



Hanawalt Elementary PTA  
PTA Meeting  
January 12, 2016 6:00-7:30 pm  
Weitz Commons

## Minutes

Presidents:	Rachel Ford	<a href="mailto:rford929@gmail.com">rford929@gmail.com</a>
	Wendy Van Haaften	<a href="mailto:wendyv7@gmail.com">wendyv7@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Heather Welch Puri	<a href="mailto:hwelch7@yahoo.com">hwelch7@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary:	Danielle Roecker	<a href="mailto:danielleroecker@gmail.com">danielleroecker@gmail.com</a>

### Attendees:

Wendy Van Haaften, Co-President  
Rachel Ford, Co-President  
Heather Welch Puri, Treasurer  
McB McManus, Treasurer Elect  
Kelly Schofield  
Sarah Grady  
Eric Lovell  
Kelly Carpenter  
Kathy Marek  
Mike Bell  
Sarah McCoy  
Jill Delancey  
Jaimee Nicolino  
Emily Whittmayer  
Calvin Schlak  
Amy Dagitz  
Andi Franks  
Carrie Naumann  
Ruth White

PTA Co-President Wendy Van Haaften calls meeting to order: 6:05pm

McB McManus moved to approve the minutes from the December PTA meeting. Heather Welch Puri seconded the motion.

**Treasurer Report** – Heather Welch Puri distributed copies of the Budget vs. Actual Performance for the current fiscal year. It was pointed out that the **Hanawalt Spelling**

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**Challenge** needs to raise approximately \$6,000 and that the **Movie Night Silent Auction** needs to raise approximately \$5,000 in order to cover PTA expenses *already committed to and budgeted for this fiscal year*. In total, PTA needs to raise approximately \$20,000 in any given fiscal year to cover that year's expenses. So far this year, we have only raised \$5,150. There are other sources of income (Box Tops for Education, Corporate Matches, Target's 'Take Charge of Education' distribution – \$2,550 in total budgeted for this year) that are still expected to be received. It was proposed that we look into other programs as well (such as Amazon Smile or Coke Rewards) to see if Hanawalt can sign up for other programs to generate some extra income for the PTA.

**H.E.A.T. (Hanawalt Education Advocacy Team) Update**– Wendy Van Haften read a H.E.A. T. update prepared by Rose Green:

HEAT will be kicking off 2016 with two initiatives:

1. We have created a group called "Parents for Great Iowa Schools." This will be the name used to try to gather parents from districts all across Iowa to advocate for education policy and funding with the Iowa Legislature. There is a website, which we will be forwarding along with other great information for parents as soon as we pull the final draft together. This is going to be another year where we must rally the troops (parents) to advocate for sufficient levels of funding (specifically for a meaningful level of "Allowable Growth" – the state percent now called Supplemental State Aid).
2. There seems to be some questions about Hanawalt policies/programs/ procedures percolating into PTA meetings. It was discussed at the December meeting that perhaps it is time for HEAT to revisit its original purpose of facilitating conversations between our parents and our teachers and staff. Heather and Rose will be meeting with Ms. Schofield soon to develop a plan for beginning this conversation.

**Movie Night Update** – Carrie Naumann noted that she and Sarah Lohmeier have Movie Night down to a science and that they are all ready to go for Movie Night on **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**. A Sign-Up Genius invite will be going out soon asking for volunteers to help with various tasks that night (Popcorn/candy/water sales, pizza/meal sales). Carrie would also like to be able to give out some coupons for some students to be able to get a treat that night, an expense that can be covered by Helping Hands ("HH").

**Movie Night Book Fair update** – Melissa Stalvey was not present. Wendy noted that Melissa also has Book Fairs down to a science and is all prepared for the Book Fair that will be held on Movie Night in the cafeteria. It was suggested that coupons could also be given to some students to pick out a free book near the end of the school day at the Book Fair on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. Again, this expense could be covered by HH.

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**Auction Update** – Mike Bell indicated that an auction committee has met twice since the December PTA meeting. McB McManus is heading up logistics for the event and will be collecting the ‘auction items.’ All items to be auctioned during Movie Night will be ‘experience’ items – either teacher items for students, or items for families, just adults, or the community. The next auction meeting will be held at **NOON on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at RDG (301 Grand Ave)**. All are welcome to join! Please email Mike Bell if you are interested in being part of the auction planning – [mbell@rdgusa.com](mailto:mbell@rdgusa.com).

A flyer about the Movie Night Auction will be going home in backpacks soon...and closer to the event, there will be a list of auction items sent home as well. A Sign-Up Genius will be going out soon to all families to sign up to offer/host various experience items (such as a summer movie night, a princess party, a camp out) that will be auctioned off on Movie Night.

The committee is also discussing the possibility of having an off-site fundraising event just for adults sometime later in the school year (probably mid- to late- April). This event is in early planning stages. Again – if interested in helping out, please email Mike Bell.

