

HOUDINI SCHOOL COMMUNITY PTA MINUTES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Introductions, President's Report

Channon Arteman

Jen Danfield (transportation secretary) and Dan Storch (programmer analyst) were introduced. They are AASD employees who chose to attend a Houdini PTA meeting as part of an internship requirement.

Minutes were approved from October.

Treasurer's Report

Channon Arteman (temporary)

- 2010-11 Audit completed, 2010(-11) Federal "tax"
- 2011-12 YTD

Houdini is still searching for a new treasurer. The process of filing for tax exempt status has become much easier. As of 10/31/2011 the balance in the account is \$9665.03. See Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts.

Committee Reports

- BoxTops for Education

Jen Kitzman

13,310 box tops were collected. This earned \$1331 for Houdini.

- Entertainment Books

Jen Kitzman

Houdini earned \$2100 from this sale. There are still 34 books outstanding. Final notices will be sent home.

- CityWide PTA

Donna Larsen/Channon Arteman

This committee meets 4 times a year (October, January, March and May) to share ideas and information between schools.

Jill Georger volunteered to shadow Donna in order to take over this position.

- Family Night Out – Papa Murphy's 11/16

Houdini earned \$361.97 from Culver's night. Mrs. Krause and her student teacher, Ms. Reinke, will be working the 4:00 shift and Mrs. Frerks will be working the 5:00 shift (with info we have so far) at the Papa Murphy's night on Wednesday November 16th.

- Fall Family Festival

Channon Arteman

Vicki Vogel would like feedback on how people felt about Romp in the Swamp/Fall Festival. Positive thoughts include: variety of activities to attend, nice weather, healthy family activity with walking, and cool things to do and see. Questions that remain include: was this a good time to have this with everything else going on, what are the statistics of having nice weather at the end of October in Wisconsin, and why was there so much leftover food from the Houdini station? Donna Larsen suggested looking into zoomerang or surveymonkey to send an online survey out that could compile data for planning for next year.

- Fall Book Fair

Stacy Peapenburg

Houdini made \$2182.85 from the \$4365.70 worth of books that were purchased at the book fair. This allowed each classroom to receive approximately \$150 worth of books for classroom libraries and \$571.34 worth of books for the Houdini LMC. There is about \$1300 left to be used for whatever Houdini needs. Mrs. Frerks suggested this could be put to good use by the reading specialists. Additionally, since there are many SMART technology options available, the technology committee will look into whether or not these purchase options will benefit students. After consulting with Amanda Carey, the team would like to focus on purchasing the equipment, rather than software.

The following was shared about the Fall book fair: it was nice to have the room to spread out books in the gym but being out of the direct traffic area during conferences may have affected sales, eliminating student wish lists and classroom previews may have affected sales, the online book fair was not productive – there were only two orders, many teachers did not fill out a wish list, and it has been very difficult finding volunteers to work the fair. The ultimate goal is to get books into the hands of kids either at home or in their classroom libraries.

- KAT Anita Cimijotti

The date is set for March 7th. Packets will be sent home prior to the December break, so students can start practicing.

- Reading Incentives Karen Hartjes

Tanya Lange (Houdini reading specialist), Karen Hartjes (parent and Houdini supervisor), and Vicki Vogel (parent) will work to revamp the Reading Great Escape program. It seems redundant to have students fill out separate reading logs for the same thing and they will work with input from parents and teachers to try and make this program meaningful for students and user friendly for parents and teachers.

- Yearbook Jill Georger

Many books were sold during conferences. The deadline for preordering is November 18th. It would be appreciated if teachers could help spread the word. 6th graders voted on the cover design for the second year in a row. Watch for new and exciting designs in this year's book. The donation towards a scholarship idea did not go over well. There may be a stand alone phone call for yearbook support in February.

Principal's Report

Tiffany Frerks

Romp in the Swamp was fabulous! The Grand Chute Kiwanis wrote Houdini a check for \$3000 technology from Westfest. There was a wonderful turnout at Westfest. Literacy Night will be Thursday November 10th. It will include a dedication to Veterans, songs, poems, and every child who attends will leave with a book.

7:25-7:30 New and Unfinished Business

- PTO vs. PTA

Citywide PTA is changing to a PTO, as have many schools in the district. The main differences is that a PTO allows us autonomy in decision making, the dues stay at Houdini, and it allows us to build networks of support with other schools. After discussion, it was decided to research the specific pros and cons and report out in order to make a decision.

7:30 Adjournment

7:30-8:00 Speaker: CSIP

Tanya Lange

Next PTA Board Meeting: Tuesday, 11/22, 11:35-12:20 ?

Meeting: **Thursday**, December 1, 2012, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

- Family Night Out •
- KAT •

Speaker Topic: DEIO time??