Howard PTO Meeting Minutes – Oct. 14, 2009

I. Meeting called to order by Lee Ann Jones, President at 12:15 p.m.
II. Invocation by Gail Armstrong.
III. Lee Ann Jones welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the year and thanked Water Street Oyster Bar, Gina Stevens, Beth Lockwood and Josie Flesher for providing lunch.
IV. Speakers

A. Mrs. Sosa – Howard Principal spoke about Developmental Assets

1. She explained that there was a study done by the Search Institute www.search-institute.org/
2. There are 40 Early Childhood Developmental Assets – the more children have the better they do in school. She said it's everyone's job to help out – there are things we can do to empower children to have these assets.
3. Mrs. Sosa passed out a quiz and asked everyone to check off if they were exposed to the assets provided.
4. There are six main assets that are most important: 1) family communication 2) family support 3) Other adult relationships 4) Other adult relationships 5) Caring climate in child care and educational settings 6) Parent involvement in child care and education.
5. She mentioned that through the strategic plan, they are surveying students and providing safe school ambassadors – an anti-bully campaign.
6. She also said that the district is teaching the eight keys.

B. Josie Flesher/Howard FACE Campaign Representative

1. Josie explained that 40% of the tax dollars are recaptured by the state, so it's important to give to the Foundation, which provides excellence to AHISD's education.

2. She said the Foundation has provided grants to teachers. In the past the following has been provided due to this: Ipods, Kinder-Garden, the H.E.B. center, literacy support to name a few. It also supports teacher's salaries.

3. Concert Under The Stars will be held Sunday, Oct. 18th, which raises money for the foundation. The backyard concert will feature

Steve Young and Dan Rose. Cost is $25/pp and tapas and refreshments will be provided. Tickets can be purchased at Jefferson State Bank.

V. Board Reports

A. PTO September Minutes were approved.

B. Meg Culp and Jodi Wood, Raffle Chairs, said to turn in money as next week is the raffle! Tuesday, 10/20. There are lots of wonderful prizes!

C. Susanne Marco, VP of Special Projects –said we need more volunteers in general and will need at least one volunteer per class for the class pictures 10/21 and 10/28 as well as volunteers when Mrs. Bates needs help.

D. Beth Lockwood – Cafeteria Coordinator – Contact Beth to volunteer during lunch – it's very rewarding!

E. Mills Buchek – Displayed the Centennial Scarves and ties. They are on sale and can be purchased in the office.

F. Gina Stevens – Erin Graham spoke for Gina. The Poinsettia sale starts 11/2 and ends 11/20. Pick up will be 12/4 from 2-6p

VI. New Business, Lee Ann Jones

A. Reminder to send in $20.00 in your child's tote bag if interested in purchasing a book in memory of your child's birthday. The child will take the book home and be the first to read it.

B. 100 Year Pic – can be purchased. Please contact the office.

C. Wilma will be out of the office and observing the classrooms more.

D. Flu Shots – the district will send consent for the H1N1 Vaccine – the District is covering the costs of this shot for every child. Volunteers are needed.

E. 10/20/09 – Raffle Drawing.

F. 10/21 and 10/28 – Picture Days.

G. 10/24 Woodridge Carnival.

H. 11/2-11/6 – Parent Teacher Conferences and early dismissal.

I. 11/11 Next PTO Meeting.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.