

Hadley Jr. High PTA
General Business Meeting
November 11, 2008

Dr. Dransoff, Andrea Alterman-Lachs, Michele Tews, Beth Fawcett, Gail Kelly, Susan Hajny, Linda Anderson, Drew Ellis, Jennifer Lindstrom, Sue Burdett, Pete Ladesic, Kevin Cosgrove, Erica Nelson, and John Kenwood in attendance.

Andrea Alterman-Lachs called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Principal's Report: Dr. Dransoff

- *A jazz band director has been hired. He will work with students 2 hours per week.
- *Student/Faculty night, originally scheduled for February 26, will now be March 26, since 2/26 was just made an institute day.
- *Eighth grade graduation will be June 9, which is the latest date that Glenbard West can give us use of the gym.
- *The School Board has given approval to move forward with exploring the Encore and Housing and Looping pieces, new additions to the HNH project.
- *Registration information will go out by March 16. The target is to have it completed by the end of the school year. The plan is to have students sign up online at their school with the help of counselors. Hadley counselors will also go to the elementary schools to explain the process.

President's Report: Andrea Alterman-Lachs

- *All under New and Old Business.

Vice President Report: Michele Tews

- *At the Student Council fundraiser Lollipop Sale this week, all lollipops sold out in 2 days.
- *Mrs. Cox, an 8th grade teacher will be raffling the chance for a student to cut her hair as a fundraiser for Student Council.
- *Michele is working to set dates for the year-end class parties. They are dependent on when the last day of classes is, which has not been finalized.

Secretary: Beth Fawcett

- *At the District Safety Committee meeting on 1/29, the issue of arrival and dismissal safety at Hadley was discussed. One action item being looked into is having buses drop students off along Glencoe (where they board at dismissal).

Treasurer: Gail Kelly

- *Treasurer reports were available to attendees (also online).
- *Kathy Dibadj has distributed funds for the approved Curriculum Enhancement initiatives.
- *Money has come in from Let's Dance and a check will go out to the teacher shortly.
- *QSP notified Andrea Alterman-Lachs that the PTA will be getting a residuals check, but the amount is not yet known.

Teacher's Representative Report: Linda Anderson

- *Linda asked if more lollipops will be bought for the fundraiser. The answer was no, per Michele Tews.
- *Linda asked where the money she collected for PTA dues from teachers has gone. Per Gail Kelly, it is in the membership dues and is used mainly for the Illinois PTA membership dues.

Board Report:

- *Kevin Cosgrove briefly discussed Hadley New Horizons, describing it as a tremendous initiative. He asked if he could answer any questions; there were none.

Committee Reports

TAC Committee: Susan Hajny

- *The group has experienced some attrition due to competing student activities and the production group is now down to 111, with 14 on crew and 97 in the cast.

*Six subcommittees are in place.

*There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents.

*The group (or part) may participate in Musical Mayhem, and it would be a live act, most likely during the Lip Sync intermission.

*Tickets to the show will be raffled off at Mayhem.

* Susan asked about concessions and was advised to keep it simple and in one location.

* Susan presented the TAC committee monthly budget report to Gail Kelly.

Old Business: Andrea Alterman-Lachs

*QSP presented Andrea with a contract for next year, which is similar to this year's, including a signing bonus (rare for consecutive years). So that QSP can get started with planning and we can be ready at the beginning of the school year for Magazine Madness, Andrea asked for approval to sign the contract. The motion was approved.

New Business: Andrea Alterman-Lachs

*Amy Thompson has agreed to chair the Bylaws Review committee, including a review of the current PTA Board structure, which seems to be outdated compared to most in the area. Amy is looking for volunteers to help.

*Three people are needed for the Nominating committee. Their job will be to recruit for board and committee positions for the 2009/2010 school year.

School Board Candidates:

Four candidates attended and were each given 5 minutes to give presentations and answer questions.

Drew Ellis:

Drew grew up in Glen Ellyn, attended Forest Glen, Hadley, and Glenbard West. He has a BS in Finance from Northwestern University and is working on a Masters degree in banking. He is currently a Vice President with Community Bank of Wheaton/Glen Ellyn and his focus is commercial lending, which he believes provides good insight to district finances. He and the Bank are heavily involved in the community, and he feels like he's part of the history of the district. He and his wife have no children in the district. His reason for running is to give back to the district for the outstanding education he received.

Q: What works well and what doesn't in the district?

A: The district has a history of excellence. The biggest issue is the level of buy-in from the community; better communication is needed on important programs and services.

Q: What is the intent of the school board; what should it be responsible for?

A: They should be a sounding board between the Administration, the schools and the community.

John Kenwood:

John was born in Spain and came to the U.S. at the age of 3. He's been in the Chicago area since 1992. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and an MBA in finance from the University of Illinois. In his work as a technology consultant, he helps companies enable their strategies and organizational changes. As a current board member, his focus has been on setting higher standards for education, board accountability, collaboration, fiscal responsibility, and special education. He is excited about where the board is, but initiatives need to be completed. He has seen a lot of progress in the time he's been on the board and wants to see that continue. He sees his role as raising questions around curriculum and challenging students, and wants District 41 to be a leading district.

Q: What are the biggest challenges on the horizon?

A: Implementation of the new literacy program and changes to the math curriculum; balancing moving forward at a reasonable pace with keeping people involved; financial issues with the state of the economy, specifically how to deliver quality in a responsible way; facilities – how to deliver capabilities given infrastructure issues; science and language should be more of a focus.

Terra Howard:

Terra has been on the Board for 4 years and is the current president. She has 3 children in the district. She is an attorney and represents children as a Guardian Ad Litem. Her platform when she ran last time was fiscal responsibility and getting the community involved. She believes the Board has changed their way of doing business and there is much more transparency now. The Board has a 5-year long-range plan, with a 2-year action plan and she wants to continue executing to that plan.

Everything the Board does is tied to the plan, which can be altered as necessary. There are many capital projects in the plan, an example of which is the recent replacement of the boiler at Hadley. On Hadley New Horizons, Terra commented that it is good to see this level of excitement on the part of the staff.

Q: How can we simplify the transition from Jr. High to High School – there seems to be a disconnect?

A: There is a Glenbard consortium, to which Terra belongs, and they meet regularly to discuss curriculum connections, calendar issues, etc. It's been very productive. Terra is also on the Board Calendar committee and they consider what's going on at West when changing institute days, etc. There is a need for institute days to educate teachers on the new curriculum.

Jack Kahler:

Jack has 2 children in the district. He and his wife adopted their 2nd child from Ukraine and now appreciate some of the special preschool services the district provides. He has an MBA from Boston University and owns his own Operations and Technology consulting business in Wheaton. He is a big proponent of science, math and technology. He's been involved in the district for several years, participating on the Vision project, serving on the Boundaries committee, etc. If elected, he would like to instill the execution of educational excellence; get the community more involved in positive ways; and get the most out of the dollars we have. His motivation is that he believes things can be done better and believes he should put his skills to work here.

Q: What is the role of the Board?

A: Governance – they should monitor the management of tax dollars, and meet standards, etc.

Q: How do you know the true temperature of the community, rather than the "loud" temperature?

A: Talk to as many people as possible, stick to your principles, and be involved.

Dan Smith was unable to be at the meeting.

Susan Hajny moved to adjourn the meeting. Michele Tews seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00.