to pay for an off-duty officer at the rate of \$45 per day (half hour in the morning and a half hour in the afternoon).
- 88 parents have signed up for the parent portal. Mr Singh wants that number to be higher.

Old Business:

- Motion to establish a committee to investigate, review, report and take action regarding the establishment of a fundraising vehicle for the school. Full text of the motion is attached below. This motion was amended to have the committee include a member from the local community and a member from a local business/institution. Amended motion was seconded and all present voted in favor and the motion passed.
- At present, the identified members of the committee are:
 - John Oselette – School Council member
 - Robert Thein – School Council member
 - Jolie Nolf, PTA member
 - Tony Tiberia, PTA member
- These four will meet and start the process of selecting the additional members as specified by the motion. They will consider nominations from anyone interested. Mr Singh will provide names of teachers to be considered for membership.
- Discussed playground area mulch. Mr Singh is still waiting on county to indicate when they will provide. He asked us to give this process another week.
- Hawthorne website still does not include the any of the recent minutes. Mr Singh shall provide Brian Murphey with a staff contact to send minutes to so they can be posted.

New Business:

- Ambassadors program was briefly discussed. Angela Maki has agreed to serve as an Ambassador. This program will serve to help introduce new parents to the Hawthorne community.
- New Parent Q&A session. This is an opportunity for parents coming from Coralwood to ask questions of the Principal.

Miscellaneous Business:

- Some parents have suggested there be music played in the cafeteria during lunch to help maintain some calm and give the children the chance to eat. Mr Singh indicated that lunchtime is an important social time for the children, so there should not be an expectation that it be completely quiet. He suggested that perhaps the music can be played from an iPod in the background over the sound system.
- Some parents are concerned over the lack of participation in the Reflections program, especially in the upper grades.
 - It was recommended that the PTA actively make an effort to expand the Reflections committee size (currently one person).
 - Robert Thien volunteered to look into other ways to help promote Reflections. He will report back at the next meeting on progress.
- Translation for parents who do not speak English was discussed. Mr Singh would like volunteers to help translate when needed.

- Mr Singh recommended that there be a coffee social once a month at the school as an effort to get more parents involve and to provide a forum for parents to ask questions.
 - John Oselette and Tony Tiberia volunteered to host the first one to be held on December 4th at 9AM in the Media Center. Others from the school council and PTA will attend as able.
 - John will put together an informational powerpoint slide show
 - Mr Singh will make sure it is announced in the Backpack Bites.
 - Nancy Jester will contact Angela Maki about it to let her know it is happening.

Meeting was adjourned.

-End of minutes-



Motion to be presented at called School Council meeting on
Wednesday, October 28, 2009
By Nancy Jester
Tabled on 10/28/09 meeting
Amended at November 10, 2009 meeting with the highlighted section
Motion carried as amended

Pursuant to formal and informal discussions held with School Council, PTA members and The Principal, I submit the following motion for consideration by the Hawthorne School Council:

The School Council shall establish and empower a committee to investigate, review, report and take action regarding the establishment of a fundraising vehicle for Hawthorne Elementary School. The fundraising vehicle may take the form of a “Foundation” or another tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) entity.

The committee shall be called the Fundraising Steering Committee (FSC) and shall consist of 1-2 Hawthorne School Council members, 1-2 PTA Executive Board Members, 2-3 parents-at-large, **one community member, one business/institutional member** and 1-2 teachers. The committee shall always have an odd number of members.

The goals of the FSC are:

1. Conduct school-wide meetings to determine support for a foundation or other tax-exempt entity for fundraising.
2. Define a mission for the fundraising entity.
3. Perform a needs assessment of the school; including surveying teachers and parents.
4. Determine a “wish list” of spending priorities.
5. Identify the resources (legal, etc.) to implement any fundraising entity.
6. Submit periodic reports to the School Council and PTA Co-Presidents