

**Gayhead Elementary PTA
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2006**

The *General Membership* meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Mary Jean Staudohar, President.

Recording Secretary: Noreen Healey

Quorum Established

1. *Welcome (President, Mary Jean Staudohar)*

Mary Jean Staudohar welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked everyone for coming. Mary Jean introduced the interim Gayhead Elementary Principal, Mr. Bruce Downer.

2. *Interim Principal Mr. Bruce Downer*

Mr. Downer thanked the PTA and the school for such a nice welcome. He has 3 children who are also in the Wappinger school district. He is happy with the district and believes they are receiving an excellent education. His goal right now is to get to know names and the school. He sat in 5 classrooms this week for about 20 minutes to observe the class and children. His door is always open. Mr. Downer was an elementary principal for approximately 18 years, and held various other educational positions as well. He retired from the Harrison school district last June. Mr. Downer also thanked Mr. Ceng for being a sensational support to him.

Mr. Ceng

Parent - teacher conferences begin on Friday

Fault Line (a cappella music group) will be here on 11/30th

A parent raised concern over the issue of the playgrounds being overrun with geese and what they leave behind on the playground. It's repulsive, and she wondered if there was anything at all that could be done. The answer was that there are no known easy solutions to this problem. However, the Health & Safety committee chair, Lisa Bald, agreed to do research on how to possibly remedy the situation.

3. *Reading & Approval of Minutes (President, Mary Jean Staudohar)*

The minutes from the October 20, 2006 *General Membership* meeting were read, and approved.

4. *Treasurer's Report (Sue Kline, Treasurer)*

- \$875 of dues were sent into the PTA
- \$150 was paid to Carolyn Zazzarino, CPA to complete GH PTA tax return

- School directory was completed by Hopewell Photo for \$715
- Fall fundraiser is still being counted. 50% of the proceeds are retained by the PTA. Final numbers are not in yet.

5. Correspondence (Corresponding Sec'y, Lee Bukofsky)

The family distribution list for Gayhead is complete. Please use the distribution lists hanging up in the PTA room. There is a full distribution list, and a family distribution list. The family distribution list is set up so that notices are sent home with the youngest sibling of a multiple-sibling household. This method saves approximately 200 copies per distribution. When using the distribution lists, please remember that there are memos to distribute to the teachers as well. The distribution list for 2006-2007 is on blue paper.

General:

Chairpeople are still needed for

Hospitality -to set up the food/refreshments for meetings

Grizzly Growl -the periodic school/pta newsletter. Please contact Lisa Fusco if you're interested.

6. VP Communication (Mary Jean Staudohar for Lisa Fusco)

A chair is still needed for the Grizzly Growl newsletter. Please contact Lisa Fusco at Rafmonte@aol.com if you're interested. The first edition of the Grizzly Growl was completed by Lisa, and will be sent home shortly.

7. VP Administration (Rebecca Yeager)

School Directory:

The school directory was distributed last week. It was distributed to GH PTA members as well as those who paid the \$2 fee. 80% of the school population chose to be in the school directory this year, which is a good response. If you would like to obtain a copy of the directory, please contact Janine Dolan.

Membership:

The PTA member tally is at 520 members out of the 640 goal.

The database is now up and can be used to target those who haven't yet joined.

Rebecca will check with Allison on when the PTA membership cards will be distributed.

8. Events

Programs/Assemblies: Carrie Harden (Chair of Assemblies/Programs)

Carrie reviewed a list of upcoming programs/events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
11/30/2006	FaultLine - a cappella singing group (formerly Sons of Pitches) performing for students & working with Choruses during the day & have added an evening concert/event as well	All
2/6/07-2/8/07	Hands On History - Colonial Program	4th
Feb 2007	Mid-Hudson Children's Museum's Water Cycle Program	3rd
Week of 3/19/07	John Arrucci - Percussion Instrument Program	All
Mar 2007	Cliff Mendelson - A Day in Clay workshop	4th & 5th
4/23/2007	Kit's Kaboodle - Civil War Program	5th
Apr 2007	Bullying Program	All
5/31/07-6/1/07	Pond Studies	2nd

Note: Faultline will be selling CDs at their 11/30 night concert

Holiday Shop (Tricia Watt, Chair)

The holiday shop will be friday 12/1 from 5-8:30pm. It will not be on Saturday. The company we are working with is called Scruples, who Brinkerhoff has used successfully in the past as well. The company provides all of the set-up, the registers, and the inventory management. The PTA has to provide volunteers to help the children select their gifts and pay for their items. They currently have approximately 20-25 volunteers to help. 15% of the sales proceeds are retained by the GH PTA. The idea of a bake sale is being considered to run concurrently with the Holiday Shop to raise extra funds.

