

Helena Public Montessori Parents, Inc.

*Join us as we support and advocate for public Montessori education*

**HPMP Meeting notes**

**Monday, October 7, 2013**

**5:30-6:30 pm**

**Broadwater Elementary School**

Attendees: Co-President Erin Turner, Co-President Perri May, Secretary Erin Lanigan, Treasurer Heather Nicholson, Broadwater Principal Sue Sweeney, Central Principal Vanessa Nasset, Shanna Carroll, Central Representative Amy Heuiser, Hope Harper, Matthew Lyng, Broadwater Representative Anne Woodland, Rebekah Harris, Jeri Lynn Rea, Susan Anderson, Central Lower Elementary Teacher Elizabeth Kenney.

Co-President Perri began the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Welcome/Introductions

Perri opened the meeting with introductions. Secretary Erin Lanigan circulated the sign-in sheet.

Secretary’s Report

Secretary Erin Lanigan reported thank yous had been sent and more stamps were purchased.

Treasurer’s Report

Current balance is **$5,702.08**. A $500 donation was received from the Cordingly Foundation, which is not included in the balance.

Principals’ Report

Vanessa Nasset thanked HPMP for hosting the informal meet and greet Downstairs At The Brewhouse on September 25. She said that she appreciated our considerations of the upcoming classroom materials requests. She had e-mailed teachers to be able to provide some “tidbits” from what was going on in their classrooms, but Libby Kenney was the only one who responded, so she would let her speak for herself.

Libby said that she and Deb Johnson both have Carroll College students in their classroom. Libby has new math cards she is using in the classroom, has a Spanish teacher (parent, Matthew Lyng) in the classroom every other week, and they are doing yoga every week.

Vanessa continued they are scrambling at Central-Linc for Montessori materials that went missing in the move to Lincoln. She said the Montessori teachers have a desire to attend the teacher training this spring, and are hopeful to receive some New Professionalism funds to help with this possibility.

September Open House Report

Erin Turner reported there were approximately 50 families who attended the Open House at Broadwater. Thank you to Ross Johnson and Erin Turner for donating the lemonade, and to Deidre Kloberdanz, Diane Halferty, Marie Mathews, Stephanie Hester, Joni Nelsen for donating cookies. About four times as many volunteer forms were turned in this year.

Carnival Classic Report

A profit of $169.50 was procured from the Carnival Classic, with $71 of the profit being from water.

State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign Fair Report

Volunteers spend time handing out candy with information about HPMP donations through payroll deductions. We usually receive $1,000+ annually at the district level. Also to note: donations can be earmarked to HPMP through United Way or Montana Shares.

Mill Levy Campaign Report

Mail-in ballots are to be sent out October 15, and must be received (not postmarked) by November 5.

www.supportersofhelenaschools.org, www.facebook.com/supportersofhelenaschools

Future of Montessori Report

Tabled until next meeting

Fall 2013 Materials Requests

Materials requests were received from Libby Kenney, Deb Johnson, Shannon Matthies-Callahan, Katy Wright, Jodi Delaney, and Deb Beaver. Teachers are invited two times per year (once in the fall and once in the spring), to request materials. Discussion was held about the requests, and it was stated that all requests were worthy, but it was a matter of funds as to whether or not they could be approved. The board’s bank balance is down significantly after playing approximately $30,000 in training for teachers during the last two years. The board’s policy is first to replace existing materials and then to approve new materials. The school that the requests come from is of no consequence in the decision-making process. Ann Woodland asked if we had any other recurring expenses to consider. The answer was no. There are also no anticipated expenses aside from the possible teacher training in the spring. The replacement materials were approved, and after further discussion, Erin Lanigan moved, and Matthew Lyng seconded that all requested materials would be approved, with a total of approximately $3,875. It was agreed that parents of Montessori children should be told of the significant funds we spend for our Montessori classrooms. Amy Heuiser is working on contacting alumni for fundraising. 2014 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Helena Public Schools Montessori program, and it was discussed that a pledge idea of $25 for 25 years should be approached.

Original Works 2013-2014

Erin Turner will look into the possibility of doing Original Works in the Montessori classrooms this fall. Original Works typically brings in between $2500 and $3000 annually for HPMP. Broadwater and Smith also do Original Works school-wide. The idea of doing an Original Works at Kidworks (which usually brings in approximately $600) was discussed, but it was decided that it would be too busy and rushed to include a project like Original Works.

The Spring Thing Updates

The Spring Thing Fundraiser will be held the afternoon of April 6, 2014 at the Carroll PE Center. The Not-Its will be performing. We are able to use the PE Center after an auction the day before, which allows us less setup and help with cleanup. Music will be going to the music teachers for use in their classes to help raise excitement and awareness for the event. Colored drawings were done at the Carnival Classic for the decoration of “The Spring Fling,” and we received some great artwork. Lobsterfest has traditionally brought in around $2200, and we are hopeful The Spring Thing will prove a larger fundraiser.

Karaoke Night

A karaoke Night will also be held as a fundraiser in January. Children will be able to place pennies in jars with their teacher’s names on them leading up to the event, and the teacher(s) with the most pennies will perform a karaoke song. The Not-Its music will be played in addition to others and we are looking into karaoke help from Tim Tucker and perhaps using the Staggering Ox as a venue.

**The next meeting will be Monday, November 4 at 5:30 pm at Broadwater School.**

**Helena Public Montessori Parents, Inc. (HPMP)** [www.helenamontessori.org](http://www.helenamontessori.org)

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