

**Central School PTO Meeting
September 9, 2011**

Call to Order 9:03 a.m. in the Central School Library.
Board Members Present: Jeannine Glavas, Amy Jacksic, Erin Durkin, Sue Pipal, Jeanine Vaia, Angela Izzo, Stefanie Dockendorf, Patrick O’Laughlin and Aberdeen Ozga.

Minutes Motion to Approve the Minutes of May 13, 2011.
Motion made by Sue Pipal; Seconded by Jeanine Vaia. Motion carries.

Superintendent’s Report

Capital Improvements Dr. Jon Lamberson reported that D96 plans to update the vintage infrastructure for Central, Hauser and Ames during the summer of 2012. Asbestos will be removed, new mechanical and electrical systems will be installed and efforts will be made to reveal original features such as crown moldings and ceiling heights. The D96 capital improvement plan developed seven years ago will enable this approximately \$27 million dollar project to occur without impact to taxpayers. Tours will be held September 28 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to enable the community to see the current condition of the schools and the need for the project. Summer school may be held at Blythe and/or Hollywood. D96 welcomes ideas for volunteer help packing and preparing classrooms.

Apple Award We are one of 10 schools in the U.S. which won an award last year for personalizing learning through technology.

Enrollment numbers are approximately the same as last year, but kindergarten is lower and Hauser has increased by 7%. A 13% increase is projected next year.

Officers Reports

Co-Presidents’ Report

Traffic Safety Amy Jacksic reported that the Traffic Safety Plan will continue through the 2011-12 school year with certain changes from the end of year Pilot. There will be three drop-off/pick-up Zones: A) Kindergarten; B) 1-3rd Grades; and C) 4th and 5th Grades. These are No Parking Zones during drop-off/pick-up. Older siblings of kindergarteners may also be dropped off in Zone A. The Section of Woodside Road fronting Building Blocks preschool will be designated One-Way-Only during drop-off/pick-up. Police are ticketing violators. Signs with family names will be distributed and staff will have walkie-talkies to signal children inside the school in inclement weather. Parents are asked not to cluster in front of the main (1st and 2^d grade) doors before school as it creates a bottleneck. Dr. Limperis advises parents whose children are not yet outside after school to keep circling rather than parking in the pick-up zones.

Committee Reports (taken out of order)

Student Directory Sandy Briolat reported that the directory information will be on-line this year. Art Perry of Hollywood School wrote a program to merge the D96 database with our contact information. Sandy gave a live demonstration of the system, which can be updated and downloaded any time. The User Name will be each parent’s e-mail address and the Password will be their oldest child’s first name. It was noted that Room Parents are having difficulty contacting new families because the directory is not yet

available. Dr. Lamberson responded that it is a goal to have all returning D96 families complete on-line registration next year so the data is available for the directory. Science Fair. Jennifer Hepker acknowledged the help of Mrs. Teune, Dr. Limperis and the members of the Science Fair Committee for their work on this new initiative. The Fair, which will be held November 9, is open to all grade levels. Participation is optional. Children can work in teams regardless of grade level. Each class will be visited by a member of the Science Fair Committee who will do a simple experiment, explain the Fair and hand out registration forms. More detailed information will be posted on the PTO website. Children must register in advance by the date set forth on the form.

Officer's Reports (Continued)

3rd VP's Report (taken out of order)

Calendars Jeannine Vaia reported that families needing to pay for D96 Calendars can place the money in the PTO mailbox.

1st VPs Report PTO Gathering Erin Durkin reported that the PTO Gathering held September 1 at the home of Tracy Sloan was a success and thanks Tracy for hosting.

Room Parents should have received the contact information for their helpers. Cultural Arts and Library volunteer lists are forthcoming.

Garden Gurus Open position This Committee still needs a chair.

2nd VP's Report Sue Pipal reports that the 2011-2012 Budget has been drafted and will be presented to the membership by Angela Izzo. She thanks everyone for their fundraising help.

Communications Director's Report Stefanie Dockendorf reports that Communications Guidelines will be sent out this week. Feedblitz goes out automatically on Tuesday night and arrives between 1 and 4 a.m. Content is requested a week in advance. If creative help is needed, just ask Stefanie.

Treasurer's Report

Budget 2011-12 Circulated by Angela Izzo. She reports that Artists in Residence and Cultural Arts have larger than usual allocations this year. The Cultural Arts Field Trips are being revamped and the PTO may help alleviate some of the costs previously paid by parents. Changes from last year include a new budget for clip art, a more substantial contribution to RAIN (Riverside Area Inclusion Network) and a budget for marketing.

Motion to Approve the Budget: by Sue Pipal, 2nd by Amy Jacksic. Motion Carries.

Lowe's Grant Angela reported that the check from Lowes, which is earmarked for improvement of the PTO attic space, has been deposited and does not have to be spent by a certain date.

Parliamentarian's Report

Update Bylaws/Standing Rules Patrick O'Laughlin presented an amendment to the Bylaws eliminating the responsibilities for Yearbook from the 3rd Vice Presidents Job Description.

Motion to Approve Amended ByLaw: by Erin Durkin, 2nd by Sue Pipal. Motion Carries.

Committee Reports

Approval of Audit Committee members Jane Wilhelm, Sandy Briolat and Angela Izzo audited the PTO's 2010-11 finances on September 1, 2011. The Audit disclosed no irregularities in the PTO's books.

