

Hanawalt Elementary PTA



PTA Meeting
November 11, 2014 5:30-7:00 pm
Weitz Commons

Minutes

President:	Kristi Kiefer	KristiandJeff@aol.com
President-Elects:	Rachel Ford	rford929@gmail.com
	Wendy Van Haaften	wendyv7@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Heather Welch Puri	hwelch7@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Danielle Roecker	danielleroecker@gmail.com

Attendees:

Kristi Kiefer
Rachel Ford
Mike Bell
Andy McCoy
Wendy Van Haaften
Kathy Marek
Eric Lovell
Andrew Burg
Heather Welch Puri
Rose Green
Julie Hahn

PTA President Kristi Kiefer calls meeting to order: 5:35pm

Eric Lovell presents "**The Children's Choice Challenge**," a reading team activity that is being offered to all 4th and 5th graders (as an alternative to Battle of the Books, which is offered to GT students only, and possibly as an alternative to Junior Great Books). Teams of 4-6 students will read and discuss books currently designated as Iowa Children's Choice Books. In February 2015, teams will participate in a book challenge quiz, create and present a team project, and vote for next year's Iowa Children's Choice Book Awards. More information will be coming home soon in 4th and 5th graders' backpacks. Heather Welch Puri volunteered to be the PTA point person who will coordinate teams and parent leaders with Mr. Lovell.

Heather Welch Puri moved to approve the minutes from the October PTA meeting. Rachel Ford seconded the motion.

Heather Welch Puri distributed copies of the **Budget vs. Actual Performance** for the current fiscal year. It was pointed out that the **Hanawalt Fitness Challenge** has raised over \$3,000 and sponsorship envelopes are still coming in. It was also noted that 6 new

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folding banquet tables have been purchased and are housed in the storage room in the school basement. These tables can be used for Book Fairs, the Block Party, A Day in the Arts, etc.

Coins for Creativity – Kristi has delivered 18 bags of coins collected in classrooms during the month of October to our bank, however the totals for each class have not been calculated yet.

Mr. Burg's Update:

- Parents and any other volunteers who will be directly interacting with students need to complete an application through the DMPS website. There is also a link to the application through the www.hanawaltcommunity.com website. Dianna Thompson is overseeing the approved volunteer list at Hanawalt. An updated list of approved volunteers is posted on the schools internal portal and available for teachers to view each week.
- Julie Hahn noted that any sign-ups for class parties, field trips, etc. should be created through the **PTA SignUp Genius account** so that Dianna can monitor the signups and ensure that everyone who signs up for an event is on the approved list. Hanawalt PTA's SignUp Genius account info:
 - Username: hanawaltpta11@gmail.com
 - Password: hanawaltpta
- Mr. Burg encouraged all parents/guardians to download the new **DMPS app** on their smart phones. You can designate which schools you would like to 'follow' on your calendar, view school lunch menus, view notifications from DMPS, etc. Heather noted that, if one tries to enter Infinite Campus through the DMPS app, a 'District ID' needs to be entered before entering personal ID and password. **DMPS' District ID is: JQZPSD.** Mr. Burg is going to bring this to the attention of tech support for the DMPS app to see if the step requiring the input of the District ID can be removed.
- Attendance and getting to school on time remains an issue for some students. Mr. Burg urges students to please get their child(ren) to school by 8:10am so that all students can be in their seats and ready to go by the 8:15am start of school.

Upcoming Dates/Events:

- **Movie Night** – February 6th. In addition to a Scholastic Book Fair, there will also be a simple silent auction that evening. Julie Hahn has contacted artists and will be coordinating the teacher auction items.
- **Spelling Challenge** – information and envelopes will be distributed in late February so that envelopes and money can be collected before Spring Break.
- **A Day in the Arts** – April 17th. Kathy Marek noted that there will be a good balance of hands-on fine art projects, music, drama and, new this year – poetry! Mrs. Marek

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is in the process of contacting artists to participate in ADITA in April and notifying each artist of the need for them to complete a DMPS volunteer application prior to April 17th.

