

Local School Council Meeting Minutes
Hawthorne Scholastic Academy
Wednesday, September 15, 2010 / 7pm (Final Approved)

LSC Attendees:

Anna Alvarado, Jodi Hoare, Catherine Francis, Amy Lenz, Laura Durudogan, Roger Wilen, Kris Fiacchino, Carlton Oquendo, Matthew Beaudet, Tiffany Green. (Absent / Daniel O'Connor)

Parent/Teacher/Community Attendees:

Lorrie Marks, JoAnn Ori, Amy Williamson, Barb Lagattuta, Karen Meier, Laurie Gillman, Heather Cannon, Will DeMille, Bill Massen, Steve Poma, Ryan Rueda, Linda Feaman

MEETING MINUTES:

- ✓ Jodi Hoare presented meeting minutes from 8/4/10 LSC Organization Meeting which required one change. Meeting minutes with the one change were motioned, seconded and approved. Approved meeting minutes will be available outside the school office within 7 business days.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- ✓ The current enrollment for 2010-11 is 567 students.
- ✓ The three (3) NCLB students (No Child Left Behind) did not enroll. Calls made to confirm.
- ✓ Classroom did not reach 35. There are currently at or around 32 with a few exceptions.
- ✓ Free lunch is currently at approximately 17%. Forms are encouraged to be turned in to the office for families who wish to be considered for this program.
- ✓ September 1st to 3rd Teacher Institute Days was a great success. The first day presented challenges due to no water at Hawthorne which moved that day's events. The three days were themed "Connect The Dots". Teachers worked together on curriculums (reading, writing, math, science, etc) to ensure there were no disconnects or gaps regarding the children's flow from one year's learning to the next.
- ✓ Tuition based program packets were sent home with the children. Thanks to Jamie Fleishman for helping to put together the package of information for the families.
- ✓ After School Counts program funding has been approved and is scheduled to start the end of October. Information will be sent home soon.
- ✓ The Hawthorne Family Fest was a HUGE success. Thanks to all who organized and to the families and community members who participated.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:

- ✓ Question from Parent/Community Attendee about whether our enrollment number will change causing our classrooms to increase to 35? Principal Alvarado replied that this would not happen.
- ✓ Carlton Oquendo and Amy Lenz on behalf of all the teachers wanted the parents and community to know how thankful they are for the undeniable support and fundraising efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ✓ **Committee On Financial Affairs** – This committee remains to have an appointment. Roger Wilen explained that the purpose of this committee will put in place to be a support to the PTA's fundraising efforts in the parent and surrounding community, by supplementing and leveraging relationships with large companies.
- ✓ **PTA** – Laura Durudogan reported: 1) Kindergarten/New Comer's picnic was a huge success. Thanks to Debi Lilly-Springer and all the volunteers for spearheading the planning over the summer. 2) A "Buddies Program" is in the development stages, whereby new families to Hawthorne will be partnered with current Hawthorne Families to help them with common type questions and direction on who handles what. 3) Family Fun Fest was an event that was considered at the end of school year 2010, however Cross Town Classic was a conflict and it did not happen. A committee of 5 worked over the summer with a very small budget and pulled

together the 1st annual. This was not considered a fundraiser, but rather a family and community relationship building event. Budget monies spent were recouped and a few dollars extra were raised as well. Food vendors donated a portion of their proceeds back to Hawthorne as well. Thanks to all. 4) There are two fundraisers on the calendar for the start of the year. The first is the School Calendars which too was a summer work project. Thanks to the families who worked on this project and to Karen Michaels for her creativity with the photos of the school. Calendars are \$25.00 and still available. It makes a great keepsake. 5) The Walk-A-Thon which was a huge success last year is back again this year and will take place in October. Everyone is reminded that the PTA wishes the fundraising initiatives to be looked at as partnering with choices meaning there are many choices to help in fundraising and not everything fits everyone, so the PTA asks that families choose what suits them to help in the fundraising efforts at Hawthorne.