A parent asked if there is a way to see the merchandise their children are going to see in advance of the Holiday Shop. Tricia will have more information after meeting next week with the company, but there will be Wish List sent home listing many of the items, so that children can pre-select their items before entering the holiday shop.

The prices range from 25cents - \$10. The Holiday shop notice will be going home with children on Monday. It was suggested that the PTA include words to indicate

this is a fundraiser on the notice so that parents can be made aware that this could help benefit the efforts of the PTA.

It was explained the historically, the Holiday Shop has not been a profit generating event. This year will be the first year that the PTA will benefit from a portion of the proceeds.

MOTION: Beth Brofman made a motion to switch the Holiday Shop line item from the Event category to the Fundraiser category on the 2006-2007 Budget. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

5th Grade Musical

The musical is going well so far. Information regarding the musical can be found on the PTA website (<http://www.gayheadpta.org>).

PARP (Lisa Bald)

Lisa Bald (Chair) noted that there will be a PARP meeting on 12/1 in the cafeteria at 2:15pm. Please join the meeting if you would like to help on the committee/event.

Webmaster (Rebecca O'Mara)

Rebecca has received the Adobe software approved at the last meeting, and has converted all of the forms to the .pdf format. She reminded all that the email-mailing list is useful for notification of upcoming PTA events. (its not used to notify of school events or closings, only PTA-related events)

Wellness (Rebecca O'Mara)

- The wellness committee provided the food at tonight's meeting.
- They are planning to join with the 3 week PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) event in March. March is national nutrition month and wellness is the theme of this year's PARP event. Various wellness events will run side by side with the PARP events.
- Another idea being considered for 2/07 is to open the kitchen, and give parents the opportunity to walk the lunch line to see what food choices their children must make on the lunch line. A parent recommended possibly pairing this idea up with the Kindergarten lunch trial in Spring as well.

Spelling Bee:

The committee was able to obtain the Poughkeepsie Journal as a sponsor.

9. Fundraising

Fall Fundraising (Beth Brofman)

The fall fundraiser is not yet finalized, but appears to fall short of the full year fundraising budget line. Like last year, a Spring Fundraiser may have to be planned.

Mary Jean mentioned that the Spring fundraiser will have to contend with the Playground fundraising efforts.

Please keep an eye on the budget lines while running the various events.

Kids Art / Danbury Fair Discount Cards

These programs have not been a significant source of funds so far.

10. SLT

- Mary Jean Staudohar, on behalf of Jenn Oppenheim, noted that the recent SLT meeting was postponed, and there was no major news to report.
- 11/28th at Roy Ketchum HS will be a program for SLT re-training to review regulations & training for the SLT.
- 12/8 will be the skating party.
- The SLT held an ELA night last night. Approximately 30 parents attended.

A parent asked the question why do the children get tested in January, and then do not get test results back until 10 months later, well after the school year is over, and a new one has begun.

Mr. Downer said the intention of the State Education Dept was to administer the tests in Jan with the intent of providing feedback to the schools by end of Feb, so that school can put necessary action plans in place on areas needing improvement. However, several delays as well as the testing of grades 3-8 have made this original State intention unachievable. He noted that it doesn't help the school at all to administer tests in Jan if the feedback is not going to be received in enough time to act in the same school year.

MOTION: A motion was made by Beth Brofman to write to the State Education Commissioner as the Gayhead PTA organization to address the results being so delayed. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Rebecca O'Mara volunteered to help write the letter. It can be reviewed at a future PTA meeting when complete. It was suggested to 'cc the Wappinger Board of Education & PTA Council on this letter.

A parent asked if the ELA results can be viewed on the web. Mr. Downer noted that the Poughkeepsie Journal had the complete results posted in the paper a few weeks ago with a comparison of Dutchess county schools and with NY State. Another parent noted that the results can probably also be reviewed on the NYS Education department's website.

General:

A discussion was held regarding Mr. Downer's interim role, how or when a Principal search committee would be formed, and if there will be Gayhead parent involvement on that committee. Mr. Downer's current position is an Interim role, and when a committee is formed by the District, there would likely be parent members on that committee. The district goes through a specific process to find a new Principal, and could take some time. It is unknown exactly how long the process may take.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.