

PSTO Minutes January 12, 2010

Approved March 9, 2009

President Jacki Brennan called the meeting to order.

Minutes from November meeting approved.

District Boundary Committee Update: West Side Parent Reps: Laura Frey Law, Stephanie VanHousen

- The first two committee meetings revolved around familiarizing the members with the issues. The consulting firm has presented various scenarios for committee review. There will be 3 more meetings.
- The four priorities for making decisions regarding boundaries are: demographics, fiscal considerations, keeping neighborhoods together, and best utilizing existing buildings.
- Public forums will be held on February 4 and 5.
- To receive e-mail updates on re-districting process, contact Ann Feldmann at feldmann.ann@iccsd.k12.is.us.

Program: High School Registration Process: Renato deLeon, West Guidance Counselor

- Registration for the 2010-11 school year is underway. The Program of Studies and registration schedule and forms are available online through the website.
- Students will register online this year as well as meet individually with counselors.
- There will be a college planning workshop for parents and students on March 30; another workshop concerning financial aid to be held in the fall.

Program: Healthy School Lunches: Elizabeth Cummings

- In response to the rising concerns about childhood obesity and related conditions, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) has initiated the Healthy School Lunches Campaign. The aim of this cost-neutral campaign is to improve the options in the National School Lunch Program to include more plant-based alternative protein products.
- A bill has emerged supporting healthful vegetarian options. Cummings is visiting Iowa PTAs with the goal of finding 100 volunteers to write letters in support of the campaign and upcoming bill to Congressmen Harkin, Grassley and Loeb sack. For more information, visit www.healthyschoollunches.org.

Student Senate Representative: Brian Kistler, Student Senate president

- Brian spoke about some events that the Student Senate is currently involved in: Video Game Olympics is an intramural activity on Thursdays at 2:30; another event, Student Olympics, will take place from Feb. 12-28 with various events for students, such as ice skating, to compliment the upcoming Olympic Games.
- Student Senate members are volunteering in the following activities: making fleece blankets to donate to the hospital, and sponsoring a food drive to benefit the food bank/ crisis center in Coralville.

Faculty Representative: Brady Shutt

- Request that parents help their child/ren with registration process in order to expedite the course offering decision-making process.
- Teachers are watching the school board's budgeting process with interest.
- Wellness Wednesdays and Fitness Fridays are going well.

Administrative Report: Jerry Arganbright

- Kudos to Brian Kistler, Student Senate president, for his creativity in leading the Senate this year; Arganbright reflected on the nice school atmosphere this year, which is in part created by the seniors.
- The National Honor Society induction ceremony will be re-scheduled in late March or early April.
- The science classroom remodel proposal is being reviewed by the school board for approval.
- Arganbright noted that there is an ongoing challenge to maintain a solvent budget for the next few years.
- The heating problem has been fixed; eventually, the aging windows in the building will need replacing.

President: Jacki Brennan

- Jacki is putting together job descriptions for PSTO officers.
- City High thanks PSTO for the mums.

Vice President: Ellen Segar. No report.

Treasurer: Christy Fehlberg

- We are right on track to begin the Wish List phase in a month or two: our balance stands at \$9681.31.

Secretary: Dnae Kinzie. No report.

Volunteer Coordinator: Patty McCarthy

- The junior high schools will receive updated PSTO sign-up forms.

Past President: JoAnn Miller. No report.

Directory: Jennifer Noser. Help is still needed for producing the directory next year.

Staff Appreciation: Mary Mockitis

- Will serve food to the teachers for the parent-teacher conferences. Need volunteers.
- Anyone interested in being on the e-mail list of volunteers, please contact Mary.
- The faculty breakfast in November went well; there will be another on March 2.

Hospitality: Tracy Nye

- Cookies and punch provided for parents at parent-teacher conferences.

Fine Arts: Pam Bourjaily

- Enumerated the various scheduled performances of the music and theatre departments.

DPO: Terry O'Donnell Parsons. No report.

Club West: JoAnn Miller

- Last Club West meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Landscaping: JoAnn Miller

- Big landscaping project on front entrance is coming soon. The landscaping plan included in the original entrance plan by architect Luke Newton may be consulted for ideas.
- Mulching in back will be done in the spring.

Business: Jacki Brennan

- JoAnn Miller reported that the PSTO Art Show has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 7, in conjunction with the Show Choir performance.
- Jacki Brennan reported that the Parent Forum will take place at the end of February or the beginning of March. The topics will be teen stress and mental health; a panel will discuss warning signs and how to reduce stress, as well as mental health services that are available in the school and the community. The forum will be open to the junior and senior high schools.
- The February PSTO meeting will be held in the evening on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 5:30 p.m. Next year, evening meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of the school year.
- As there is no current electronic copy of the PSTO bylaws, a volunteer will key them in for storage and revision.

Announcements:

- Pancake Day will be the first Saturday in April.

Meeting Adjourned

Attendees: Amy Nicholson, Elizabeth Cummings, JoAnn Miller, Lydia Peller, Karla Grimsman, Patty McCarthy, Pam Bourjaily, Stephanie VanHousen, Laura Frey Law, Alison Andrizzi, Jacki Brennan, Christy Fehlberg, Theresa Weeks, Mary Mockitis, Jennifer Noser, Molly Abraham, Brian Kistler, Brady Shutt, Jerry Arganbright, Renato DeLeon, Dnae Kinzie