- ✓ **Building and Safety** – Daniel O'Connor - Nothing has been reported\
- ✓ **Professional / Personal Leadership Committee (PPLC)** – Carlton Oquendo and Amy Lenz - Nothing to report. .
- ✓ **School Improvement Plan (SIPAAA)** – Anna Alvarado ó There was \$3,300.00 left over from last year's SIPAAA. Current SIPAAA plan is being monitored.
- ✓ **Community Committee** –Kris Fiacchino and Catherine Francis ó 1) Reported was a Community Alert that has been distributed regarding two burglaries (9/5 and 9/7) which happened early in the morning, homes entered by force with hand guns. Electronics stolen. CAPS will be giving a Burglary workshop at the Belmont Police Station presented by ex-convicts convicted of burglaries on what types of residences are more attractive and why and what deters a burglar. 2) On September 17 and 18th at 7pm Jason Maraz and Dave Matthews Band will be performing. Streets will be shut down. Lots of traffic and lights. 3) September 24-26th ó Lakeview Octoberfest .
- ✓ **By-Law Committee** – Matthew Beaudet ó Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- ✓ Advertising on the website on the table to be discussed. Eric Michaels advised it could be done however, the way it is paid is by the number of clicks on the advertisement, which is likely to be a low amount. Currently the website sustains itself by the "We Care Program", which will be communicated again to the community. "We Care Program" works with 100% of vendors we order from every day i.e., Barnes and Nobel, PetSmart, etc., and a portion of your purchase (as much as 10%) will be donated back to school of your choice (Hawthorne). Several options for doing so are available and the information is on the PTA website. Look for the We Care Program link.
- ✓ Attendance at LSC meetings by our parent community and neighboring community has been a concern. As an incentive to get people in attendance, at the next meeting, Laura Durudogan, PTA President, will prepare and be ready to present information on how the PTA budget is used and where / how funds are allocated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Community Rep Kris Fiacchino reported dogs are a problem on the turf. Signs that have been posted get removed. Discussed was whether signs could be hung higher. It was suggested and discussed about what else could be posted on a "rules" sign such as how the park districts post. Also suggested it could be a good place to post a phone number for rental of the turf. Ideas will be considered.
- ✓ PTA President, Laura Durudogan advised that the PTA has identified 12 people approximately who have an interest in Grant writing. Laura, Eric Michaels and Julie Wilen went to a Grant Writing class over the summer. The process will be started by pulling together the 12 people to begin this initiative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Parent/Community attendee asked about a report in the Tribune comparing schools and whether the report was accurate. Principal Alvarado advised that Ron Hubmeran has been in touch with the Tribune regarding the report and the unconfirmed resources. A corrected report is to be completed and sent to the principals by Huberman's office.
- Further questions about the Financial Affairs Committee were discussed. One question was whether or not this committee will be limited to LSC members only. Roger Wilen addressed the question advising that LSC is looking to tap into resources available throughout the school and that a communication will be sent to parents once there is some organization.
- Comment by both Laura Durudogan and Roger Wilen was that the one thing LSC and PTA does not want to do is confuse the community of parents on initiatives for raising funds to support the school. LSC's hand in helping to generate funds for the school is to supplement the efforts of the PTA who has done an extraordinary job each and every year. However because of the financial stress on the PTA due to \$150,000 of PTA funds that went to the school to save teacher positions this year it is imperative that we as a school look to other opportunities and resources. As PTA continues to concentrate on fundraising at the parents and surrounding local businesses for fundraising, we find ways to reach resources of larger business/corporate levels, which is what the LSC wishes to explore. Both equally important.
- Principal Alvarado wants everyone to know that fundraising can be sensitive, and yes, we need to do so, but it can't be burdensome on our community where we lose the social and fun element. We must strike a balance. Therefore looking for other ways to source funds outside of our community is welcome and she appreciates everyone's ideas and creativity.
- Questioned from attendee/parent was the rental of the parking lot. Reported was that is a potential money maker that has some complications but has been fully reviewed and continues continuing to be worked on.
- Questioned from attendee/parent was whether we could survey our community of parents on their different expertise. PTA does so currently, but could the LSC spearhead this? LSC will look in to.
- Questions from attendee/parent was the cleaning of the turf. HSA has a sweeper, but nothing to pull it. The tractor, which was budgeted by CPS, ended up being cut. Eric Michaels suggested he might have a solution.

ADJOURNMENT

Roger Wilen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Carlton Oquendo seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 6, 2010 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted, *Jodi Hoare, Secretary*