

District Wide Parent's Council (DWPC) December 2006 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Pam Tack at 9:45.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum – Greer Fischer – came in to say hi – test results from last year should be getting to parents soon. The info was sent to the schools this week. The state system failed so bad that the regional BOCES areas were sent all of the testing info to process. They had to do everything and they were not ready. They have been told that next year things would be fine. The school report is still not official. NCLB (No Child Left Behind) will also effect what happens. The Health and Wellness Committee has come up with a policy - right now it is very broad. They are still working on administrative guidelines. This year is the awareness year they are trying to get the word out and better educate the students. Dec 18th a committee meeting will take place final review will occur – they will be put it into place after the meeting – regulations do not have to be adopted a policy does have to be adopted. Once a policy has been developed Greer will be meeting with all of the principals to help enforce what is adopted. Schools can give ideas for ways to enforce the guidelines we hope to just give ideas. Top areas they are going to have as regulations - food being used as rewards, taking recess away from children as punishment, birthday treats and healthy snacks. In depth discussion took place regarding this area. Goal is to better educate the students not police them.

Old Business – Secretary's report – November minutes – a motion to accept the minutes was asked by Pam Tack - Kristine Casiaro made the motion and it was seconded by Madeline Hoetger. No changes were made.

Treasurer's report – Only two schools Kennedy and Kingston High School still owe dues. Our budget is now in \$195.39.

Safety committee report given to Cheryl by Nancy Schmidt was read by Cheryl – right now discussion about purchasing systems with a camera and buzzer is being examined. At this time 7 schools have doors that do not have direct view of the office. They have no control over who enters the building. Other areas of discussion involved emergency response charts and methods that the schools use to activate codes, and id badges. If anyone has any topics that they would like brought up please contact Nancy. (Cheryl can put you in contact with her.)

Maureen Bowers – School Board Representative

Maureen addressed a question that Gary Tomczyk requested her to answer - If you collect a certain amount of money as a PTO/PTA and you want to donate the money for a particular item you need to send a letter to the Kingston School District. Make sure that you put what you want to donate to the district. If anyone is purchasing anything big before Jan. please contact Gary Tomczyk. We will try to have Mr. Tomczyk in at a meeting after the first of the year. Maureen discussed the need to get more people out to the meetings so the community would know what is going on. One suggestion that she had was that if schools could send someone to a board meeting they are the first Wed. of every month that would be good– at the beginning of every meeting a report is given showing the contingency report – regarding how the schools are being effected by the austerity budget we need to get the word out to people. Another way that people can get info is to attend the Coffee and Conversation times – they will do them once a month Jan and Feb. They are going to try and have a morning meeting and then an evening meeting. Maureen Bowers and Chris Farrell have been talking to high school kids during the Lunch hours.

Maureen discussed the possibilities of a referendum that would be on the ballot in May. The referendum would not have any tax impact on the community. The money would be used for necessary repairs that are needed in several of the schools. On Jan 17, Bob Freeman the Executive Director of the Committee on Open Government will be in town. The board is having a workshop which will be open to the public.

Maureen went over her packet of information included were budget calendar, field trips and excursions, the district's academic goals, elementary attendance interventions, healthy fundraising, alternatives to food as reward, and healthy celebrations. In depth discussion took place regarding the info Maureen shared.

Roundtable/Building Concerns –

Chambers – (Cathy Murphy/Elissa Hilliard) Roundtable at Chambers went very well – Cathy thanked those that attended and had on hand a copy of the agenda that was used that evening. Topics were very well received by the group that attended. Shaun Cannon from Anaconda Sport did a presentation on fundraising and stayed the rest of the evening. Cathy said they appreciated him staying and taking part in the evening. Everyone was also interested in the website set up by Zen – several schools are going to try and set up their own. The GW Punt-n-Pass program was also a very interested topic.

Myer – (Debbie Ferraro/Diana Cline) – fundraising - they are going to put up new stage drapes – \$1200 was raised with the book fair.

Miller – (Barb Burns/Lisa Klotz) – they are in need of some old office chairs for the sleep over – assembly, rope course is done, boot camp is not going to be done this year instead they are going to do a how to take a test course.

Edson – (Jolyn Safron) – Two questions came up - one involving how to update the website the yearly calendar was not on the site we did find that it, it is under the Family Link – annual calendar. The school was wondering about the Health and Wellness presentation as to whether it is appropriate for PTO's/PTA's it is a detailed presentation. School visitation went great, Tiny Glover is coming for an assembly – winter concert is the 19th, they also have a food drive going on now.

High School – (Nadine Ferraro/Lynn Dennison) – winter ball is the end of the month.

Anna Devine – (Maryellen Whittington-Clouse) – trying to get more people to come to meetings, they are making a recipe book, they are doing a Holiday store.

Graves – (Lu Mabey) – Graves was on the Public Access this month – they are doing a Charlotte's Web theme for the whole school each grade is doing the story – the whole school is going to go to the movie Charlotte's Web the end of the month, they have a Holiday Shop, an environmental committee is being started at the school, spaghetti dinner is being planned for March, they had a food drive.

Meagher – (Kristine Casiaro) – finished a spaghetti dinner they served 300 dinners, they have a Holiday store for the kids, and a book club was started for the children,

Sophie Finn – (Madeline Hoetger) – they did a Holiday store they made \$400 – the store ran for one day – pancake breakfast is Sunday. The playground is now being set up.

Bailey – (Diana Cline) spaghetti dinner is tomorrow night.

Meeting was adjourned Lisa Klotz made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Diana Cline at 12:25.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Oliver. Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.