

**Central School PTO Meeting
January 13, 2012**

Call to Order 9:08 a.m. in the Hauser Auditorium.

Board Members Present: Jeannine Glavas, Amy Jacksic, Erin Durkin, Sue Pipal, Jeanine Vaia, Angela Izzo, Patrick O’Laughlin and Aberdeen Ozga.

Minutes Motion to Approve the Minutes of November 8, 2011.

Motion made by Amy Jacksic; Seconded by Jeannine Glavas. Motion carries.

Officers Reports (Out of Order)

2nd VP Fundraising Update Sue Pipal thanked the PTO membership for helping the 100% Fund exceed its budgeted goal and announces that the Paver Sale will begin soon. She also noted that the snowshoes acquired by the PTO last year (30 child pairs and 5 adult pairs) may be checked out by school and extra curricular groups such as scouting groups by contacting Dr. Limperis in advance. Katie Leander reported that the Target fundraiser has earned \$627 thus far and is on track to meet or exceed its budgetary goal. Info flyers on the Target fundraiser will be available at Kindergarten Information Night.

Publicity Katie Leander reported that November’s Science Fair received press coverage in both the print and on-line versions of the RB Landmark and the Suburban Life.

Superintendent’s Report

Capital Improvement Project Dr. Lamberson reported that a mandatory pre-bid meeting for contractors interesting in bidding on this summer’s proposed capital improvement project for Hauser, Central and Ames will take place at Hauser on January 18 at 4:00 p.m. 150-170 contractors are expected to attend. The bids will be opened on February 1. D96 will select the lowest responsible bidder and award the contract at the BOE meeting on February 3. At the end of the school year, we will have 36 hours to remove everything from the school before asbestos removal begins. In the fall of 2012, all D96 schools will have a “delayed start” – not just the schools under construction. Three possible calendars for the 2012-13 school year have been posted on the D96 website. Comments on these drafts should be forwarded to Dr. Lamberson or Dr. Limperis. In any event, the resulting D96 calendar will differ from that of the high school, D208, which has voted to start its school year in mid-August.

Student Enrollment Conversation Dr. Lamberson reported that the D96 Education Committee has been discussing these issues in earnest for the last 7 years. Six years ago D96 had approximately 1,200 students; now we have over 1,600. The Education Committee has been grappling with the question of how to handle this growth while keeping class sizes small. Dr. Lamberson displayed a map showing the boundaries of the four D96 elementary schools together with color coded post it notes showing the number of sections per grade level at each elementary. Hollywood has 1 section each of grades 1-5. Blythe Park has 1 section each of

grades 1, 4 and 5 and 2 sections each of grades 2 and 3. Ames has 3 sections each of grades 1, 4 and 5 and 2 sections each of grades 2 and 3. Central has 3 sections each of grades 1, 4 and 5 and 4 sections each of grades 2 and 3. The Education Committee's goal is to move toward an even number of sections at each school. In 2007, the Enrollment Solutions Study Group (ESSG) issued a report on enrollment issues facing D96. It projected a need to move to 8 sections of K-5 in 2007-08 and to 9 sections thereafter. It also recommended a change from full-day to half-day kindergarten initially with a future change to satellite kindergartens thereafter if necessary. Dr. Lamberson explained that D96, which is committed to academic excellence and keeping class size under 23 students per section, has been a regular recipient of Illinois' Bright Red Apple Award. This Award is given to the top 5% of Illinois' 868 elementary school districts each year. Comparing the enrollments of the 52 districts which consistently receive this award, the enrollment in D96 increased 39.3%, whereas the average enrollment of the 52 districts taken together decreased by 0.6%. D96 is the only district on the Bright Red Apple list experiencing such a dramatic increase in enrollment. In the 2011-2012 academic year, D96 has 8 sections each of grades 1, 4 and 5 and 9 sections each of grades 2 and 3. Kindergarten enrollment tends to be lower than all of the other grades because many families pursue full day kindergarten options outside D96 and then enroll in D96 beginning in 1st grade. If D96 enrollment increases significantly, we will need to move to 9 sections in grades 1-5 as projected by EESG. Dr. Lamberson stressed that while satellite kindergarten will not be implemented next year, we need to consider whether it will be necessary in the future. Hauser's enrollment will increase at least 12-13% next year simply because of the difference in class size between the graduating 8th graders and the incoming 6th graders. Hauser's enrollment is expected to increase 20% the following year, which is why part of this summer's construction includes the small addition to the back of the building to create additional classroom space. The staff at Ames has expressed a general preference to move toward a model of 3 sections each of grades 1-5, with no kindergarten. Where would their 3 Kindergarten classes go? To comply with life safety requirements applicable to public schools at Mater Christi would cost half a million per classroom and D96 would not own the building. The staff at Blythe has expressed a general preference to become a single section school in grades 1-5, which would open up additional classroom space in mornings and afternoons. Hollywood's kindergarten classroom is only used in the morning. Perhaps an afternoon section could be opened there. The benefit of stabilizing section numbers in grades 1-5 is that teachers will be able to stay at the school at which they were hired teaching the grade level for which they were hired rather than being asked to teach at a different school or at a different grade level to accommodate enrollment changes. At its April meeting, the D96 Education Committee will consider whether to put together a study group of PTO representatives, educators and members of the public to examine the possibility of satellite kindergarten in D96. Dr. Lamberson noted that there may be a need to shift classroom usage between Hauser and Central in the future, depending on changing enrollment.

