



Hillcrest Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes

Date / Time 10/23/2019 8:30 AM | *Meeting called to order by* President Pundmann at 8:35 AM

Minutes

President Pundmann presented the minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Principal's Report

Special Guest – Dr. Kevin Russell (District 58 Superintendent)

- Dr. Russell gave an overview of his history within District 58 prior to being selected as Superintendent (used to teach at O'Neill for seven years, received his Masters while at Hillcrest, etc.).
- Dr. Russell communicated that his three goals are: communication with families, ensure curriculum up to standards, work on aging facilities. Currently his biggest focus is the facilities plans with the need of nearly 250M renovations for facilities which includes 100-120M of general maintenance (plumbing, electric, parking lots). Also investigating HVAC in schools, security and ongoing consideration of 6-8 middle schools.
- With the lowest tax rate in Dupage County, and goal is to create short term and longer cycles of improvement. Will be doing much due diligence before bringing anything to the community such as referendum like District 99.
- Regarding curriculum, new math program should be selected by the end of the year based on pilot.

Special Guest - Mia Churma (Building Bridges)

- Mia spoke about the creation of Building Bridges, a parent/teacher group under the Downers Grove Area Council of PTAs, working to help families of children with special needs build bridges between themselves and the school community.
- Programs such as BEST, DLP and RISE are programs available to our students.
- 1 in 4 students within District 58 receive accommodations.
- This organization is open to all parents.

Mrs. Rzepka (Principal):

- Mrs. Rzepka opened with discussing her Hillcrest School Improvement Plan which aligns with the District 58 strategic plan.
- Building goals are designed around: 1) learning, 2) connecting, 3) safety and security.
- As for learning, the goal is to incorporate more efforts around reading and math. This includes school wide incentive for time spent reading for leisure, opportunities for "all school" reading, and implementation of family math night as examples.
- A couple of areas regarding focus on communication and connecting include: 1) Help parents understand practices as it relates to interventions and accelerations with proactive communication. 2) Schedule meeting for math acceleration in spring and communicate process of differentiation, etc.
- Communication survey will be sent as well requesting parents to answer a few brief questions on how they like to receive information, what they would like to learn more about, etc.
- Mrs. Rzepka stated that the Professional Development Time on Mondays has proven to be valuable with district wide collaboration on science curriculum, reviewing RTI and Individual Problem Solving, specialized training for instructional assistants, classroom management skills and more.
- ESSA Every Student Succeeds Act – A parent forum will take place at the end of the PTA meeting on November 13th. Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction will be on deck to speak to ESSA designations which will be released on October 30th at 12PM.

Faculty Report

Mrs. Howell and Mrs. Cerney:

- Nothing to report but a gracious thank you for the meals during conferences.

Open Forum

Anne Healy:

- Due to lack of time, this portion of the meeting was removed.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report (Presented by Karen Crowley)

- Monthly expenses included:
 - September: financial services, digital media services, subscriptions, staff t-shirts,

The financial report was presented for the month of September 2019.

- Income received in September: \$8588.20
- Expenses paid in September: \$6696.33
- Income less expenses in September: \$1891.87

The treasurer's reports were filed for audit.

President's Report (Anne Healy and Connie Pundmann)

- Co-Presidents urged communication on membership to the PTA.

VP of Marketing (Anna Jackson):

- PTA email sent every Tuesday has received positive reviews.

VP of Ways and Means (Susie Howe):

- \$6,400 profit from Charleston Wrap. 100+ students participated.
- \$300 profit from Haselhorst Photography fundraiser.
- Book Fair (Kelly Fallon-Wison) - \$9,700 in sales with \$2,000 profit to the library (half in books and half for programs). Benefitted from improved technology at check out. Considering moving book fair to end of January conferences. Losing sales from holiday or reading games not a potential issue.
- Game Night - Two tables left to sell. Couple of seats left at staff table and Kindergarten VIP table. Teacher experiences 100% reading to go.

VP of Programs - Academic (Beth Nelson):

- Nothing to report.

VP of Programs - Social (Ilana Roth):

- Launching private Facebook Group for parents of Hillcrest students to ask questions, etc.

Unfinished Business

- There was no Unfinished Business

New Business

- There was no New Business

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Anne Healy and seconded by Karen Crowley at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Cole, Secretary

Anne Healy/Connie Pundmann, Co-Presidents