

**Central School PTO Meeting
April 11, 2014**

Call to Order 845am in the Central School conference room

Minutes March 14, 2014 minutes were approved via email.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sharma-Lewis and Dr. Brian Ganan shared the need for continued Professional Development for teachers. We are behind in aligning our district with Common Core and the best way to get the teachers up to speed quickly is by having regular Professional Development for the staff, especially for those schools that are one section schools (Blythe and Hollywood). Currently, teachers are being pulled out of the regular classroom day to prepare for Common Core alignment, requiring lots of substitute teachers in the general classroom. The school board is voting on holding PD either two times a month or four times a month (once a week) at the next school board meeting. The school board did not like the inconsistency of half days for Professional Development, hence the reason they are pursuing one hour twice a month or one hour four times a month scenarios.

The new principals at Hauser and Blythe and the Director of Special Education and Director of Technology should be approved at the upcoming school board meeting. They will be introduced at the following meeting in May.

Parliamentarian

Bylaw revision: Sue presented the second reading of presidential term bylaw revision to allow Lynda to serve an additional co-President term with Jessica in 2014-15.

First Reading was on March 14, 2014. In order to allow the current co-president to serve an additional two -year term, the bylaws (Article VIII, Section 2) must be amended

Existing Bylaw:

Article VIII

Section 2

c. With the exception of the treasurer, officers shall assume their official duties at the installation luncheon meeting in May and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected and assume their duties. The treasurer shall serve from July 1 until June 30 of the following year.

d. A person shall not be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as president or three (3) consecutive terms as treasurer. Other officers may serve more than three consecutive terms.

Proposed Amended Bylaw:

c. With the exception of the treasurer, officers shall assume their official duties at the installation luncheon meeting in May and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected and assume their duties. The co-presidents shall serve a term of two (2) years. The treasurer shall serve from July 1 until June 30 of the following year.

d. A person shall not be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as president (total of four (4) years) or three (3) consecutive terms as treasurer. Other officers may serve more than three consecutive terms.

Sue Pipal made a motion to approve the bylaw revision as stated. Dawn Gmitro seconded the motion and the change passed unanimously.

Officers Reports

Co-Presidents' Report

Election of 2014-15 PTO Officers: The following people were approved as PTO Officers for the 2014-15 school year:

Co-Presidents: Jessica Niekrasz and Lynda Murphy

1st VPs: Paula Fudacz & Amy Hill

2nd VP: John Ralph

3rd VP: Anna Lee

Secretary: Tracy Bohrer

Treasurer: Martha Curiel

Parliamentarian: Angela Izzo

The motion made to approve this slate was made by Amy Hill and seconded by Sue Pipal. The motion passed unanimously and the new board officers will be installed and assume their duties at the May PTO meeting.

1st VPs' Report

Room Parent/Committee Chair Forms: We will feedblitz these forms the second week of May.

Committee Chair Folders: Paula Fudacz confirmed that there are no folders to collect. They are all electronic folders. She will collect Committee Chair evaluations to get feedback on whether committee chairs need different budgets for next year etc. She will resend committee chair evaluation forms to all chairs in the near future for them to complete.

2nd VP's Report

Philanthropy: Amy Hill presented 5 philanthropy requests. We agreed to approve the following:

(1) Sensory toolbox for kindergarten (\$300)

- (2) Mobile octagon book display for library (\$1390)
- (3) Gameplan curriculum for Mr. Howes (\$450)
- (4) Publications for speech pathologist (\$355)
- (5) US Flag for outside flag pole (\$200-exact cost is still being investigated)

A motion was made to approve this list of requests by Angela Izzo and it was seconded by Paula Fudacz.

A philanthropy request was also made for some sort of “Welcome to Central” item to offer to each kindergarten student (or student who is brand new to school) on the first day of school in the fall. Instead, we propose increasing the budget for the Kindergarten Committee and not take the money from philanthropy. We think a Central branded back sack bag hanging on the back of each kindergartener’s chair on the first day of school would be a good idea. We can insert a note promoting the PTO, inviting them to the PTO Parent Night, info on the first PTO meeting of the year, how to sign up for feedblitz etc.

Board of Ed Highlights: Amy Hill attended the March meeting. Professional development for teachers was discussed and there was a very large turnout of district teaching staff in support of more professional development time. They also discussed security cameras and the hiring of the Director of Technology.

3rd VPs Report

Installation Event: Kim will plan an informal event in May at Riverside Tap Room for new board members, committee chairs and any PTO members who would like to attend. This will not be a PTO funded event.

Treasurer’s Report

Budget highlights: Net income for the year is \$8379, Projected loss of \$13,109, Projected year end cash on hand is \$19,870.29

We voted to amend the Artist in Residence budget as the RAC spent more time than anticipated on their recent K-2 Artist in Residence. We agreed this AIR was well worth the expense and are gladly going to increase the budget by \$500 to cover the extra cost.

Amy Jacksic made a motion to increase the AIR budget by \$500 and Kim Macchia seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Jennie Hepker shared that the Science in a Can program this year cost more than expected. The original budget was for \$450 and she requested that we increase the budget to \$600 to cover this program. **Amy Jacksic made a motion to increase the budget to \$600 and Dawn Gmitro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Cultural Arts Field Trips: Plans are finalized for the K to go to the Riverside Arts Center, 1st grade to take a walking tour of the village, 2nd to go to Ramona Quimby play at Emerald City Theatre, 3rd is still being finalized by the teachers, 4th to tour the Frank Lloyd Wright house in Oak Park and 5th to take their trip to the Art Institute and architectural walking tour of Chicago. The 5th graders will get there using the Metra.

