

**DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004**

**Present: Karp, Hill, Carpenter, Fletcher, Teng, Weeks, Seitz, Krisulewicz, Kahme, Bruno, Stevens, VanSelous, Facompre, Doran, Bolan, Nichols**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by Judy Karp**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: Presented by Sheryl Stone**

- A. Hopewell Valley's Night Off: Tuesday, March 2, 2004** – HV's night off is a community-wide initiative designed in response to the increasing demands of work and school on personal and family time. With the support of local school officials, sports leaders, parents, community and religious leaders, all sports practices, classes and homework will be cancelled on this special evening. Relax and have fun!
- B. Hopewell Valley Night at Waterfront Park – Friday, June 11, 2004** – Spend a night with family and friends at the Trenton Thunder vs New Hampshire game. Game starts at 7:05 PM. All school representatives were given a copy of the ticket ordering form that is to be sent home via backpacks at each school. Each school has chosen a color of paper to identify their specific school's group. Please indicate your school's name on the form before copying. **Tickets must be ordered no later than April 30, 2004.**

**ROUNDTABLE ITEMS:**

- A. Feedback from PDC members on 'purpose and structure of PDC meetings.'**  
(This is general information for PDC members only)
- B. Feedback from Superintendent on 'purpose of PDC meetings'**
- C. Concerns regarding our Youth** – Concerns were raised regarding the role of parents, school and community with respect to the recent issues surrounding bullying and underage drinking by our students.
- Sheryl Stone handed out information regarding "Empowering Youth to Improve School Climate" which addressed the idea of "Safe School Ambassadors." She also shared copies of the HV Municipal Alliance's Executive Committee Meeting minutes.
  - The Municipal Alliance will be sending out the "SafeHomes" letter this week, which will be co-signed by Sheryl Stone and John Bach. Currently, we only have 300 parents district-wide that have made this commitment. It was suggested that the elementary schools put out a reminder regarding Safe Homes and encourage parents to join, even when their children are young, as this will be an issue facing them in the very near future.

*Sheryl Stone has asked if there is a pro-active, concerned parent who would like to represent the Alliance on a special task force being set up by the Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. (Please let Sheryl Stone know if you would be interested).*

- A separate PDC “Task Force” was organized to visit the issue of concerns regarding our youth in greater detail. Terry Bolan will report back to the group at our next meeting the “current programs that are being offered at our elementary, middle and high school” that address bullying, drinking, drugs, etc. We will then determine what we would like our next step to be.

#### **D. Student Information System –**

- Access to the Student Information system has been temporarily turned off to parents. Parents should directly contact their individual school’s main office to update emergency contact information. A message stating the above will display to parents if they try to log onto the Student Information System.
- A status report as of 2/5/04 on the SIS was handed out by John Hagger
- There will be a meeting for representative school personnel on 2/17/04 to discuss the Emergency Information collection process. Parents will be informed of the outcome of this meeting.

- E. **Building Utilization Form** – There seems to be some confusion as to when a school must fill out a building utilization form. Do Schools/PTO’s need to complete a form when the event is already listed on the district calendar? Do they need to fill out a form even if an event is on the school calendar to indicate the exact rooms being used at the school? **Nick Lorenzetti/Joann Meyer will get clarification from Lisa Wood and report back at our next meeting.** Once there is clarification as to procedure, each school’s PTO should check with their individual school’s principal to determine who is responsible for filling out the forms, i.e. school secretary, custodians, and PTO officers.

A packet was given out which outlined the procedures for “use of school facilities by community organizations.”

- F. **Principal Search at HES & High School** – a handout was provided giving the timeline for the principal searches at each school.

Key date: HES – **March 1<sup>st</sup>** : Hopewell Principal Search committee meets. Members of committee will be Hopewell teachers, district administrator, district principal, parents, HR director. Numbers TBD.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** : Recommendation to BOE

Key date: CHS – **February 26<sup>th</sup>**: CHS Principal Search committee meets. Members of committee will be CHS administrators, supervisors, teachers, parents, secretaries, students, HR director. Numbers TBD.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – recommendation to BOE

- G. **Organizational Meeting on compiling student directory next year** – Judy Hill will contact John Hagger to arrange a date to meet with PTO representatives and school district personnel regarding the collection of student data and printing of school directories for next year. Wording of “parent permission ” check boxes will also be reviewed.

#### **H. Garden State Coalition of Schools – Statewide Summit – 2/11/04**

A flyer was handed out regarding the Garden State Coalition of Schools, a grassroots organization of 120 school districts, inviting parents, community members and school personnel to a Statewide Summit: Public Support for Public Education. It is being held on 2/11/04 at the T. Harrington Middle School. The topic will be: How to fund public education without overburdening taxpayers?

Nick Lorenzetti has asked each school to see if they could have one person attend to represent their school and our Hopewell Valley school district. The Ewing school district is sponsoring a bus to the Summit but needs to know by Monday, 2/9/04, how many individuals would like a seat on the bus? Information was forwarded to all PDC members in a separate e-mail concerning this. If you would like to attend, please contact Joann Myer

- I. **Automated Lunch System** – all automated lunch systems should be up and running at each of the schools this week. Joann Meyer will be sending out a letter to parents regarding the automated lunch system within the next week or so. This letter should also address how parents will be notified of their child's lunch account balances when they run low.
- J. **Honors English at HS in 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades** – A separate PDC “task force” organized and have met with the 6-12 Language Arts Supervisor and the Supervisor of Guidance regarding the concern of not offering honors English classes offered in 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This concern is currently being addressed by the Language Arts Review Committee. The Language Arts Review Committee's entire report should be presented to the BOE during May or June of this school year.
- K. **What \$ did we spend on CAN?** - \$2,850 for service contract and \$1,900 on a district-wide phone call. Total cost: \$4,750.00.

#### **FEBRUARY 9, 2004 – BOARD MEETING AT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BLDG.**

- **Vote on moving forward with the referendum**
- **First presentation on budget**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2004 – BOARD MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED – WILL BE RESCHEDULED. Probably will be rescheduled for 2/25 or 2/26.**