

Mount Horeb

PTO Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7pm

Those in attendance:

Cheryl Fritzlo
Cecilia Beisler
Karen Carapezzi
Celeste Campos
Bonnie Lavoie
Lora Sedlak
Christine Black
Angie Batech

Linda Draper
Memar Hughes
Lauren Dinardi
Nicky Toor
Dev Suychewen
Randi Ross
Nancy Duffy

Mr. Kimmick, Principal
Dr. Crader,
Superintendent
Peter Daquila, School
Business Administrator
Roberta Monahan,
Board of Ed. Member

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by School Principal Mr, Kimmick.

Dr. Crader, Superintendent, Budget Presentation and Video:

Those present at the meeting were shown a video about Warren Township Public Schools. The video is intended to demonstrate what our tax dollars support and the direction of future funding. Dr. Crader explained that the video is in response to what parents have communicated to the Board of Education that they would like to see in the 2011/12 Budget. There are 2200 students in this district supported by 375 teachers. The video explained how the Budget is going to support the programs within this district.

All present received "Warren Township Schools, Budget at a Glance". Dr. Crader went through the proposed Budget line by line and explained all details within it. The Local Tax Levy will increase by 1.6%, even though the State Cap is limited to a 2.0% increase. State Aid has been increased by \$387,000, to a total of \$726,719, which includes \$200,000 of Extra Ordinary Aid. The 2011/12 Budget proposes a tax increase of \$98 per year for the average house with an assessment of \$617,753 (which was \$8.17 per month) or \$15.88 per year per \$100,000 of assessment. The Final Budget for 2011/12 had an increase of \$128 per year for the average house with an assessment of \$605,753 (which was \$10.67 per month) or \$21.13 per \$100,000 of assessment.

Federal Aid given to the school, \$68,724, will be used for job support and will be used to keep our Literacy Coach. Dr. Crader explained the withdrawal from Capital Reserve will be used for upgrading the schools. Projects include bleachers in the old gym at WMS, renovation of the All Purpose Room at Central, expanding the playground at Woodland, façade repairs in the district and State imposed interest. Mt. Horeb will have all its temperature controls updated within the school in an effort to remain conscious of the use of electricity. The spending for these projects has no effect on the local tax levy since the withdrawal from the reserve account equals the expense. Dr. Crader went on to explain expenditures, specifically the new programs, Mandarin and Pre-Engineering Program. Moreover, World Languages and Physical Education will be increased from 50 minutes per week to 75 minutes over five days for 3rd-5th grades. Teacher contracts are currently in "fact finding" and they are hoping it gets settled soon.

Dr. Crader reinforced that the Board has been very conservative in their planning. Overall enrollment has decreased approximately 3% over the last four years. The Budget Vote will take place on Wednesday April 27th. Polling station are listed on the Board of Education website. Dr. Crader and Roberta Monahan both encouraged people to come out to vote and to “spread the word” how important it is for people to vote.

President’s Report, Cheryl Fritzlo & Karen Carapezzi:

1. **Smart Boards** – 1st Grade received Smart Boards from the PTO at a cost of \$11,000. The kids are very excited and have been using them. Mr. Kimmick explained that they are currently looking into them for REACH and possibly Kindergarten.
2. **Family Fun Day – Minute to Win It** – we had a great turnout. \$370 was raised which was given to Operation Shoebox.
3. **Operation Shoebox** – Wed March 23rd. \$1400 was raised for this event, which allowed every student to pack their own box to send overseas to the troops.
4. **SOS Form 2011-12** – This form is now tied to Food Days and PTO Bay. This was a big success and many parents signed up.
5. **Save the Dates: PTO Volunteer Thank You Dinner – May 19th 7pm** – Enzo from Panateri’s, who is currently one of our food vendors, has graciously offered to give us a free dinner. Cost will be \$2 per person to cover his cost of servers and the event will be limited to 45 people.
6. **Field Day Volunteers needed** – Field Day will be held June 3rd with rain date June 7th. This is an all day event from 8:30-2:30pm, and we ask that volunteers do not bring any siblings.
7. **Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9th** – Donations are needed for baskets. The teachers will be treated to a Massage Day, Dessert Day, Popcorn & Lemonade Day.
8. **Town Wide Patriots Night – June 10th** – all Elementary schools and the Middle school will participate in this event. 1500 tickets have been reserved. Tickets will be \$9 each. Tickets will be on sale April 11th – May 6th. Please look for a PTO E-Blast and refer to Gator Gazette for more detailed information.
9. **2nd Annual Golf Outing - June 13th** – We currently have 6 Hole sponsors and are looking to find 12 more.
10. **Author’s Day June 15th – Tedd Arnold**

Principal’s Message, Mr. Kimmick:

1. **Giving Gardens – April 13th** – This is done with Wagner Farms. Parent volunteers will also be needed for this event.
2. **NJ ASK Testing** – Please refer to Gator Gazette, monthly newsletter, for some articles relating to managing and dealing with the testing period. Mr. Kimmick reminded parents how important sleep is for your child and proper nutrition. This is a grueling process for students, and the more we help them prepare as parents the easier the whole process can be for them.

Meeting adjourned 7:55pm.