Cultural Heritage Festival: This event was a huge success thanks to Dawn Gmitro, Lauren Breit and Molly Carl. We already have parents interested in sponsoring rooms when we do this again in two years.

Environmental Concerns: Jacqueline Miller shared two recycling events:

- (1) Gym Shore Recycling Event: The kids will bring in their worn gym shoes to donate. They will in turn be taken to the Nike store in Aurora where they will be recycled and made into playground material. All types of gym shoes are accepted and not just Nikes.
- (2) Crayon Recycling Program: There is a program in Minnesota that accepts crayons in their paper wrappers, melts them down and makes them into new crayons. There will be a fund associated with shipping the crayons to Minnesota.

Jacqueline discussed purchasing environmentally friendly cups, plates etc to be stored in the PTO closet for parents to use when hosting class parties, PTO events. We will ensure that she has a budget for her committee next fall, as this committee has not had one in several years. In addition she proposes that we explore other options than continuing to pass out plastic bottles for Hike & Bike week and instead look for something more environmentally friendly.

Fifth Grade Activities: Patti Friend shared the selected T-shirt design that will be worn by each Central student for all 5th grade activities. Games night for the kids is tonight and they will have an all day picnic at the Scout Cabin to celebrate the end of the year/graduation and the annual clap out on the last day of school.

Read to Success: 161 Central students earned a free ticket to Great America by reading the required minutes

Science in a Can: Jennie Hepker shared that 85% of kindergarteners, 85% of 2nd graders and 94% of fourth graders participated in SIC. 90% of the experiments received positive reviews from those who participated. Mrs. Lutz shared that fourth grade teachers make participation mandatory. The SIC committee will meet in June to prepare for next year and discuss revamping the entire program. Jennie discussed possibly dropping it to three experiments from four and demonstrating one "really cool" experiment in each class in K, 2 & 4. They may do that before the cans start going home to generate excitement about the program and hopefully reach those children who are not participating.

School Supplies: The district wide school supply lists will be finalized in the near future. The district is working to ensure that each student in every grade level at each school purchases the same exact supplies. This year each school has their own school supply vendors but we hope to consolidate the accounts with all of the D96 schools and possibly get a better rate on the supply purchases next year.

Screen Free Week: This will be 4/21-4/26. Ann Marie Dixon shared that Paula Fudacz will host her cupcake decorating class, Riverside Parks & Rec will host multiple classes throughout the week, the Riverside Arts Center will host two classes on Saturday, the

Riverside Public Library will host a Tuesday evening event and Riverside Parks & Rec will have a Saturday Kite Flying event. Events will be signed up for first come first serve via signup genius.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: Paula Fudacz is working to provide an in school catered lunch to the staff. The luncheon is May 6th.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Kathy Alexander has come up with a "Oscar Theme" of "The Award Goes To...". She is actively seeking donations to auction off each day during the week to the staff. She hopes to receive 25 donations so that she can raffle off 5 a day. Gift cards are always a favorite;

Yearbook: Patti Friend expressed concern that the Yearbook that was contracted for with LifeTouch would not include photos of the end of year 5th grade activities. Lynda shared that this was decided upon because no parent was willing to chair this committee and she did not want to have the children miss out on a yearbook for this school year. She agreed to chair it only if she could contract with LifeTouch as they would supply photos of each Central student that was photographed for their school picture and provide her with an easy to use template to create the book. The LifeTouch photo deadline, which was shared at previous PTO meetings as well as with each room parent to solicit photos from each parent in their assigned classroom, is at the beginning of April. Patti has asked Lynda to contact LifeTouch to see if they will allow us to extend the deadline to June, add additional pages and at what cost. We shared that any additional expense related to extending the deadline cannot be passed on to the 200 people who have purchased yearbooks at the fixed price. During the discussion, Lisette Jameson offered to chair the Yearbook next school year. **Patti Friend made a motion to explore changes to the current yearbook contract to include 5th grade end of year activities and the ramifications in terms of time, cost and distribution date. Lisette Jameson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Lynda will contact LifeTouch.**

Teacher Representative

Mrs. Lutz shared that Central Spirit Pride Day is on Weds. 4/16 and Open House is on 4/24. The 4th & 5th Grade Spring Musical is on May 13th. She spoke about the need for teachers to have regular Professional Development opportunities. The staff loves the end result of our current Artist in Residence hanging in the Central halls.

Principal's Report

Mr. Gatz shared that Monday, 4/28 is a Teacher Institute Day and there will be no school. A parent survey will be sent out soon and all parents are urged to respond. If he receives less than 30% response rate, the data collected is not shared with him. They are working on schedules for Summer School programs which will most likely be held at Central. Registration will NOT be handled online for 2014-15. They hope to have online registration ready for 2015-16. He urges all parents to send in their registration before the end of this school year so that he is aware of any needs to add additional sections which requires the hiring of additional teaching staff. He cannot hire teachers if he doesn't know exactly how many sections he will have in each grade.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 11am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Jacksic, Secretary.