

MEETING OF HIGHTOWER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL

OCTOBER 26, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 8:06am. Those in attendance were: Terri Rittenberg, Kirstin Baillie, Donna Holland, Laura Montgomery, Susan Keesee, Paula Hunt, Donna Flood, and Catherine Hackney.

Paula Hunt moved and Donna Holland seconded that the minutes are accepted as submitted. That vote carried.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ITBS scores are in—they look good, very good for current 7th grade. Variations depend on the student makeup from year to year. This class has not historically scored as high as some other classes, therefore their grades were very good and Mrs. Montgomery was very pleased.

Dickerson SPLOST meeting. Scott Sweeney spoke at the meeting. Bulldozing Wheeler High School. It is cheaper than renovating the building. Debate as to whether to consolidate and close some schools. Not an easy conversation.

Two billion was requested for projects, \$800 million available. Monies from the contingency fund were redispersed. SPLOST4 vote in March. Nothing “shiny” to help get it passed. Many are afraid it will not be voted in and approved.

There was a question as to whether we could show a video to parents at school concerts, etc. to promote SPLOST4, show where the money goes, etc. Hoping to put a link on the website as well.

QBE, trying to equalize education across the state. All counties are assessed 5 mills and spread around the money to all counties. David Banks is quite outspoken about QBE. There are problems with it that need to be worked out, but it is like fighting an uphill battle. He feels that there is a better chance of changing austerity cuts than changing QBE altogether.

Kirstin Baillie will contact David Banks to set up a time to have this meeting.

QBE initiative, to get PTA/Foundation/School Councils/teachers, etc. to have an OPEN meeting with David Banks to gain information and try to move forward. We want to try to spread the word about this as most people are not familiar with the general concept as well as the particulars.

HTMS is to host a cluster meeting about SPLOST4. It would likely be held in the 8th grade commons and all Pope cluster schools would be invited.

OLD BUSINESS

PE Uniforms: PE teachers are thrilled with the prospect of uniforms. It would take the burden off of them for kids being dressed inappropriately. It would be strongly suggested to parents to buy them. Foundation will carry clothes. Ideas of how to get PE uniforms out there was discussed. Easiest with the incoming 6th graders. Looking into where to buy uniforms and when that is determined, we can determine cost to students.

BRICK PROJECT: Laura Montgomery is researching places to buy bricks. Meeting with various parts of the community to get this going. She showed us the area where the brick patio and picnic tables would be located in the rear of the school.

BUSINESS MEMBER OPENING: Several names were thrown out for consideration. Will approach Chris Hill, Stephen Madsen, and Jennifer Steinberg to see if they are interested in joining the HTMS School Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25am.