Motion to Approve the Audit Results: by Sue Pipal, 2nd by Mary Komparda. Motion carries.

Artist in Residence Dawn Gmitro reported that this year's program will be built around Social Studies and will take place after Break. She is open to recommendations.

Halloween Play (taken out of order)

Dawn Gmitro reported that the Play will take place the afternoon of Friday, October 28. Practice begins 2-3 weeks prior to that. Dawn indicated that she would like to start training a successor to chair this entertaining program.

Cultural Heritage Fair

Dawn Gmitro reported that she and Allyn Pilewski are spearheading a Cultural Heritage Fair to take place in April after Spring Break. It will be an evening program, with different countries featured in different classrooms. Rather than asking Room parents to organize, individuals interested in sharing their cultural backgrounds will sign up to be responsible for the décor and events of their respective rooms.

Family Fun Night

Sue Pipal reported for Tracy Sloan and Jen Pacourek. Family Fun Night will take place September 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. It is always lots of fun. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated.

Cultural Arts

Molly Carl reported that Lead Room Parents will contact parents to volunteer for this program and that there will also be an opportunity to sign up during Fall Parent Night. The Art Institute of Chicago is offering a Training Program for Cultural Arts volunteers on November 1st for \$25 per person. Interested parents are encouraged to pursue this training.

Library

Jennifer Pollock reported that Ellen Nolan is taking a leave of absence and that library volunteer activities will begin on October 3. Room parents should line up volunteers by September 22 to the extent possible. Two volunteers are needed per day in grades K-3, One volunteer per class library day is needed in grade 4, and 5th grade classes do not need library volunteers.

RAIN

Jennifer notes that Ms. Economos afternoon kindergarten needs a Lead Room Parent. Mary Komperda reports a new website for this Committee: rainnetwork.weebly.com The website is linked through the Special Ed section of the D96 website. The Committee's first program on the topic of Friendship will take place September 21 at 7 p.m. at the Riverside Public Library. Information will follow on Feedblitz. RAIN now has a presence on Facebook and is looking for members. In October, Paula Klue of the Oak Park Inclusion Network who is also a movie maker will be presenting at Oak Park Public Library. Also in October, Central's RAIN members will be meeting with members from other D96 schools to discuss representation and organization.

Fundraisers

100% Fund Jane Wilhelm encouraged everyone to donate to the 100% Fund. It is 100% tax deductible. The PTO hopes to raise \$5,000, but currently has raised only \$1,600. The suggested donation is \$100 per family but any amount is welcome. It helps to have funds for PTO programs at the beginning of the school year. A Feedblitz has gone out. Innisbrook Stefanie Dockendorf reports that this Fundraiser starts in a week and a half. She will be creating a prize incentive system for the top sellers in each grade. There will also be a raffle. The stuffed animals that Innisbrook provides will go to the kindergarteners. There will be an information table at Tuesday's Fall Parent Night. On-line ordering with e-mail notification is a great way for out of town relatives to help support this fundraiser. Stefanie requested volunteer help distributing the Innisbrook packets in the classrooms and getting the kids excited about the sale on the kick-off date.

Target Katie Leander reports a \$1,196.76 check was received from Target, which may reflect our participation program last year. All parents need to do is register their Target charge card and name Central School PTO as the beneficiary and 5% of all purchases from those cards will come to us.

Principal's Report

Open House Dr. Limperis reported that Central School's Open House on Tuesday September 13 will explain educational goals for the year and provide a chance to meet the staff. All parents begin the evening in the auditorium at 7 p.m. At 7:30, parents of 4th graders stay in the auditorium, parents of 5th graders go to the gym and parents of children in all other grades are free to visit their children's classrooms.

Academics D96 is using the Regie Routman writing program. (Information can be found at regieroutman.com). We are continuing Guided Reading and Everyday Math. E-Suite Training is being provided. We are piloting a new program in K-5 science and a new Social-Emotional Development program. With respect to the latter, the children learned about the events of 9/11 through a Project Wisdom morning announcement and were told there are more good people than bad in the world, but it is important to learn about your country's history.

MAP Testing runs the weeks of September 19 and 26 (not the week of September 12 as stated on the D96 calendar).

Enrollment. 405 children are enrolled at Central. In K-3 the lowest class size is 15 and the highest is 20 students. Additional sections were added in second and 3rd grade.

Staff Ms. Sula is our new Kindergarten teacher and Mr. Preble is our new 3rd grade teacher. Ms. Hagberg is substituting for Mrs. Feldman, who is on leave. Two new para-professionals have been added.

Halloween Festivities are scheduled for the afternoon of Friday October 28 with the thought that it would be less disruptive to academics than having them on Monday.

Teacher Representative's Report

Samantha Lutz reported that keyboarding will be taught in the 4th and 5th grades. Teachers were trained yesterday by Mr. Bettis. Children will practice 2-3 times per week. 4th grade instruction will be in-class. 5th graders can bring home laptops. Children will receive an extra 15 minutes of math per day, and the instructional time for reading is up to 1.5 hours.

Announcements

Jeannine Glavas encouraged everyone to attend the Faculty Music Recital September 9 at 7 p.m., and noted that former Central Parent Karen Doornebos would be having a book signing at the Riverside Public Library at 7:30 that same night for her book "Definitely Not Mr. Darcy."

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 11:02.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Aberdeen Ozga.