Co-Presidents' Report

Nominating Committee Jeannine Glavas proposes a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate for the PTO Board for the 2012-2013 school year. According to the By-laws, the Nominating Committee must consist of 2 members and 1 alternate from the current board and 3 members and 1 alternate from the general PTO membership. Current Board members Aberdeen Ozga and Sue Pipal agreed to serve on this committee, with Jeanine Vaia agreeing to alternate. From the general membership Sandy Briolat, Katie Leander and Jessica Niekrasz agreed to serve.

Motion to Approve the Nominating Committee: Made by Jeannine Glavas; Seconded by Yolanda Matthews. Motion carried.

Anyone interested in serving on the PTO Board next year is encouraged to contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Traffic Safety Amy Jacksic reported that the 3rd grade drop-off/pick-up has been moved to Zone C, in back of the school though if the 3rd grader has younger siblings, the drop-off/pick-up Zone of the younger sibling will apply. Walkers at all grade levels may enter and leave though the front of the building. If children are being dropped off at school later than 8:15 a.m. they may enter through the front of the building regardless of grade level. Dr. Limperis reports that feedback from the local police department on traffic flow has been positive. Lynda Carey, parent of a second grader and kindergartener, reports that in her experience the shift in the 3rd grade pick-up drop off has noticeably reduced traffic in front of the school.

PTO property Amy Jacksic indicated that the PTO is targeting removal of most PTO property from the school during the first week of April due to upcoming construction.

Talent Show Jeannine Glavas reported that while the Talent Show is scheduled for the last week of May on the D96 calendar, the need to pack all of the school's property in anticipation of construction may impact talent show logistics and the ability of staff and volunteers to provide adequate support. Dr. Limperis reported that Ames PTO decided to take a year off from its talent show. Amy Jacksic said a decision did not have to be made at this meeting, but it was an issue the chairs should discuss.

Screen Free Week On April 23, Co-Chair Cyndi Robinson Hane would like to bring local author Eric Rohman in to speak to the students about creativity. The current budget for Screen Free Week is \$300 and Mr. Rohman's honorarium is \$400-\$600.

Motion to Allocate Up to \$600 from Philanthropy for Screen Free Week:

Made by Erin Durkin; Seconded by Jeanine Vaia. Motion carried.

1st VPs' Report

Communication Erin Durkin reported that we are in the process of trying to create lead room parent and committee chair forms so that they can be submitted electronically. She also stated that the lead room parents will need help cleaning classrooms in anticipation of the construction project at the end of the school year.

BOE Erin Durkin attended the November Board of Education meeting and reported that the portion she attended addressed the capital improvement project.

Committee Reports (taken out of order)

RAIN Mary Komperda reported that the movie “Including Samuel” was shown in cooperation with the Oak Park Inclusion Network (OPIN) in November and that Dr. Polk and several teachers came. Another event with Paula Kluth and OPIN is being planned for March. The RAIN meeting for interested D96 parents will be held January 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Riverside Public Library and will be publicized in the Landmark, Suburban Life and via Feedblitz.

3rd VPs Report Specials Collections Jeanine Vaia reported that the holiday collections for Specials (which includes 26 Art, Music, PE, Custodians, Librarians, Paraprofessionals and other staff) raised \$1,646, with 95 families contributing. Donations ranged from \$5-\$50. Thanks were extended to all who contributed.

