

Higgins PTO Meeting Notes January 2010

- Minutes from the December meeting were accepted.
- **Treasurer Report**- Ellen Gonick reviewed the report. Reviewed total deposits and total expenses and gave the balance as of 1/13/2010
- **Guest Speaker**- Ms. Frank who is a Guidance Counselor came and spoke about the Second Step Program at the Higgins. The program addresses issues such as bullying, name-calling, teasing, ect. It helps students to resolve conflicts, regulate emotions, identify problems and resolve them. Peer mediation is also apart of this program. The curriculum also has a variety of teaching strategies such as group discussion, individual, partner or group activities games and skill practice. At the middle school Second Step has 3 sets of lessons, one for each year of implementation. 6th and 7th grade students receive Second Step training during skills enrichments and academic support, 8th grade students receive Second Step during skills enrichment. The program is funded by the Drug Free-Safe School Grant. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Frank at the Higgins.
- **Principal's Message**-Mr. Bucey is looking for parent feedback about a possible change in Parent/Teacher Conferences. The Higgins has 3 Parent/Teacher Conferences during the year. Mr. Bucey would like to see if parents would be interested in doing an Orientation Night towards the end of September, which might have parents follow their child's schedule for a day. If the Orientation Night were to take place, it would replace one of the Parent/Teacher Conferences for the year, leaving only 2. Some of the parents at the PTO meeting liked the idea, where others did not. If you would like to give Mr. Bucey some feedback on what you think about the Higgins having an Orientation Night, or Parent/Teacher Conferences, please contact Mr. Bucey at buceyt@peabody.k12.ma.us
- **Fundraising-The Valentine's Dance** is February 5th from 6:30-9:00pm for all grades. Tickets are \$6.00 and will be sold at the door. This is one of the PTO's Fundraisers and we need your help. Beverley Griffin has given the grade coordinators a list of items we will need for the dance, such as, cases of water, 2 Liter bottles of soda, candy, chips and chaperones. All of the grade coordinators will be getting in touch with the PTO members to ask for donations. If you are not on our list and would like to help, please contact us at higginspto@hotmail.com. Have your child watch for signs that will be posted at the school about the upcoming dance! **Student/Faculty Basketball Game**- Thursday March 18th from 6:00-8:00pm, it is a great family event that the PTO sponsors for a basketball game between members of our faculty and the 8th grade students. The PTO asks for similar donations for this event as well. Grade Coordinators will be in touch with our members.
- **Ideas for Spring Fundraiser**-Ideas were discussed at the Executive Board meeting as well as with the members of PTO that were at the January meeting. We are strongly leaning towards having another fundraiser due to

the lower amount of money that our fundraising events have received this year. There were some great ideas brought forth by our members and Beverley is going to explore our options and it will be discussed at the February meeting.

- **Cultural Events**-Kathi Syska said that there will be 2 events after MCAS for the 7th and 8th grade. Myth Master and Poetry Alive.
- **PAB**-The Charter School was discussed and the new School Committee members were welcomed in.
- **Scholarship Committee**-Patty Nigleri will start to organize. There will be a sign up sheet at the February meeting if you are interested in being on the committee or contact higginspto@hotmail.com.
- **Holiday Fund**-A motion was made to allocate \$50 per child with a \$3,500 limit. That motion was voted through and will be carried forth next year.
- **Thank you** to Rochelle Hardenstein who will be taking over the Secretary position on PTO that was vacated.
- **Guest Speakers**-Any ideas for a guest speaker at our meetings, feel free to let us know.
- **Need to contact us?**-If you need to contact the PTO feel free to send us an email at higginspto@hotmail.com
- **Check our our website**-Minutes for our meetings are on the Higgins Website under PTO.
- **Our next meeting**-Wednesday, February 10 at 7pm in the Cullen Library. Hope you can make it!