Huntington PTA Council: December 2010 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Bari Fehrs, Council President, at 9:51 am December 7th, 2010

Pledge of allegiance, approval of November minutes, and Treasurer’s report which stated that council dues have been collected and that money is still being submitted for mini-calendars.

President’s Report: It was suggested that membership tables are set up at school events such as concert or sporting events so people who have not yet joined their school’s PTA may do so. In order to further promote the goal of unity in the district, the possibility of a district wide event was discussed. This may be a fundraiser, or a community oriented event, for students or for families. Julie La Bella agreed to be a contact person for the beginning stages and many attendees signed on to assist.

Community Reports: Alicemarie Rorke reported on a powerful seminar she attended regarding Internet Safety and Cyberbullying. Bullying has reached epidemic proportions due to technology. Startling statistics were provided and attendees were reminded of the importance of teaching moral responsibility. Articles on sexting and cyberbullying were distributed and the website OnGuardOnline.gov was provided as a resource on how to protect our children.

The Health Advisory Committee is selling reusable water bottles as a fundraiser. Proceeds will help fund cafeteria scanners and student id’s with bar codes. A committee member would go to any school at sell these bottles at an event. Email Elaine May if interested at eewm@optonline.net.

Guest Speaker: Kitty Klein, Director of Guidance at the High school, discussed how students are monitored to ensure that they are meeting their potentials, including end of year reviews, and having counselors go into classrooms so that they are accessible. She also spoke about transcripts and diplomas, as well as making sure that each student has something to be involved outside of academics so that they are not only marketable but self-aware and good self-advocates.

District Reports: Board of Education: superintendent survey deadline of December 31st was mentioned. Copies were distributed and how to access it online was discussed. Chris Bene stressed the importance of providing comments in the designated section. The Council President discussed the plan to establish a survey to assist the Board in any future decision making, reiterating that it is for informational purposes.

Arts in Education: A character building program in the primaries called “Start Dreaming” is being considered. A program about King Tut for the 6th graders is coming up, as well as the big fundraiser “Alexander King of Jesters” to take place on January 30, 2011 at the High School. Email Peggy Low at peggy@williamlow.com with any questions.

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education: The annual gala is January 21st at the Woodlands. Barbara Cutrone is to be honored.

Unit Reports: Reports of current events at each school were submitted by the Council Delegates and are on file with the Council Secretary.

Dr. Carmela Leonardi, Principal of the High School, spoke of her desire to share with the community the many positive aspects of the high school by encouraging visits and promoting events that will bring families of younger students to the high school. These ideas will be explored further in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58. Next meeting will be January 4th, 2011 at the High School, Room 140: The Heritage Museum.