Minutes from the Guiding Lights meeting 9/13/2011

Present: Mark Christenson, Amy Drake, Joel Kassirer, Marika Burke, Brian Edmister, Sonya Shannon

Meeting began with a review of the Opening Day ceremony, I shared the items that I had thought of that needed to be tweaked to make it more effective. Some teachers had also shared ideas. These were discussed briefly. They included: separate portions for Grades K-2 and 3-6, time factor may have been too long, more exciting transitions could be used (songs, magicians, etc….)

We then discussed what types of issues have been perceived in the past to be stumbling blocks to this type of organization. These included things like the fact that the GV building itself creates a polarizing effect between the 2 communities, there is a perception of it being “us against them” that will need to be worked on, and the facility is not as available to the community as desired.

 Ideas of how to make the school a “center” for our communities

* Awards of tickets to Sectional games, plays, and music productions or dinners- this would encourage kids to attend
* Free hot dogs at basketball games for demonstrating the 3R’s
* Invitations for PJC members to attend board meetings and share meeting minutes
* Put an article in the Civil War pamphlets about the PJC- Joel
* Open the building to more community functions- currently we have open track, USA swim, Aerobics, Weight room hours, and some drama productions.
* Share District information (building projects, budget, new ideas, etc..) at PJC meetings so that a critical mass of people have the right information about District direction.
* Include more community service projects at all levels
* Create an After School Program that is staffed primarily by PJC Volunteers, sport teams needing community service, and/or teacher volunteers. Marika is looking at grant opportunities to help with this venture.

Actions needed at end of meeting:

* Gather information about building projects and/or other District information to bring to PJC meetings- Brian
* Work on an article to submit to the Wellsville Paper outlining the positive things going on through the PJC- Mark
* Continue positive comments on the Facebook page- all