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*Subject to corrections and deletions*

**Parent Teacher Association Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2014**

Officers present: Judy Goldberg (President), Avi Kamrat (Past President), Evelyn Neuber (VP of Enrichment), Allison Rosenberg (Communicating Secretary) Lancia Blatchley, (Recording Secretary)

Meeting Agenda - Meeting called to order at 3:50pm

1. *Guest Speaker*: Dr. Jody Goeler, appointed in April, started July 1st. He shared working as a teacher, language arts supervisor, assistant principal, and assistant principal previously throughout the state. He noted all have same expectations and goals but schools are different. He grew up on Long Island and has always wanted to work with a bigger school district like Hamden. He wants to hear what Hamden needs and wants, but has been impressed so far.

Working with leadership team he has been determining what gets auto-called and what gets emailed. Monthly updates sent via email are a focus he would like to implement but is mindful of too much information leads to overlooking important data. For instance, calls will continue for lack of attendance and emergencies. Emails will continue for social activities/events. Thursdays at 7:30am will be his office hours for problems that cannot be addressed by principals.

When asked about redistricting, he replied that there should be a larger community conversation about it and long-term thinking but that nothing has been decided yet. When asked about Common Core, he stated that there is no one tool to adequately assess teachers and success of school. When asked about identifying Hamden’s biggest challenges, he observed that the parts of Hamden are all very unique so distributing his attention to all districts is important. When asked about Hamden University, he informed everyone that it is being reworked and will happen in March as a half day event.

1. *Approval of June and September 2014 meeting minutes.* Evelyn Neuber motioned to approve and it was seconded by Amanda Levitt. All approved.
2. *Principal Update*: He wants to improve communication via newsletters. Traffic light timing has changed, curbs have been repaired and ramp will be done in Spring. District-wide changes will be made by December for safety. New language arts curriculum is coming as well.
3. *Committee Update:*

 Nominating: need a President-Elect, Treasurer

 Treasurer: vote on the 2014-2015 budget

Scholastic Smartboard was never installed so finally being installed if PTA pays $1,000 for the projector. It will be in the music room. The Scholastic News magazine will be added as a line item $2500. Winter Wonderland and Spring Fling dances (January and May) require allotment of $500. The Spring into Spring 5K will take place with a run around the school on April 19th. The budget requires $5000. Avi Kamrat motioned and Mrs. Ackley seconded. All members agreed.

 Enrichment: update of programs planned - Feb 11: Flamenco,

May 15th: Japanese drumming and Yale British Art is school-wide event

 Fundraising: wine tasting Nov. 14th and bake sale for Election Day

 Membership: number of families and teachers, have 100 and need more

Mini-Grant: principal to present the grant awarded that was requested by

Miss Senise to attend Invention Convention.

1. *New Business:*

Technology committee being formed to determine overall need and prioritize. What is best practice?

Bear Path and West Woods have implemented online conference meeting scheduling. Principal Hornreich would like to try it for November.

Chris Weurth motioned to end the meeting and Judy Goldberg seconded. All voted unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00