

**Central School PTO Meeting
September 13, 2013**

Call to Order 8:45 a.m. in the Central School Conference Room.

Minutes May 10, 2013 minutes were approved.

Officers Reports

Co-Presidents' Report

2013-14 Directory Timing is delayed due to the district being overwhelmed with new families registering. 140 new families joined D96 this school year. Once we receive the data from D96, an online Student Directory will be created and Mr. Gatz will email out login information for accessing it.

Yearbook is going to be created using Life Touch, our school picture provider. A photo of each Central student will appear in the yearbook in addition to any candid shots that we provide. The 5th graders will continue to provide content for articles that appear in the yearbook highlighting the school year. The price will be about \$15 per yearbook and it will be in full color.

Traffic Safety continues to be a concern, especially at pickup as parents are continuing to park their cars in no parking/no standing zone and walk away to retrieve their children. There is no parking/standing in front of the school at drop off or pick up. There should be a constant flow of slow moving cars. Police have informed the school that they will begin to ticket cars that are in violation of the law.

1st VPs' Report

PTO Gathering was a success with about 40 attendees.

Room Parent Folders have been sent out via email as well as Committee Chair Folders. There is no longer a Communications Director so if you need to share information about your event, please contact the Co-Presidents. Lead Room Parents were asked to contact Molly Carl with the name of each parent planning on doing the October Cultural Arts presentation in their classroom as she is asking them to do some website beta testing for her.

2nd VP's Report

Fundraisers 100% Fund runs from 8/27-9/11, Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale runs from 9/19-10/1 and Original Works runs from 10/2-10/21. It was suggested that we consider accepting credit cards for the 100% Fund, incorporating a small convenience fee should you choose to pay with a card. The hope is that this will increase participation. We hope to try this next year. Amy Hill will send out a feedblitz reminder about the 100% Fund in December to allow those looking for a tax break to submit a donation before the end of the calendar year.

3rd VPs Report

Calendars The district has been very delayed in finalizing the calendar. They were just released to print on 9/12. In the meantime, you can access all important Central dates on the PTO website.

Treasurer's Report

Budget Angela gave a review of 2012-13 budget highlights. The proposed 2013-14 budget was reviewed. We were conservative in our fundraising estimates.

Motion: A motion was made by Sue Pipal to approve the proposed 2013-14 budget. Amy Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Jessica Niekrasz, Amy Hill and Kim Macchia were on the audit committee and found no issues in the audit of the treasurer's records.

2013-13 Budget Revision The Artist in Residence Committee Chairs went over the budget by \$70 due to providing refreshments to the students and Redmoom artists during the spectacle presented last year in Guthrie Park.

Motion: A motion was made by Sue Pipal to increase last year's Artist in Residence budget by \$70 to cover the cost of the refreshments. Kim Macchia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parliamentarian Report:

Amendment to Bylaw A proposed bylaw amendment was presented that would allow for reimbursement for members who incur expenses related to events held in May after the last PTO meeting or in September before the first meeting of the year that require an increased budget/reimbursement. The amendment will be voted on at the October meeting.

Committee Reports

Family Fun Night: It is coming up on 9/27 from 5:30-7:30pm. Activities will be similar to last year. You are encouraged to pre-order pizza and drinks to ensure that there are enough available. Pre ordering is the only way to guarantee pizza and drinks. The price of pizza was raised to help offset the cost of the event but it is still significantly cheaper than going and buying a full pizza yourself. We will also have a 50/50 raffle to off set the costs of this super popular event.

Hike & Bike Week: This is coming up during the first week of October. Kids are urged to walk or bike to school. An adult must accompany younger students. Each student will receive a water bottle in honor of this event.

RAIN: RAIN meeting is always held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the Riverside Public Library. The next one is coming up on Weds., 9/18.

Roller Skating Party: The annual Central Roller Skating Party is coming up in October at the Fleetwood Roller Rink in Summit. Kim Dixon informed us that the price of skate rentals has gone up from \$2 to \$3 per rental so we will need to assess whether or not we can afford to cover the cost of skates like we did last year. Kim also informed us that the Ridgeland Commons Ice Skating Rink in Oak Park is under construction and will not be available to us for our annual ice-skating party. She is investigating possibly holding our February event at The Max in McCook and will report back her findings.

Science Fair: We had 145 students participate last time and Amy Jacksic encouraged all to talk to their children about participating in November. The event is scheduled for Weds, 11/13 from 6-8pm and is open to all Central students. The Science Alliance Chemistry assembly sponsored by the PTO will take place on Tuesday, 10/8 and a breakout session after the assembly will take place for 5th graders. Mr. Gatz approved allowing a group of Central parents to contact classroom teachers about setting up a 10-minute experiment in the class to generate excitement about the fair. A Science Fair guide will be sent out soon via feedblitz.

Spirit Wear: This is on sale now and we are using the same roadrunner logo as last year to try to create some consistency in branding. We have removed the slub shirt and added in sweat pants and a winter hat. Samples can be found in the school office.

Target: Katie Leander reported that we had the best year yet in 2012-13 for fundraising using our Target credit cards. We raised \$2100 and currently have 54 credit cards registered that designate Central School as the recipient of the benefits. This is easy to do by going online and linking your Target card to provide benefits back to our PTO. Katie will send out information in the near future about how to do this. Mr. Gatz said that he would e-backpack the information as well.

Principal's Report

The library schedule will go back to the way it was before last school year except for the 5th grade. K-4 students will go for one ½ hour visit each week with their teacher instead of the two library visits offered last year without their teacher. The 5th grade staff liked the scenario last year so they will stick with that option.

Mr. Gatz has visited every classroom in school and shared with the students his expectations. He also informed us that he is working to keep the school as secure as possible including requiring that all parents must come into the school to sign their children out for lunch. In addition, teachers are being told to lock their classroom doors whenever they leave the room for more than 10 minutes. The YMCA before and after care program has been informed that a program supervisor must come to the door anytime there is a child drop off or pickup.

Dr. Sharma Lewis will be at our October meeting to present ISAT scores.

Teacher Representative

Mrs. Lutz shared that Fall Parent Night will take place Thursday, Sept. 19th. Teachers will share curriculum and class procedures with the parents. If you need to communicate with your child's teacher, email them and ideally they will respond within 24 hours. MAP Testing and F&P scores will be shared with parents at the October Parent Teacher Conferences. These conferences are by invitation only. All other parents will have the opportunity to have a parent teacher conference in November before Thanksgiving break. Teachers are currently being trained in the new Science curriculum. Lead room parents are encouraged to contact their teachers soon about what their ideas are for class Halloween parties.

Other Announcements

Upcoming events:

September 19-Fall Parent Night
September 27-Family Fun Night
September 30-Hike & Bike Week

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Jacksic, Secretary.