**ADITA (A Day in the Arts) update** – Kathy Marek noted that the ADITA committee had met that day and things are progressing well for the big day– which will be held all-day on **Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Mrs. Marek is very excited about the mix of artists who are participating – indicating that it is a good mix of visual arts, music, drama, movement). Mrs. Marek indicated that she will need parent volunteer to help cut large cardboard sheets into triangular pieces (to be made into musical instruments for 1<sup>st</sup> grade ADITA). She is also in need of home interior magazines. Her “needs” will be coming out soon via SignUp Genius.

**Coins for Creativity** – Heather Welch Puri noted that Coins for Creativity will take place each of the **four Fridays in February** to raise funds for ADITA. Students will receive a Ziploc bag with a flyer attached each week to assist with bringing in coins. For the last two years, Coins for Creativity has raised over \$1,000 for ADITA.

Jaimee Nicolino also suggested that we have someone with a big can collecting extra coins from parents/cars during morning drop-off on those Fridays. This idea will be discussed with Justin Franks and Jacob Naumann, the two parents on Friday Parent Patrol.

**SignUp Genius invites** – It was brought up that SignUp Genius invites may not be reaching a large enough audience. It was requested that an IC blast also be sent out to all families with the link to any SignUp Genius invite so that more parents can volunteer. It was

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acknowledged that a link to the required DMPS Volunteer Application also needs to be included in these emails. As of last school year, any volunteer who will be having direct contact with students needs to complete a Volunteer Application with DMPS. It is a very short and easy process. Once approved, you will be an approved volunteer for 3 years before having to complete another application.

**Ms. Schofield's Update:**

Communication:

- At the December PTA meeting, the topic of communication was extensively discussed. Parents are requesting more open lines of communication between teachers/staff and parents. Ms. Schofield has been addressing this parent concern/request with teachers and leadership groups. She will be sending out a monthly newsletter with important dates, links to initiatives, relevant research, etc. This newsletter will be emailed out to all families via IC blast, as well as uploaded to the Hanawalt websites.
- Ms. Schofield has also been discussing with teachers ways to better communicate with their students' parents (blogs, websites, tweets). At the December meeting, parents indicated that they would like to be better informed on the big things that their student(s) are working on so that they can better follow up and be able to help their children at home. Ms. Schofield indicated that her team is working on a communication that would convey to parents which standards/topics their children are working (for each grade level). These standards typically change every 9 weeks. Standards will also be provided for P.E., music and art classes.

Lunchtime:

Starting this week, each grade level will have a 30 minute lunch period (5 minutes to line up and 25 minutes to eat) – which is 10 minutes longer than it has been. Students will still have their 20 minutes of recess time following lunch. Ms. Schofield has been present in the lunchroom during this new schedule and indicated that things are going smoothly and that more students are now able to finish their lunches. Ms. Schofield is also working with students during lunchtime to learn how to socialize appropriately during lunchtime. She is encouraging students to converse (at an appropriate volume) with the other students at their table in near proximity.

**Upcoming Dates/Events:**

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- **Winter Conferences** – February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (with make-up date February 24<sup>th</sup>). Information regarding conferences/time slots will be sent home soon in backpacks.
- **Classroom Valentine's Day Parties** – will be held on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Iowa Assessments (testing)** – for all students in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will take place between March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> (testing will not occur every day during this period).
- **ADITA** – Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>!

### **Hanawalt Spotlight – The Leader in Me**

Ms. Schofield introduced a new pilot initiative that is currently being rolled out in classrooms. The majority of classroom teachers are participating. The goal of The Leader in Me is to set school-wide expectations and procedures and provide a common language for addressing certain issues in the classroom.

The Leader in Me process was designed to help teachers develop leadership skills in their students. Incorporating language from the book “7 Habits for Happy Kids,” (the student version of the bestselling book, “7 Habits for Highly Effective People”) into all curriculum areas deepens student understanding and acknowledges what the school and teacher believe to be important. Ms. Schofield provided a handout which explains the seven habits in The Leader in Me process, as well as provides a description and background for The Leader in Me. A copy of the handout is provided separate from the minutes.

### **Other Business:**

- **We are half way through the school year and we are still in need of volunteers to be the President Elects for next school year!!** Please contact Wendy Van Haaften if you are interested or want to volunteer the name of someone you think may be a good candidate! (you will remain anonymous!). Jill Delancey suggested that we consider a change from having two Co-Presidents, to a structure where a parent signs up for a two-year term – one year to shadow the current President and one year to serve as President. This idea was well received and will be discussed amongst the PTA Exec committee.
- We love the new Hanawalt sign out front of school!
- Mike Bell noted that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be holding their annual **Pinewood Derby at Hanawalt on Friday night, January 29<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 5:30pm. All are welcome to come! There is also a Corporate Pinewood Derby being held as a Scouts fundraiser on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone welcome to register to race a

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car that evening. Please contact Mike Bell for more information –  
[mbell@rdgusa.com](mailto:mbell@rdgusa.com).

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

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