

La Crescent-Hokah Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes
February 4th
Elementary Media Center

Members Present

Kelly Fabian, Melinda Klug, Bonnie Martin, Jessica Vessey, Melissa Grinde

Skate Night

Skate night was a success with a great turn out. All of the food and monetary donations were taken to the food shelf at Prince of Peace Church. Thank you to Jessica Vessey for organizing this fun night.

Movie Night

Movie Night will be held on Friday, February 28th in the cafeteria. Melinda and Bonnie discussed having popcorn at the event. They will check to see if they can get a large popcorn popper for this. Thank you to Bonnie for making the posters that were distributed in the school.

Limo Ride

A date has not been set yet for the fall fundraiser Limo Ride. Nate will check with the school office on possible open dates.

Fall Fundraiser

A letter was received from the Chippe Shoppe regarding locking in dates for next fall's fundraiser with the possible date of September 10th for the kick off. Discussion was held regarding looking for other alternatives for a fall fundraiser. We will continue to have this discussion while looking for other options.

Yearbook

We need to finalize the contract with Lifetouch for this year's yearbook. Melinda Klug is the yearbook representative.

If there are any parents or teachers that have pictures from the classrooms and / or school year events please send them to **Melinda at turtle9272@hotmail.com**.

Spring Book Fair

Spring parent – teacher conferences will be held the week of March 24th – 27th with family night on the 25th. This will be the same week of the book fair. We are in need of volunteers who can help to set the book fair up and run this. We can not operate the book fair without volunteer involvement. Please consider volunteering for this great opportunity for our children. **Email Melissa at melissakaye23@acegroup.cc** if you are interested.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration night will be held Tuesday, February 25th. Melinda Klug and Bonnie Martin will be the PTO representatives for that night. A motion was made to pay for the punch and cookies for that night. It was agreed that \$200.00 would be donated to cover that cost.

Walking School Bus

The high school leadership class has volunteered to restart the walking school bus. This will start on Tuesday, February 1st pending the weather. The routes will remain the same as last year. They have asked for a monetary donation to help offset the costs of prizes and advertisement. It was agreed the \$200.00 will be given to the leadership class for this project. Thank you to Shelly Gates and her class for restarting this great program.

Collections

A letter was received from Quillin's that they will no longer be participating in fundraising program. We will no longer be accepting Quillin's receipts. Please continue to collect Box Tops and Milk Moola. Don't forget that if you have a Target RedCard you can choose La Crescent – Hokah school to receive your 5%. All of these collections together add up for our school.

PTO Meeting

As a follow up to the February 6th School board / City Council meeting there will be an Elementary school walk through to provide more information regarding the needs of our school. Thank you to the high school leadership class for providing childcare.

La Crescent – Hokah Parent Teacher Organization

Special Meeting Minutes
Elementary School Walk Through
February 13th 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Elementary Media Center

Members Present

Nate Byom, Melinda Klug, Bonnie Martin, Kelly Fabian, Jenni McCool, Becki Kiesau, Melissa Grinde, Jen Conroy, Anna Kelly, Cassandra Durack, Susan Oddsen, Doug Stavenau, Pauline Byom, Jill Welch, Kristina Bildeaux, Darcey Cody

Special Guests

Jay Woller, Ron Wilke, Cindy Wright

Introductions

Introductions were made of all members present.

This is an informative meeting regarding the identified needs of the current Elementary School and options for the future of the school. The information was presented by Ron Wilke, Jay Woller, and Cindy Wright.

History

- A commitment to all of the community
- A comprehensive District Facilities Needs Assessment Study was done in 2007
- Multiple task force groups have met over the years
- Feasibility survey was conducted
- Board study, review and work done to prepare options for our district

Identified Needs

- Aging building (2/3 of the building dates back to the 1950's)
- "High -ticket" maintenance required
- In excess of annual state revenue (roof, security upgrades, technology upgrades, etc)
- Building and Site Safety Concerns
- Site access
- Additional space needs with appropriate flexibility aligned with current programming (comprehensive early childhood, academic and behavioral interventions)

Walk – Through tour

- Front entrance access , security improvements needed, currently also used as a loading dock
- Classrooms, maxed out on space, several classrooms are in small closets / spaces not feasible for a teaching atmosphere, lacks common area for joint classroom work or special guests, technology needs in the classroom
- Basement, janitorial area needs safety improvement
- Cafeteria and kitchen, space is too small for school size
- Bathrooms, too small and access needs
- Gym , new roof needed

Options / Insight / Implications

1) Repair and Remodel Existing School

- Still an old building
- Not adequate space for classrooms
- More money to maintain and run
- Traffic around the school a concern
- How does it compare to the surrounding schools

2) Remodel with New Additions

- no change in classroom or function of the building

3) New School on Existing Site

- Traffic concern continues
- Potential of commercial buildings across from school
- This would increase value to attract new families to the area

4) New School on Abnet field Site

- Community Center will NOT be affected
- One ball field will remain
- State of the art school
- Possibly one large school campus
- Opportunities of growth to benefit all of the community
- Collaboration with Community needs and interests

Next Steps

- Formal boards and community forums with school board and city council
- If new school on a new site is the final choice, considerations for selling the existing Elementary property process
- Expanding networks of collaboration
- Working to refine and define option and the actual bonding program

- Project submitted to eh MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) for review
- Communicate collaboration
- Set a referendum date

Ending Comments

“ There will be forums for all of the communities voices to be heard.”