

Houdini PTA Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Channon Arteman (president) called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Jen Kitzman was introduced as the new Vice President and Lynae Wolfgram was introduced as the new Secretary (insert applause).

Channon gave the Treasurer's report. Our year to date balance is \$11,017.01.

Kathy Hammerton (chairperson of committees) shared there are four main fundraisers for Houdini PTA: Knowledge-a-thon, Box Tops for Education, Entertainment Books, and Family Nights Out at local restaurants.

Jill Gill shared that we get 10 cents for every box top. These can be clipped from packages or received from online shopping. We collected 3,498 last year. Our goal is 3,500 this year. There will be a box top cutting party on October 31<sup>st</sup>...location to be determined. All are invited! Turn in box tops to the pink box in the foyer. Tiffany Frerks (principal) mentioned a friendly competition with Ferber Elementary for box tops.

Jill also shared that volunteers are needed to distribute Entertainment Books this Friday from 8:30-11:00. Volunteers will receive a free book.

Donna Larsen shared that City Wide PTA meets 4 times a year. This is an informational group to share ideas and distribute grant monies through Project SPEAK. Donna is seeking another parent to mentor to take over this position.

Kathy H shared that the Scholastic Fall Book Fair will be the nights of parent teacher conferences. It will be set up in the small gym this year. She needs volunteers to take over something that will earn them coupons. I believe it was for the set up, but the new secretary was not clear on that. Stay tuned!

Channon shared that the first family night out will be at Culvers on Wednesday October 12. Tentative upcoming nights are Wednesday November 9 at Papa Murphy's and sometime in January at Happy Joe's. Channon will ask if the dates can be adjusted so they do not conflict with staff meeting dates.

Channon shared that we currently have 163 Houdini PTA members. Membership cards will be distributed soon.

Jill Georger and Kelly Beyersdorf are co-chairs of the Memory Book committee. Jill made a motion to not use the memory books as a fundraiser and sell them for one dollar cheaper this year (\$11 instead of \$12). Discussion lead to a second motion to sell the book for one dollar less than last year and add a scholarship option where parents can choose to donate towards a fund for families who cannot afford a memory book. This motion was passed. All teachers will continue to receive a free copy and Tiffany will help the PTA determine how to get memory books into the hands of families who really want/need them. Personalization will cost an extra \$5 and there will be a new option to purchase Zoom for \$2. This is a time capsule for the current school year.

Jill needs a kindergarten representative and a special events helper for the memory book. If you take pictures at school or on field trips, please send them to Jill or Kelly.

Vicki Vogel shared that Fall Fest will be at Bubolz Nature Center on Saturday October 22, from 3-7 pm. This will be during Romp in the Swamp, so it is not exclusive to Houdini. Watch for a

preregistration form, because there are FREE t-shirts involved! Houdini community members will be given a bracelet to wear so you can identify other Houdini families. There are many activities for kids and families and the only thing we need is someone to volunteer to stay near the bonfire to make sure no one falls down, down, down into the burning ring of fire. (any Johnny Cash fans out there?)

Channon shared information about the "Feed the Teachers" campaign. This takes place during parent teacher conferences and Lynae is stating that the teachers truly appreciate having food provided at school on those nights. June Converas? volunteered to organize the fall feedings and Zay Lenaburg volunteered to organize the spring feedings.

Tiffany Frerks (principal) thanked the PTA and HEART committee for all their support, especially with technology. She shared that there is a daily intervention and enrichment time for every classroom each day, which is new this year.

Houdini needs lunchroom supervisors! Please contact Tiffany if you are interested.

Houdini Math Night is September 27 from 6-7:30. There will be math games, presentations on math curriculum and PRIZES!

New and Unfinished Business: (short and sweet)

- National PTA Dues bylaws will be changed to reflect the 50 cent increase in dues.
- The author, Gordan Korman, will be sponsored for an additional \$160 from the budget, and I sure hope he is worth the extra money! He will appeal to students in grades 4-6. Vicki V. discussed a different funding opportunity for an author that may appeal to younger students, in addition to the Gordan Korman visit.
- Houdini will explore the possibility of Facebook communication...watch for more information. Heather Joy is the contact person for this topic.
- Vicki will talk to Wal-Mart about purchasing fans for classroom teachers.

PTA meeting was adjourned at 7:39.

Michelle Krause (3<sup>RD</sup> grade teacher) presented on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports/Systems).