



## HGS Parent Forum Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** September 9, 2014/ 6:35pm  
**Place:** HGS multi-purpose room  
**Chair:** John Ezbiansky, PF President  
**Number of Members Present:** 45 members, 5 officers: John Ezbiansky, Megan Swann, Nanette Colachino, Anne Cummins, Kerri O'Boyle

### Business:

- Introduction of PF officers by John Ezbiansky
- A word from Chairman of the Board of HGMICS, Tim Speicher
- Breakdown of PF committees by Megan Swann
- Parent Volunteer Sign-up and Classroom Wishlists by Anne Cummins
- Family Friendly BINGO by Nanette Colachino
- Treasurer's Report by Nanette Colachino
- Guest speakers: Jade Volchoff on Positive Behavioral Support System and Jeri Hubbard on Title 1 Program for reading and math
- Comments by Amy Kenton, Principal

**Meeting Start:** 6:35pm  
**End Time:** 8:05pm

## Topics:

1. **John Ezbiansky** explained the role of PF is to answer parent questions, fundraising, setting up fun events for the HG community
2. **Tim Speicher**, Chairman of the Board, explained a representative of the Board is planning to attend each PF meeting. Goal of the Board is to give children the best opportunity to learn. If anyone has a question for the Board, he/she may bring it up at Parent Forum meetings or bring it to Amy Kenton.
3. **Megan Swann** discussed some of the roles and responsibilities of the PF officers and committees.
  - **Vice President, Megan Swann** to oversee PF sponsored grants committee in hopes to become a registered 501(c)(3); Public Relations/Media Committee to gain support and recognition for school sponsored events and milestones in classes through press releases, website, Facebook, newsletter, etc.
  - **Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Anne Cummins** to oversee online parent volunteer sign-ups, staff appreciation committee and classroom wishlists (run by Jamie Jennings)
  - **Fundraising Coordinator, Kathy Platt** to oversee fundraisers directly related to PF which include magazine sales, Montage Mountain concert series, Family Friendly BINGO event and Box Tops (to be run by Joy Riviello)
  - **PF Run Activities** provided to enhance kids' experience at the school which include Field Day, Candy Cane Lane, Yearbook, Family Fun events, and Enrichment Programs ie. Kindness Club
4. **Anne Cummins** discussed
  - a. online parent volunteer sign-up form
    - must fill out one form for each child and another for each parent volunteering
    - 2-3 classroom parents per teacher to act as liason between parent volunteers and teacher
    - Classroom parent should send out a notice to other parent volunteers letting them know who they are and contact information
  - b. classroom wishlists
    - lists will be through sign-up genius and should be available at the end of next week, 9/19/14
    - lists will include items needed by teachers for their classrooms
    - if item is not specific enough, email Jamie Jennings for clarification

5. **Nanette Colachino** discussed Family Friendly BINGO to be held Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the Jewish Community Center on Jefferson Avenue in Scranton from 2pm-5pm. Tickets are \$30 and include 20 BINGO sheets with four cards per sheet. There will be 20 prizes with expected value ranging from \$100 and upwards. There will also be a basket raffle. Table sponsors are \$25. A full table of 8 players may be purchased at the discounted price of \$200. Discussion of free advertising to the public included suggestions of FB page, WNEP 16 News and Magic 93.

6. **Nanette Colachino** gave the treasurer's report

- \$5274.27 as of July 2014
- Money given to teachers for classroom needs (\$10 per child pre-primary, primary, intermediate, upper and senior classes and \$75 to each specials teacher) totaled \$3345
- Current balance: \$1871.57

7. Guest speaker **Jade Volchoff** discussed Positive Behavioral Support System. A committee of teachers and NEIU members coming together to provide a definition of discipline (in HGMICS handbook) and have a common language in all classrooms. Positive programs already in place include Student of the Month and S.T.A.R. program (safe, trustworthy, accountable and respectable). There are clipcharts in each classroom to focus on positive behaviors and an acknowledgement system is in the works to reinforce great behaviors.

Guest Speaker **Jeri Hubbard** discussed Title 1 program for reading and math. It is a federally funded program to supplement regular classroom instruction. Selection of students is objective and uniform criteria is used. Jeri stressed the importance of reading to our kids and letting them see parents reading print whether it is newspaper, recipes, comics, websites, etc. so they may see importance of reading for everyday use. Jeri also spoke about reading level and listening level being separate things.

8. Topics from **Principal, Amy Kenton**

- the school's status as a "Focus School" stating the areas needing greatest improvement are special education and economically disadvantaged English learners.
- School Intervention grant obtained because of "Focus School" status funded bringing on a curriculum director and vice principal to the staff
- Parent Night will be held on September 18, 2014. Parents of pre-primary and primary students 5:30-6:30pm and parents of intermediate, upper and senior students 7:00-8:00pm