

**DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003**

**Present: Karp, Hill, Savino, Carpenter, Fletcher, Tengi, Weeks, Krisulewicz, Phelan, Stevens, VanSelous, Bolan, Facompre, Doran, Kley**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Judy Karp**

**OPEN DISUCSSION:**

- A. **Notification to parents of long time teacher absences** – the district cannot communicate information to parents about a teacher's leave until the teacher has given formal notice to the district. Parents expressed a need to have a consistent substitute when this situation arises. Although an attempt is made to do this, Nick Lorenzetti noted that our district is one of the lowest paying for substitute teachers and often substitutes take positions elsewhere.
- B. **CAN canned** – The Community Alert Network system has been discontinued, however, the student information system provided through WinSchool is still in force. It should be noted, that through the gathering of information for the CAN system, the accuracy and quality of the WinSchool database have gone from about a 3 to an 8 on a scale of 10. A question was raised as the cost of the CAN system. It was noted that the contract cost was about \$2856.00 plus the cost of each call. No more than \$5,000 was expended on the CAN system.
- C. **Notification to parents of low account balances for student lunch accounts**  
A concern was expressed that parents are not automatically receiving a letter from the automated lunch account system informing them of low lunch account balances for their children. Children are being given notes or are being told by cafeteria staff of the situation in hope that they will relay this information to their parents. This concern was also raised in our November 2003 meeting. As of yet, we do not have a response from the district. Nick Lorenzetti/Joanne Myer will look into this and provide us with an answer at our January 2004 meeting.
- D. **Gifted and talented Report** – The report was rejected by the School Board. It is currently under revision and will be presented to the board for their acceptance either at the January 20, 2004 board meeting or the February 2004 Board meeting.
- E. **January 12, 2004 – Special Board Meeting on Budget** – Principals will present their budgets to the Board of Education for their review. This date was

shown incorrectly on the HVRSD Budget Calendar 04-05. It is January 12<sup>th</sup> not 13<sup>th</sup>.

- F. **PTO Today** – Annual meeting in Philadelphia on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Ned Fletcher indicated that Toll Gate would be purchasing a few tickets to attend. Any questions can be directed to Ned.
- G. **Honors English at High School not offered in 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades** – This concern is still outstanding from the November meeting and should be addressed again at our January meeting. The concern expressed by HS parents was that in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades there were only regular English and AP English classes offered. The HS offers honors English in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade, but discontinue this in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This doesn't seem to meet the needs of our students who want more of a challenge, but do not qualify for the AP courses.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. **Timberlane Middle School Recommendations - A PowerPoint presentation** was given by Steve Cochrane, Principal of TMS, highlighting the Facility, Technology and Program needs at TMS. A Summary Grid of the Timberlane Middle School Recommendations was passed out indicating each recommended item and whether it would be covered under the 2004 Base Budget, in a possible September '04 referendum or if it was put on hold. Copies of this grid will be made available at the January PDC meeting. The district will be asked to post to the district web site the Executive Summary of the Timberlane Middle School Program Review. Hard copies of this report can be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent. Steve Cochrane would be happy to present this program review to any of the schools at future PTO meetings, etc.
- B. **Administrative Recommendations for a September '04 Referendum.** – A hard copy of the power point presentation regarding the proposed Sept. 04 referendum, which was presented by Nick Lorenzetti at a special board meeting in December, was handed out. It summarized the preliminary recommendations for facilities, program and technology. Proposed expenditures would be: \$9,502,800 for facilities; \$350,000 for Program; and \$2,064,000 for Technology. Total: \$11,916,800. Reimbursement from state: \$4,198,920. Estimated Net Cost that would be recommended to go to referendum: \$7,717,880. Copies of this report will be made available at the January District Parents Council meeting.
- C. **Joann Myer** – Community Liaison – Joanne was introduced to the PDC group. Joann asked us to feel free to contact her with any questions and/or concerns

we may have and she will do her best to obtain answers for us. She can be reached at 737-4002 ext. 2104 or at [jmyer@hvrtd.k12.nj.us](mailto:jmyer@hvrtd.k12.nj.us)

**D. Appointment of John Bach to Assistant Superintendent's position** – It will be recommended, by Nick Lorenzetti, at the January 2004 Board meeting to appoint John Bach as our new Assistant Superintendent as of January 20, 2004. John Bach cannot officially resign from his present position as principal of the high school in order so that he doesn't lose tenure. He will be replaced when a candidate is successfully found for the principal's position at CHS. The principal search will begin after January 20<sup>th</sup> and the district is hopeful to have John's replacement in place as of July 1, 2004. From January 2004 to July 2004, John will divide his time between the high school and the administration office. The high school will operate on a daily basis with the two present assistant principals and one additional staff person who will be appointed as an administrative assistant to help with the additional workload.