**PTA volunteers needed to shadow key committee chairs this year and take over responsibilities next year:

- Linda Beeman – teacher appreciation (monthly lunches for teachers, meals during conferences, etc.)
- Cathy Kramer and Mary Mouw- KidStriders and P.E. fitness testing
- Linda Beeman – purchasing for A Day in the Arts
- Howard/Megan Tempero – parent coordinator for A Day in the Arts

Heather provided results from the fall **Scholastic Book Fair** (from Oct/Nov Newsletter). Of the approximate \$2,200 Scholastic Dollars in Hanawalt's account, \$1,500 will be 'given' to Mrs. Dougherty to purchase/replace books in the library. \$700 is to be reserved for Helping Hands students (to be coordinated with classroom teachers) as well as to purchase upper grade books for the Book Swap.

PTA-teacher liasons, Kathy Marek and Kelly Carpenter, will email teachers about providing their 'wish lists' for any indoor recess or other classroom needs. The **'Teacher Wish Lists'** will be sent home with students for families to consider for holiday gift giving for teachers. The PTA **Faculty Holiday Party** for faculty party is being coordinated by Linda Beeman. Dianna and Jeff Thompson have generously offered to host the party at their home again. Details to follow.

Spirit Wear – Emily Christensen is working on Spirit Wear order form to go home with students later this month. Fleece zip-up jackets along with long- and short-sleeved "H" Hanawalt shirts will be available. Hanawalt Hawk shirts may also be available.

KidStriders – moved inside today (November 11th). There are two before-school KidStrider options on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30am to 8:05am. **There is still a need for parents to volunteer for early morning KidStriders sessions– need 2 people marking cards in the gym and 1 person opening the door for students. There are also needs for volunteers during KidStriders times for the lower grades during recess after lunch on certain days. Kristi is working with Cathy Kramer to fill the last volunteer needs. Suggestion was made for more 'time-share' options for volunteers (e.g., every other Friday during lunch recess).

Spanish Club – Kristi to follow up with Spanish Club coordinators to see if Spanish Club will be offered next semester and by whom. Julie Hahn mentioned that Ana-Cara is not going to be available to reach next semester (will be doing her student teaching).

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Book Swap – Mr. Burg has met with Book Swap coordinator, Shannon Musgrave, who is working on a date for the fall book swap (in December). There will also be a Book Swap in May. Melissa Stalvey has mentioned that Scholastic has a giant warehouse sale in December. Goal is to try to use some of Hanawalt’s Scholastic Dollars to purchase upper grade level books at the Scholastic warehouse sale for the Book Swap in December.

Directory – Rose Green noted that she and Erin Lorenzen received 60% of the information for the directory from parents online. They in the process of collecting information for the 40% remaining from the database received from Deborah Hutton on Monday. Hope is to have directories distributed before Thanksgiving.

- **Kindergarten class list** – suggestions solicited as to how to best provide new Kindergarten parents with class lists and contact information earlier in the school year, since directories are not available until closer to Thanksgiving. Goal is to have a more complete ‘sign-in’ sheet for Kindergarten that parents will be asked to fill in on Back to School night next year, so that the Kdgtn information can be collected and distributed to parents earlier in the school year.
- Julie Hahn suggested having contact information/lists provided for 1st-5th grade classes at Back to School night as well, with information taken from the prior year’s directory. Parents will be asked to verify that their contact information is correct, or to provide updated information at that time. This will hopefully help to simplify and speed up the process for creating the directory next year.

Kristi asked parents to provide input as to whom they would like to have speak at future PTA meetings, suggesting extending an invitation to principals at Merrill and Roosevelt to speak later in the year. Mr. Burg also asked to provide suggestions of any other topic relevant to Hanawalt parents that PTA could address at future meetings as well.

Heather and Rose indicated that they want **H.E.A.T.** to invite Superintendent Tom Ahart to have a conversation with Hanawalt parents early in 2015, to continue discussions started earlier this year and to see which legislative issues parents can help address and rally support for to promote needs of all DMPS students.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Heather Welch Puri
PTA Treasurer

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