

Hanawalt Elementary PTA



Officers Meeting
October 14, 2014 5:30-7:00 pm
Weitz Commons

Agenda

Attendees:

Kristi Kiefer
Heather Welch Puri
Danielle Roecker
Rachel Ford
Andrew Burg
Eric Lovell
Andi Franks
Megan Tempero
Wendy VanHaaften
Mandy Cospers
Melissa Stalvey
Carrie Naumann
Christie McConathy
Judi Mireles
Jaimee Nicolino
Daneal Johnson
Samantha Thorpe
Mike Bell

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Gifted & Talented Program at Hanawalt
 - a. Gifted and Talented is a program
 - b. Des Moines identifies in all 5 areas of Giftedness
 - c. G/T is mandated to be available for all schools (K-12) per Iowa Code

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- d. Over 11 different enrichment opportunities at Hanawalt
 - i. Gold Star Readers, Quiz Bowl, Chess Tournament, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, etc.
- e. Cluster Grouping is often used at Hanawalt (within the classroom or across the grade level)
- f. District feels that newer opportunities in the classroom give more vigorous challenge and there is less need to pull kids out of the classroom. This will continue to be evaluated for success.
- g. Iowa Acceleration Scale used when students are referred for a full grade advancement. This is taken very serious and evaluates many aspects of the student.
- h. November and December are the main times used for testing for G/T. Must be requested by the teacher.
- i. All 2nd Graders are assessed as a baseline.
- j. Also help with Staff Development, in groups and 1:1.
- k. #1 Tip for Parents – Be the advocate for your child.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve by Heather Welch Puri, seconded by Rachel Ford.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. Block Party
 - i. Sold \$3,380 of books which gave us \$1,690 scholastic dollars (combined with prior scholastic funds gives us \$2,104).
 - ii. Fitness Challenge - \$2,035 Pledged for Fundraiser

6. Update from Mr. Burg

- a. A number of Boys and Girl Scouts visited the State Capital for a Parks Announcement from Governor Brandstad.
- b. Live Healthy Iowa - 30 minute walk went well last week. Great

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community building and the kids had fun. Nearly all students K-5th participated. We will work to get the message to parents to help if we (hopefully) do this event again.

- c. October 28th is Mix it Up Day. Promoting diversity interaction in the school. Promotes grade level interaction with students in their Hanawalt Community. This is held during lunch.
- d. Tardies and Absences are a big deal for your child, the teacher, the school, and the district. Percentages are tracked to provide help and resources when parents and schools need it. Teachers will be helping Deb to track tardies going forward. Please do your best to be on time and present at school.
- e. Double Parking is NOT ALLOWED at Hanawalt. Please park in designated spaces for the safety of the students and staff and to be a good neighbor to the entire Hanawalt Community.
- f. Volunteer Sign-up – Diana Thompson is the lead for volunteer enrollment, if you have any questions. Any work with the school and students requires you to have an approved volunteer application. Links are on the Hanawalt website.
- g. Departmentalizing 4th and 5th Grade – started this school year.
 - i. We have continued our research as we progress in this new program. If you have 4th and 5th grade students, or just thoughts or questions in general, we welcome your feedback on this program.
 - ii. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be with the homeroom teacher.
 - iii. Information will be collected through data and conversations with students.
 - iv. We will be watching for updates and improvements as we go, but initially, teachers and students seem to be enjoying the new program.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Fitness Challenge – Still taking packets and reminders will go

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- out.
- b. Block Party – Great turnout. Everyone had a wonderful time and activities were a success. Food was good, affordable, and nice selection. Next year we will try to have a table with Spirit Wear to purchase.
 - c. Helping Hands – Jaimee and Daneal are co-chairing this committee this year.
 - i. Big changes – in the past, there was an application process for families to match up with a volunteer. We were meeting the needs of families that had applied, but felt we could be missing others in need.
 - ii. New Process – anyone in need can receive items through Helping Hands. Teachers and staff can refer any needs to the program and they will be fulfilled by volunteers. No application is needed this year.
 - iii. The program also has a cold weather closet and hopes to do a school supplies drive for families when they come to meet the Teacher night before school starts.
 - iv. Idea to start reserving some funds from the Scholastic Book Fair to have tickets to pass out in the classroom to kids that would benefit from being able to pick out a book that might otherwise not have the opportunity.
 - v. Volunteers are still being collected for the program. A note was sent home with students or you can contact Jaimee Nicolino or Daneal Johnson.
 - d. Newsletter – Submissions needed. Send to Mary Mouw by Wednesday at 5pm.
 - e. Scholastic Book Fair – Block Party was best book fair to date.
 - f. PALS – Needs volunteers to partner with students. We are low on volunteers this year. Please contact Julie Hahn and/or visit Sign-Up Genius.
 - g. Kid Striders – Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Cathy Kramer and/or visit Sign-Up Genius.

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- h. Drop-Off/Pick-Ups – Thank you to all the new volunteers!
Please keep up the new participation.
- 8. April 23 – Waterbury Neighborhood Gala for the Gardens – Save the Date!

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