

City Honors PTSCO Minutes

November 18, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM

Welcome

Minutes last meeting

Reviewed the minutes of the October 2004 meeting and approved them.

Treasury Report: Peter Cammarata

Peter reviewed the finances. Financial Update from the period of October 21, 2004 through November 17, 2004. (Both Ski Club and Rugby are pass thru accounts)

Beginning balance 10/21/04 was \$5,952.58

Ending balance as of 11/17/04 \$18,107.93 (\$7,813.84 is the ending balance that's available for other disbursements).

Finance Committee: Ralph Proulx

Two requests were approved 1) Science Research at Roswell requested \$500 for competitions. They also requested funds from the foundation for expenses; and 2) Global Literature \$150 funds for Death of a Salesman book. Ralph passed out the guidelines the committee uses to make financial decisions for school groups.

Other Business:

Calendars were mailed out yesterday

WWW On line at CH: PTSCO application and the school calendar are on line now. Funding request will also be on line in a few days.

Ice Cream Social:

5th and 6th grade Ice Cream Social was successful. Haunted Lockers were a hit and students said that they were scary. The kids had a good time.

Holiday Breakfast: Sue Mann-Dolce

This is held in the faculty lounge. It's decorated nicely by the parents and many parents donate food. Once we get a date from the administration, PTSCO will send an email out letting parents know the date. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to donate food and can also volunteer to help during the event.

Silent Auction

It will be held on Friday, February 25th

There's lots of opportunities for parents to volunteer to assist with this as it is our biggest fund raiser of the year.

Telephone Directory:

Hasn't been printed yet. The administration is working on getting all of the emails from the student and then it can be printed.

Old Business:

Site Based

Parents who are interested in Site Based Team were asked to sign up at this meeting (the list from the last meeting is missing). Site Based met today as part of an organizational meeting and talked about an agenda for the year. December 16th is the next Site Based meeting. Parents are always welcome to attend.

After Prom Sue Mann-Dolce

The prom is at the Delaware Park Casino. The after prom party will also be held in the same location.

Senior Essay Writing:

A special thanks to all the writers who assisted the 24 students on that Saturday including the two City Honors parents. In the future, they're looking to be able to do this as part of the school day for the students.

Street Direction Change

Drop off and pick up sites are the same. Some parents were concerned about the change although others expressed that they like the change to a two way street (next to the armory). We don't qualify for a crossing guard because our students have bus transportation so care needs to be taken to look both ways if people are crossing the street to get to a car.

Membership PSCTO is doing fairly well with regard to membership but we still need more.

Follow up on Issues Raised at the Last PSTCO meeting:

PSAT disruption: has been resolved. All students involved should have received a letter. It was agreed that the future SAT scores can be substituted at the student's request for those PSAT scores for any student who was affected by the disruption.

DECCA: Looked into this and without a business curriculum we can't have a DECCA. Parents could form a committee to see what could be done to restore the business curriculum in the future

Testing at CH: Site Based will look at IB testing, SAT scores, and other testing data and analyze the trends.

School Updates:

Admissions testing is this Saturday grades 5-12.

Parent teacher night December 2, 6-8pm.

Report Cards- They go out to BOCES tomorrow. They will be delivered before the December 2nd conferences.

Rooms with out PA systems

There are several rooms without PA systems. This varies according to what work is being done in the building. The administrating is waiting for the new phones (and new numbers). The district has said that they will work on the other issues after they get the phones installed (timeline is 4-6 weeks). Currently the rooms without PA's are asked to send a student out to listen to the announcements and report back to their rooms. It's an issue at this time.

Emergency Accommodations:

We have arrangements with the armory to go to the site in an emergency. The armory also stated they would store equipment for the school (such as tv/vcr and videos, etc). That's something that could be stored there but the school does not have extra equipment to send. If any parents want to work on getting some equipment, that would be helpful.

Liberator Magazine: Underground Paper:

A parent asked the administrators to address the concerns with this non sanctioned paper. The first two issues of the paper were on the edge and even though this was an out of school activity the students created, they were provided with guidelines for what is appropriate journalism by the school. There was a drastic change in tone in the third issue and since the paper was brought into the school and distributed to some students, it became a school issue. Parents of two students were called in to school and the two students were suspended because of the 3rd edition with the offensive items in it. What prompted the action was that there was unkind and unwarranted entries (slander, violence and targeting individuals, including individual students) that went over the edge. The two students stated that on their own they had planned to publish an apology /retraction. This is not a school paper and the paper is not banded. The challenge to any student who wants to write a paper that is an alterative voice is that they understand and stay within the parameters of ethical journalism. Baldwin started a round table after the first issue was out for students to express their concerns and to have a dialog in the school about student issues. Dr. B has a meeting in the morning with students (over doughnuts) to have a conversation about how to have a voice that is issue oriented, not personal attacks. PTSCO requested a follow up report for the January PTSCO meeting and reminded the

audience that this is a parent/student/teacher organization and students are always welcome to come and voice their opinion.

Bathroom committee:

Students are heading up a committee to improve the bathroom . They've been given permission by the custodial staff to work on one bathroom at present and implement their creative ideas. Parents are invited to assist with the committee work.

Summer/Best Station:

A parent shared that two students were roughed up at the subway station today. She came right from home to this meeting so she didn't have a chance to sit down and hear about the incident yet from her child. A report had not been filed at the time of this meeting but it will be filed. Dr. B shared that several reports have been filed and the police said that they would put on more patrols.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

The next PTSCO meeting Thursday, January 20th, 2005 at 5:30PM

Minutes submitted by Sue Keller-Mathers