

Gayhead Elementary PTA  
General Membership Meeting  
Friday October 20, 2006

The General Membership meeting was called to order at 9:35AM 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 introduced the 2006-2007 Executive Committee members.

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

The minutes from the September 27, 2006 General Membership meeting were read, and approved.

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

- Classroom grants were distributed totaling \$1,480.00
- \$500 has been issued so far for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade musical to purchase scripts
- The book fair appears to have been successful.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Beth Brofman to create a new budget line in the budget for the School Historian for \$50 to cover supplies for the scrapbook, and move \$50 from the Welcoming Packet budget line to the new Historian budget line. The motion was seconded and was passed.

Becky O'Mara, PTA Webmaster, would like to consider an increase in the Webmaster's budget to cover an annual subscription to Adobe software. For approximately \$100/year, it would allow the PTA to convert any type of file into the more user friendly .PDF file format. This could help expand the scope of what is published on the PTA website. (i.e. newsletters, forms, etc.) It's an annual subscription with Adobe and is approximately \$100 per year.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Kim Lavigne to increase the webmaster budget by \$100 by moving funds from the Banana Splits budget line. The motion was seconded, and passed.

Sue Kline mentioned that the PTA spent approximately \$300 on sales tax last year. She reminded everyone to try and use the tax exempt form for the Gayhead PTA. A list of participating stores who accept the PTA tax exempt form will be compiled and posted on the PTA website.

**4. Principal's Report (Assistant Principal Mr. Ceng)**

Mr. Ceng noted that the Gayhead school calendar on the school website is accurate and up to date. He noted that the school website can be checked for any future adjustments.

Mr. Ceng gave his thanks to the PTA organization.

He noted the following upcoming school dates:

11/7 No School

11/10 No School

11/22-11/25 No School

11/30 Fault Line music group will be performing during school. He is working on the schedule.

School pictures are next week.

A question was asked to Mr. Ceng: Will the 5<sup>th</sup> grade discontinue switching classes next year? Mr. Ceng answered yes. It is a district initiative to discontinue switching classes at the elementary level. All district elementary schools are included in this change, and it includes 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grades as well. Some of the parents expressed concern over this change, because the switching of classes is a good introduction to the Middle School environment. Beth Brofman noted that she would try to bring it up at the next PTA Council meeting.

A parent asked if any type of Breezeway (to protect from weather elements) was being considered for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. At this time, there are no known plans. The parent asked to please bring it up at future meetings.

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

The family distribution list for Gayhead should be completed by next week. This is a list compiled by the PTA so that only 1 notice gets sent home per family, reducing the amount of paperwork being sent home for multiple-sibling households.

*General:*

Chairpeople are still needed for

PARP- a 3 week reading incentive program

Hospitality-to set up the food/refreshments for meetings

Grizzly Growl-the periodic school newsletter

**6. VP Communication (Lisa Fusco)**

Lisa Fusco noted to please get submissions to her for the first Grizzly Growl newsletter by November 15, 2006. If anyone has any news, information, announcements that they would like included in the Grizzly Growl, please email Lisa

Fusco at [Rafmonte@aol.com](mailto:Rafmonte@aol.com). Also, if you would like to Chair the Grizzly Growl, please contact her.

A suggestion was made to perhaps add a coupon to the Grizzly Growl newsletter to incept people to keep it and read it, as opposed to it getting lost in the mountain of paperwork that comes home from school.

A discussion was held about possibly streamlining the various news sources/newsletters that are out there in the Gayhead community, such as the School's newsletter, the Grizzly Growl, the SLT, Wellness, etc. Rebecca O'Mara, Karen Gomba, and Lisa Fusco will set up a meeting to discuss.

### **7. VP Administration (Rebecca Yeager)**

#### *Membership:*

Allison Lainchbury (Membership committee chair) reported on PTA membership. She welcomed the new kindergarten parents to the PTA meeting, and thanked them for coming. It appears the memberships are at the same level as prior year. She believes parents are not quite certain what a PTA membership means or entails, which could lead to hesitation on joining the PTA. The membership committee will meet to discuss ideas on how to raise awareness of the PTA membership. (i.e. get more Dad involvement by getting on the microphone at the Ice Cream Social, which has a very high Dad turnout)

Rebecca Y. noted that the School directory is almost complete. There was an overwhelming response to the directory this year.

