

PTA Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

Attendance:

Karen Stoner	Stefanie Rosti	Ricardo Morales
Leonie van Hemert	Amy Gigler	Kevin Cropper
Kristen Mankulish	Anna Fulbright	Laura Hettinger
Kathy Alfonso		

Welcome -President- Karen Stoner at 7:05

Administration Report – Dr. Holden and Mrs. Krablin

Dr. Holden began her report by talking about the issues at arrival and dismissal at Atholton Park. We were joined by people from the Parks Department.

- Heather Johannes, Park Operations Superintendent--Found out that most of the park is leased to the Parks Department by the Board of Education. This would be that the school may be able to put up signage to give directions to parents using that parking lot. Something like “No Passing” or “No Parking”. There could also be signage to alert park users of the hours when the park would be busy with school traffic. Without signs, the park rangers can’t enforce traffic rules.
- Update on Arrival and Dismissal – see attached “thank you note”
 - Staff members are reluctant to work down at the park because some of them have been accosted by drivers.
 - The Parks folks are also going to look into how many Handicapped spaces are required at the park. They think there currently may be more than are necessary. This would free up a few more spaces.
 - Ms. Gigler also suggested using cones to mark off some of the spaces to create a turn around loop.
 - AT&T owns the small brick building but we’re not sure who owns the surrounding land. If the BOE owns it, maybe it would be possible to add more parking spaces.
 - Would it be possible to bus more kids to relieve parking issues?
 - The Committee will reconvene to look at some of these new questions.
- Results of AES Communication Preference Survey (printed results available on a additional hand-out)
 - Panther press/email was the overwhelming favorite method of communication between home and school
- 2018-2019 staffing numbers
 - losing the technology assistant
 - gaining an additional Special Education Teacher
 - gaining a half-time Kindergarten paraeducator
 - 53 children currently registered for Kindergarten next year (need 73 kids to maintain current staffing)
 - Budget dictated increased class sizes
 - K--24 students (remains the same)
 - 1-2--26 students
 - 3-5--32 students
 - The county is prepared for student walk-outs on March 14th and April 20th

- The last three days of Spring Break are now school days. Families are allotted 3 discretionary vacation days per year, and families should feel free to use those days. June 15th is now the last day, and is a half-day. June 18th and 19th are now work days for teachers.

PTACHC Report- Kathy Alfonso (notes available in a separate document) The major topics covered were:

- Operating and Capital Budget
- Security, Emergencies and Preparedness
- Equity and Inclusion

Financial Report – Kevin Cropper (report available separately)

- 17 teachers have yet to use their classroom funds

Committee Updates

- 5K- 8th annual Panthers Pounding the Pavement will be Sunday, June 3 at 9am. This annual event attracts many families with children ranging from infants to teenagers and, given the challenging course, many recreational runners. Please plan to join us as this is one of PTA's biggest fundraisers! Proceeds from the event support educational and cultural activities for our students. Each of the past six AES Run/Walk events attracted over 350 walkers and runners. Both event participants and community members expressed great satisfaction with the course, the festivities, and the generosity of the sponsors who supported us financially and/or donated prizes. If you know of potential sponsors please contact AtholtonES5K@gmail.com. Also always seeking committee members to help plan and implement - contact us if interested!
- Book Club- letters go home monthly to students having a birthday that month.
- Book Fair- Ms. Hamming will not be holding an additional book fair in May
- Box Tops- 4,580 tops collected earning AES \$458. Top classes were Ms. Pauley and Ms. Van Hemert (Karen will contact Alison Dodge to see about class parties for these winning classes)- seeking someone to take over this committee next year
- Cultural Arts- Eric Energy (Friday, March 16)
- Family Fun- BINGO Night is March 23 from 6-8pm. We need volunteers –
 - 1. help assemble the prize baskets (looking for donations of baskets, buckets, tubs, ribbon) on Tuesday 3/20 at 7pm
 - 2. during event on 3/23 to sell snacks (1-2 people), call BINGO numbers (1), write down BINGO numbers called (1)
 - BINGO reminder emails and fliers will go home
 - Family Fit Night will be Thursday, May 3
- Fifth Grade- no update this month. Committee to meet next week.
- Membership-197 families have joined – looking for someone to chair this committee for next year
- Spirit Wear-
- Restaurant Nights- 3-6 at Chick fil A
- Room Parents-
- Scripts- Order forms for the next order are going home in Friday folders next week
- Staff Appreciation- We will be doing a mailbox stuffer before spring break.
- Teacher Support- As teachers get more and more busy this time of year, please remind them to email Erin Morris – erin_walker78@hotmail.com. The committee of volunteers is ready to help with any cutting, sorting, etc.
- Website-
- Yearbook- If you have photos to contribute towards the yearbook, please email them to aesyearbookmd@gmail.com. Please remember photos should be clear and include 2 or more individuals. If you

have an event you would like photos taken for the yearbook, please email Nicole Alston at Nicole.Alston29@yahoo.com.

New Business and/or Concerns

- School Supply Kits by SchoolKidz- for next school year 2018-19
 - Kindergarten order forms available now with Kindergarten registration
 - All other grades order forms go out May18 and online orders open
 - Paper order forms due by June 14, Online orders due by June 22
 - Kits will be delivered the week of 8/27. Volunteers will be needed. Dr. Holden will consult the staff to see how they would like to handle distribution.
 - Optional “Good Neighbor Kits” – option to purchase additional kits at a discount for students that need financial assistance purchasing school supplies. Ms. van Hemert asked if organizations can donate toward the purchase of kits for kids who need help
- Name Bubbles Fundraiser for next school year-AES would register and families could purchase at any time
 - Name Bubbles are personalized dishwasher and laundry safe name tags for student items
 - Fundraising is as simple as order online and 20% of purchase price is donated to AES.
 - Could be advertised with back to school supplies.
- Reminder – Flyers for Friday Folders must be sent to Dr. Holden for approval before they can be copied to go out. They must be approved and ready for copies by Tuesday afternoon. Panther Press announcements must be approved by Dr. Holden prior to publishing as well and must be approved by end of the day Wednesday.
- Parents of 5th graders zoned for Hammond Middle - PTA Help Needed for 2018 – 2019
 - As you are aware, PTA offers many exciting educational, fitness, and enrichment programs for our students. We need your help to continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. Our current PTA President’s term will be over at the end of 2017-18 school year. Therefore, we are in dire need of a volunteer who can serve as the PTA President next year. We have a dedicated group of seasoned PTA members ready and willing to support the volunteer who decides to fill this role. We have also distributed a bulk of the president’s workload to make it a more manageable position. To nominate yourself or someone else or if you have any questions, please contact the Nominating Committee at NomCom@hammondmiddlepta.org.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Dine out Night- April 17th from 5-9pm
- Next PTA Meeting April 10 at 7pm