

Meeting Minutes

Home & School General Meeting

March 6, 2014

Attendees: Approximately 61 people in total including parents, teachers, HSA Board, BOLJ members and speaker

- Welcome and Prayer
- John Gallen
 - BOLJ member
 - John was in the navy and was the Facility Director for Villanova
 - The board completed a study to predict when various items will need to be replaced at the school. IE: roof, heater... \$60,000 a year is budgeted to ensure the school has money to repair items when they break.
 - \$233,000 a year is budgeted for overall facilities
 - The board wants to look ahead so we can budget appropriately
 - They were able to do a repair to the school that will last another 10 years
 - Oct 15- April 15 all schools must have heat available per PA State. This is why we cannot just turn the air conditioner back on if it is hot in the late fall or early spring. We can open windows.
 - Membership thanked John for his help when the heater broke this winter.
- School Store
 - Notes concerning the store on Mrs. Egan's website
 - 8th and 7th grade students, Kevin Doyle and Anna Sanchez, spoke about the school store and its upcoming events.
 - Terra nova survival kit – lower and upper grades will have slightly different types of kits. First kit is \$5 and then \$4 for each additional child. Kits will be delivered the Friday of Terra Novas. Additional items can be purchased at the school store. IE: Pencils, water...
 - St. Patrick's Day sale is March 13 and 14. Students will have a dress down day and can accessorize with bracelets, hats...that will be sold at the school store.
 - The store is running a "Guess How Many Pennies are in The Cauldron" contest. For one dollar, students will receive five chances to guess the amount in the pot. For twenty-five cents, students will have one chance to guess the amount. The winner will get to keep the pennies.
 - Notebooks, pens... will be sold at the school store

- There is a possibility that the store will sell spirit wear down the road.
 - Grand Opening is happening soon. More information to follow regarding it.
 - There is no obligation for anyone to purchase anything. The goal is to teach students various aspects of running a business.
 - Thanks were expressed to Brennan's Office Supplies and the parent volunteers who are led by Sue Zebrowski.
- Deb from the CCIU discussed study skill tips and sites.
 - Her website link will be posted on the SSPP website
 - She emphasized Study Skill Applications for all types of learners. Some applications are on goggle and some are on I-Tunes.
 - She has a child with special needs to understands the need for adaptive learning
 - Review tools – Some examples of good web sites, apps...
 - Students struggle with citations – Conacdemy – gives visual and auditory input – allows kids to access skills
 - Adobe reader – allows you to make notes
 - RSS feed – way to bring resources and allows you NY Times info... to come to you rather than going to 10 different sites
 - Math frenzy – free app
 - Stack the states allows you to play a game – only \$.99 and reviews states, capitals and flags
 - Sock puppets – use audio and it makes socks talk – makes something that might be boring, interactive.
 - Free Book with a section of banned books like Huckleberry Finn
 - Audio Books – great for a student that needs to hear
 - Show Me – Takes smart board and puts it on their I-device
 - College Cram for middle school students – orange symbol is RSS
- Helping with Test taking through technology
- IXL – practice resource
- Math.com – homework help, practice...
- Our kids are learning different then us because they grew up with technology
- Quizlet allows you to search for Quiz terms – can do quiz cards on website – you can make your own and post
 - will read the card to them and highlights the words as they go through them

- Sadlier oxford – sign up for a parent account.
- Quick Survey – can set up quick quiz for them
- Infinity – free – read, write, think, ties into state standards
- Discovery – Spanish videos, clip art for projects, music, citations – parents can use it
- Organization Tools can be found in various applications.
 - If your child loses things, there is an application which allows you to put everything in one place.
 - Square Leaf allows you to put notes on the website so you can organize things.
 - Track Class allows you to set up timeline so you put class schedule on it and set reminders.
 - Goggle drive allows students to work in spread sheets, word documents which is automatically saves so don't have to remember to save it.
 - There are a ton of resources and also can get applications on your phone. One suggestion she made is Family Calendar.
 - Noddle tools which is used in 7th and 8th grade, allows students to submit items to teachers and will sync to goggle drive. This is free through Archdiocese.
 - PA Common Core Standards has an application as does Popular Science.
 - Apps Gone Free is an application that offers free applications. The item might only be free for one day. They have some good sales.
- If a child is having problems with certain subjects, you have to know what type of learner your child is so you can choose the application tool that best matches your child's learning style.

Mrs. Egan talked about study skills and the fact that our children are digital learners

- SSPP will implement Wilson Phonics Readers for K-2 next year.
- School is most important thing and will get you to where your child where they want to go.
- She wants good habits for our children and stressed the points below:
 - 1) Kids need to be positive about themselves and they can accomplish anything they want – God gave us each gifts – don't compare yourself to others.
 - 2) Tell your student to partner with their teacher – they are responsible with your child's learning- advocate for yourself and talk to your teacher.

- 3) Establish a special place for students to study. Younger students should be within eye range while older students can be in a different room but they have to earn their distance from where you are.
- 4) Children should follow a schedule. Note on calendar which test dates, when homework or projects are due... Option C has notes for children in grades 6-8. IE: If projects are overdue. Google docs are used for upper grades. Children have to work at it and form a partnership with their teachers.
- 5) Students should read to learn – When they bring text books home, they need to **SQ3R** or Survey, Question, Read, Recite and Review. IE: All bold words are main ideas. They should ask questions about what they are studying and the bold words. IE: who, what, where, when and why. They should read what the bold words mean but summarize their meaning in their own words.
- 6) Students need to actively listen in class by responding to questions, shaking heads... Have your child repeat things. Repetition helps. Teachers need to meet the needs of all of their students
- 7) Students need to take great notes. Be aware that some teachers give study guides which are posted on Teacher's Web.

47% of our 8th grade students qualified to take the Newman Exam!

Bid Sip and Celebrate Update – MJ

- Bid Pal, the new online bidding system, was introduced. If you can't make the auction, you can bid from wherever you are.
- The auction team has once again solicited great auction items. Please check the Bid Sip and Celebrate Facebook link for details.
- Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to make our auction a great event.
- Bidpal.net//SSPP is the auction website which will allow you to bid on items now through the auction
- Tickets are \$60 and will go up to \$70 on March 10th. We have a great turnout so far. Please join us on March 29th for our major school fundraiser.

Treasurer report by Lauren – We have approximately \$68,000 in the bank

- We are looking someone to run Kid Stuff Coupon Book sales. Please contact any of the board members if you are interested in helping.
- The HSA gave \$5000 for advancement efforts

- The HSA put money towards improving our fields
- The HSA purchased outdoor fitness equipment which will go up as soon as the weather improves.
- The HSA spent approximately \$8,000.00 for teachers Christmas' gifts
- Box Top Promotion is going on. Please send in your box tops.
- Board Election Update
 - President and Secretary Positions are up in May.
 - Barb explained the process of nominating people.
 - Current board members, Michele and Barbara, are running again but please don't let that stop anyone else who is interested in running.
 - Each position is a 2 year term
- Save the night for SSPP Outdoor Movie night. This free event will be held May 3rd.

Next HSA meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6th at 7 am. Free babysitting and refreshments will be provided.