

Thoreau PTA Meeting

January 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Jill Hecht at 9:00 a.m.

In attendance

Barbara Mackie Franklin, Kathleen Lynn, Kim Ziegelbauer, Erin Lenart, Jill Hecht, Kelly Henderson Hagen, Shannon Davies, Mike Parker, Christa Warden, Greg Hood, Cathy Wasilewski, Lorraine Reateria O'Reilly, Debbie Tosi, Laura Skoff, Patty Shields, JJ Johnson-Head, Beth Tudan.

President's Report

Jill Hecht introduced the PTA Board and welcomed Greg Hood, new principal to Thoreau.

VA PTA announced its citizenship essay contest for 2012 "Community Responsibility" for grades 6-8. Due Feb. 1, 2012. VA's PTA has announced its legislative priorities for 2012.

National PTA magazine has very good articles entitled "Our Children" available in English and Spanish. Their headquarters has moved on Alexandria, VA.

Two planned receptions are upcoming to welcome Principal Hood. Check Thoreau's website for details.

Principal's Report

Nothing to report. All is quiet.

Secretary Report

No report.

Student Services

Students to receive new schedules on first day of 2nd semester: all 7th graders report to cafeteria. 8th graders report to gym. Lunch times and electives may change.

On Feb. 1 @ 9AM James Madison High School counselors will be at Thoreau to discuss course selections with students. George Marshall counselors will meet with their students on the same day at 12:00PM.

Treasurer's Report

Thoreau received \$250 from the magazine drive! 7th grade dinner came in \$250 under budget.

Committee Reports

Membership – 15% of our families have joined TMS PTA which is only ½ towards our goal. Obstacles include the rescheduled Back-to-School-Night and the new paperless system.

Community Service – the winter clothes drive to Committee for Helping Others was very successful. We continue to volunteer at Food For Others. Still a great need for donations and volunteers. Our next outing there is scheduled for 1/12/2012. Our next meeting is Jan. 19, 2012 where we will plan our project for NIH Children's Hospital.

Hospitality – We placed candy canes on all student lockers before the holiday break and gave Christmas cookie packages to all staff in December. On Jan. 20 we'll have an Italian luncheon for all staff in the Home EC room. Looking for donations of baked main entrée, salad and bread. Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up. Contact hospitality@thoreaupta.org.

Parent Programs – January 23, 2012 at 9AM in Lecture Hall. Ann Dolin on "Friendship and Middle Schoolers."

School Store – broke all sales records for Dec.! On track to make budget.

Special Education – 1/18/12 at 7PM program on transitioning from middle school to high school. 2/7/12 at 9AM staff from Madison and Marshall will offer a program on transitioning from middle to high school.

School Liaisons-

Louise Archer: pizza and bingo on 1/20/12. Marshall HS: college night in Nov. was successful. Renovations are underway. Stenwood: successful renovations. Oakton ES: renovations. Puzzle and bingo night is upcoming. Silent auction in April 2012.

Grounds Committee – 3 raised beds in back of school with radishes, collard greens, Swiss chard, etc. Tarped beds this past weekend.

Calendar –

Orientation for rising HS parents – JMHS: Feb. 2 @7PM,
GCMHS: Feb.9 @7PM.

Orientation for parents of rising 7th graders – March 13 @ 7-8PM.
(Students go during school day.)

New Business –

FCCPTA is looking for new officers.

Ms. Lenart to accept assistant principal position at West Springfield HS. Last day is 1/31/2012. Position was posted on 1/3/12 and closes on 1/10/12. Interviews to begin next week.

Old Business –

Real Food for Kids initiative needs a parent volunteer to organize. Waiting for approval and update.