### **8. VP Events (Kim Hobbs-LaVigne)**

Kim LaVigne (VP of Events) noted that on 11/30 Fault Line (an a cappella singing group) will be appearing at school during school hours, and then has agreed to come back at night for another performance. She will try to have Jim Allen come to the school as well during the same time so that the Parents can attend the Jim Allen homework workshop/lecture, and the children can enjoy the Fault Line music.

#### Ice Cream Social: (Kim Lavigne)

It went really well this year. There was a tremendous turnout. A suggestion was raised about maybe having it for two nights to reduce the crowds, but it was noted due to the ice cream, etc. this would be difficult. The committee will meet to decide ideas for next year.

#### Wellness Committee: (Karen Gomba)

- They following items were highlights from the wellness committee:
- They will continue a newsletter this year
- They hope to have a cooking demonstration
- supply a healthy snack/treat and its recipe at the PTA meetings

Minutes Final-Approved 11/15/2006

- create a healthy foods cookbook
- look into an idea of having a parent go through the school lunch line
- explore also the possibility of pairing up with stores

The next wellness committee meeting is 11/8 at 9:30am.

### Book Fair

- Was 6.5% better than last fall
- Thanks goes out to Roxanne for all the poster setup
- It was a lot of work to set up the book fair
- They will need spring book fair volunteers. Please contact Rose DeSisto-Butkovitch if you're interested.

### Holiday Shop

Tricia Watt (Committee Chair) noted that the Holiday Shop will be in first week of December. The holiday shop will not be on a Saturday this year.

Kathy Gately mentioned that the Holiday Shop may have to be moved from Event to Fundraiser if 15% may possibly go back to the school. The contract with the company has to be read to understand if the item needs to be moved in the budget.

Reflections information is being sent home today.

### Banana Splits

Kim noted that there is a social worker that oversees the group. There are approx 10 kids in each group.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical

Kathy Spinella (Committee Chair) noted that its going great. They are performing the Pied Piper musical, and the casting lists are done. The show will be 2/9 and 2/10<sup>th</sup>. There are 23 speaking parts, 5 musical production numbers for the ensemble. Please let Kathy know if you can help out. They need help with costumes, and other subcommittee work. There was discussion on whether it would be possible to relocate the musical to another venue to allow higher viewing occupancy. It is a very difficult task to move the production. It will remain in Gayhead for now.

### Spelling Bee:

It was noted that in order to go to the regional level (and move up from the local level), GH needs to have a sponsor. The current sponsor is out of range for the regional level. It was suggested to try and get the Poughkeepsie Journal to sponsor. They have been extremely nonresponsive in the past. Perhaps the Council can get involved...if all the schools get involved, maybe together we can get sponsorship needed. (its estimated that it costs approx \$4-\$10k for newspaper to

sponsor) Kim Barnett (Spelling Bee Co Chair) said the first round will be in January after the ELA, and then 2/13 is the District Bee.

**9. VP Fundraising (Kathy Gately)**

The fall fundraiser just completed.

The Danbury Mall discount tickets can be purchased for \$10

Kids Art cards must be returned by 11/3; company will not promise to have them returned by Holidays.

**10. Announcements:**

Please do not park in the marked spots directly outside the school. They are teacher parking spots. Thank you.

**11. SLT Report (Jenn Oppenheim)**

- They will have a review of standardized tests sometime in 2/07
- There will be a family literacy night 1/23 for K-2 with Mrs. Dollard
- Citizen of the month is starting up
- Buddy read has started and the kids are enjoying it
- The Monday school store is open, and they have student workers

**12. New Business:**

Noreen Healey (Corresponding Sec'y) explained that the PTA currently leases a photocopier that it uses for all PTA copies, notices, etc. The monthly payment covers both the lease payment as well as a full maintenance agreement (including toner) with Atlas Starr. The lease and service agreement end in Jan 07, at which time, the PTA will own the copier. PTA's options include a) keeping the current copier in Jan 07, & enter into a one-year maintenance contract with Atlas Starr, b) trade in the current copier and obtain a slightly upgraded used copier for approximately the same price (for lease + maintenance). Option a) is expected to save the PTA approx \$800 from Jan07-Jan08, assuming the copier remains in working order. Option b) would not save the PTA expense but would keep the current monthly payment approximately the same. The copier has had a good maintenance history and Atlas Starr has done a good job servicing the copier.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Noreen Healey to keep the current photocopier upon the Jan 07 end of lease, and enter only into a 1 year full maintenance agreement with Atlas Starr at the agreed upon monthly price. The motion was seconded and approved.

The next General PTA membership meeting is Wednesday, 11/15/2006 at 7pm.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.