Treasurer’s Report

Angela Izzo reported that the PTO’s net income at year end was \$4,143. Of note on the budget was the final expenditure for the Cultural Arts framing project and a new hospitality column, which does not represent a new allocation, but which was introduced for clarity. Angela reported that the Science Fair went \$125.05 over budget due to a larger than expected number of participants.

Motion to Allocate \$125.05 from Philanthropy to the Science Fair made by Patrick O’Laughlin; Seconded by Erin Durkin. Motion Carried.

Parliamentarian Proposed Updates to Standing Rules Patrick O’Laughlin reported proposed updates to the Standing Rules. The first would ensure that only the events to which the PTO is committed are reflected, so reference to Ice Cream Social, Kindergarten Tea and Recycling would be deleted and reference to RAIN, the Science Fair, Target Fundraiser and Book Fair Social would be included. The second proposal addresses Accounting. In Section D, governing Deposits, cash and checks will need to be turned into the Treasurer within 1 week of the conclusion of the event with an itemized deposit slip. Similarly, in Section E, requests for reimbursement will need to be submitted with a completed reimbursement form within this same time frame. Another change will be proposed with respect to Childcare to the effect that childcare “may” be provided at PTO general meetings, rather than the current language that childcare “will” be provided. These proposed changes will be voted on by the PTO Executive Board at their next meeting and then presented to the general membership. A 2/3 vote is needed to approve the changes.

BOE Patrick O’Laughlin attended the December 13 BOE meeting which addressed how D96 is funding the capital improvement project partially through the sale of debt certificates. D96 was able to secure a 2.93% interest rate over 10 years due to its AA1 Moody’s rating. The creation of new classroom space will be helpful as enrollment is at 1,549 this year, and projected to be over 1,600 next year. Concept 3 Architects was authorized to seek bids.

Committee Reports (out of order)

Artist in Residence/Cultural Heritage Festival Dawn Gmitro is co-chairing this event with Jennifer Talbot. The festival is planned for the evening of April 11. Sponsored

countries include Spain, China, Germany, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Japan, Korea and the Czech Republic. They are still seeking a sponsor for Mexico and/or other South American countries. They are working on bringing in artists for performances and workshops. The evening will begin with an Ellis Island type check-in.

Book Fair Amy Jacksic reported that a volunteer is needed to wear the Clifford Costume for the book fair, which will take place January 27-February 2.

PTO Grants Jennifer Hepker Royer has agreed to write a grant proposal for the PTO.

Science in a Can needs volunteers to stuff cans on February 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Educational Speaker Jennifer Sedivy reported that Wilma Rudolph, who suffered from polio, spoke to students at Central and Hauser.

School Supplies Jennifer Sedivy reported that home delivery of school supplies will cost \$5 per box, though if a parent wanted to volunteer to have all of the boxes shipped to their home and distribute them shipping would be reduced. An alternative would be to have everything shipped to Central in the spring, have children bring the boxes home over the summer and then back to school again in the fall.

Read To Succeed Paula Fudasz reported that the program requires 6 hours of reading to earn a ticket to Great America, but that teachers need to have 10 students participate in order to earn their own ticket. Forms are available on the PTO website.

Luau Social Amy Landahl reported that the Luau Social, held in conjunction with the Book Fair, will take place the evening of February 2. Volunteers are needed for the 7:20-7:50 p.m. shift, and also to bring fruit and baked goods.

Principal's Report

Dr. Limperis reported that 5th graders and children in other grades with IEPs will be taking MAP tests this week. This is different than the Fountas & Pinnell testing for the guided reading program which all grades will be taking. The 5th graders need the test to determine eligibility for the gifted program at Hauser. Those currently in Quest typically are eligible for Hauser's program, but parents with questions should contact Dr. Limperis.

Teacher Representative's Report

Samantha Lutz reports that with the recent change to snowy weather, parents are requested to send children to school with boots and snow pants. Younger children will have their buddy's help in making wish lists for the book fair. All children will get to see a movie about the book fair. During the second week of May, all grade levels will take the MAP tests. 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will take the ISATs during the weeks of March 5 and 12. They are receiving test preparation once or twice per week in anticipation of this test. Parent Teacher Conferences by invitation will occur on February 10 (which is an early release day) from 12:30-3:00. Report cards will be issued on March 2.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m..

Minutes respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Aberdeen Ozga.