

Hillside PTO Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2009

Debi Rapson opened the meeting with a greeting to all attending. There were no teachers present as the Union was holding a meeting at the same time downstairs.

The April minutes were accepted.

**THE TREASURER'S REPORT** was passed out and discussed. Mike wasn't here.

**BOOK FAIR:** Reminder that we will need to get a new chairperson for Book Fair for next year. Leslie will not be here.

**STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK:** Linda Whitmore reported. There was so much excitement for the shopping day that Linda suggested we have MCTV video it to share next year. Linda will chair again next year with a few tweaks from things they'd like to do better/differently. It was a fun week. A lot of volunteers and everyone seemed to have a great time. Thanx to everyone who helped out!!!

**BEAK SPEAKS UPDATE:** Karen reported that there was much positive feedback from parents about having so much Team information in the most recent Beak Speaks. We need to sit down with Mr. Donohue and come up with dates for next year's editions. Set them up so that everyone knows when they will "go to press" and they can better prepare to submit items.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Next year the SIS system will, more or less, be in place. He doesn't know yet whether or not parents will be asked to input email addresses to access the system. However, we will probably keep Homeworkknow.com for another year due to the transition period.

We teach formulas and how to use them for Math. Japan teaches kids how to think, apply concepts and why the children are learning them. So we can teach our children to better understand concepts and do better problem solving, we need to give them more learning time. We will be changing the structure of the school day to incorporate more core class learning time. Exploratory will go away and be replaced by two periods of Language Arts, Math Science and Social Studies. There will be a focus to write in every class. Math teachers will spend 2 days with 5<sup>th</sup> grade feeder schools to understand how 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been taught Math so the transition will, hopefully, be easier coming into the learning style for Hillside.

**ESSAY CONTEST:** We have a writing rubric to use for judging. We will hand out essay rules and rubric to 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for distribution to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade children. We will ask them to participate by creating a 250-word essay about who made the greatest impact on their time at Hillside. Debi will ask Dottie if the results can be put in the promotion ceremony program. City Year kids agreed to be our "independent judges." We will set a June 15<sup>th</sup> ... deadline for submission.

Debi agreed to be present for the Welcome Night for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to encourage them to become involved in the Hillside PTO. Date is: June 1<sup>st</sup> - 6:30pm.

**IDEAS FOR NEXT YEAR:**

- We will write out a question for the principal about teachers needs for the coming year.
- Debi to get a letter ready for Steve Donohue to welcome parents to the Hillside PTO ...
- To be discussed at the June Meeting - discount cards ...
- Calendar for who does what/when

**CITY YEAR:** June 4<sup>th</sup> is set as Global Service Day. City Year team with sand and repaint front pillars of school and remulch the front area. This was changed from 4/25 due to conflicts with Hillside Pride week. June 8<sup>th</sup> will be the staff vs. City Year baseball tournament. Dave Burbank offered to coordinate food/beverages with City Year coordinator, C. Torman.

Next meeting -- June 16<sup>st</sup> ... 7pm -

*Respectfully submitted,  
Debi Rapson, PTO President/interim secretary*