

## **Central School PTA Minutes** **Tuesday, April 1, 2008**

**Introduction:** The meeting began at 9:08 am in the Library. The PTA officers in attendance: Linda LaBelle, Mary Ellen Meindl, Jeannine Glavas, Allyn Pilewski, Kathy Dudek, Nancy Hopkins and Patrick O'Laughlin. Also in attendance: District 96 Superintendent Dr. Lamberson, Central School Principal Dr. Limperis and Central School Teacher Samantha Lutz.

**Teacher/Staff Luncheon:** Maura Braun reported that the Teacher/Staff Luncheon will be held Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1 pm at Jem Café. Due to seating limitations, there will be two 45-minute seatings, with invitations going to only teachers and staff. Volunteers will be needed to cover for paraprofessionals at lunch. A signup sheet was passed around.

**Special Guest; Mrs. Mathis – Art Teacher:** Mrs. Mathis has taught in the district for 16 years. The new art curriculum will incorporate social studies with the art program as well as add more art history and the use of mixed media (tempra paints, craypas, copper tooling, clay tile, etc.). For example, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade studied Ed Hopper's Nighthawks and using sculpie they made objects that they thought would be eaten at the diner. The kids are doing well with this and performing above grade level.

**Minutes:** The March 4, 2008 minutes were approved by Michelle Marconi and seconded by Mary Ellen Meindl.

**President's Report:** Linda LaBelle thanked all volunteers.

**Election of Officers:** A motion to close the nominations was made by Nancy Hopkins and seconded by Cathy Louthen, which passed. A motion was then made to approve the slate of candidates by Mary Jurgens and seconded by Michelle Hejna, which also passed. The installation luncheon will be held May 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:30pm at Jem Café, all are welcome.

**Correspondence:** Letters from the students sponsored to attend the Pride Conference were passed around. The students will attend the May meeting to talk about what they did at the conference in Cincinnati.

**Treasurer:** Linda LaBelle reported that our income is \$2000 over budget. To date, \$13,000 has been paid out with about \$10,000 more in future expenses unpaid. We also received \$840.00 from Target.

**Principal's Report:** Dr. Limperis reported that Central School has received its State Certification from the State Board of Education. The theme of the April 16<sup>th</sup> Spirit day will be "A Poem in Your Pocket", where everyone will have a poem in their pocket. This is being done since April 17<sup>th</sup> is National Poetry Day. Dr. Limperis thanked philanthropy for the TDPE room with the transverse climbing wall. The room is locked, but a key is in the office. Ms. Keller is pursuing a Master's degree and is coordinating district-wide events for her master's project. Due to space issues Mrs. Henneberry's room will be used by Hauser next year. The Central School Leadership Team is looking at where that class will go. The 4<sup>th</sup> section of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is leaving the school this year, so one room is available. For Kindergarten, of the 60 available spaces, 58 have completed registration for next year.

**Teacher Representative:** Samantha Lutz reported that next year's school theme program will be CAKE for "Courteous And Kind to Everyone". Projects will be made in the shape of a cake, which will then be donated to groups in the community. The Open House is May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. All the teachers love the TDPE room.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Book Fair:** Beverly Aieta brought some sample books from the book fair. This year's theme will be "Take a reading road trip". Volunteers are needed, so please see Beverly or Lisa Veon to volunteer. The book fair will be April 8-11<sup>th</sup>.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:** Sandy Briolat stated that the theme of Teacher/Staff Appreciation week will be "We think the world of you" and will be held May 5-9. There will be a Mexican themed day, a Chinese themed day as well as daily delights, lunch or snacks. A volunteer sheet was passed around. We are in need of a large banner for the front of the school as well as volunteers to bring food and help. Michelle and Nancy will be getting donations for drawings.

**2008-2009 School Supplies:** Jane Wilhelm reported that online ordering and payment for school supplies is until April 11<sup>th</sup>. If there are any problems, please contact Jane.

**Flying Carpet Club/ Jr. Great Books:** Aberdeen Ozga reported that the kids had a great time with the Flying Carpet Club. The volunteer's survey had good responses. If you want to recycle your anthologies, please see Aberdeen. The Olmsted Society is sponsoring a "Reflections on Riverside", asking kids to go outside and write poetry.

**Pavers:** Nikki Hajer reported that one paver was sold, which makes 5 sold this year at a profit of \$425.

**Programs/Assemblies:** Mary Jurgens reported that the last assembly of the year will be a Laser Show Safari on April 18<sup>th</sup>. K-2 will be at 9am, and 3-5 will be at 10am.

**PTO/PTA:** Mary Jo Robling reported that there are compelling reasons to form a PTO, but not many to stay a PTA. The reasons to form a PTO are as follows: 1) can be more inclusive (if you're a parent/teacher, you're a member); 2) focused on the school, not the National PTA or children everywhere; 3) insurance has D&O and less expensive; 4) don't have to follow PTA's strict rules; 5) potential cost savings of about \$500 per year. By not staying with the PTA we would lose: 1) Reflections program (there are other competitions that the children could be involved in); 2) PTA training, but PTO Today also has training, for purchase and their website is more user-friendly. In Illinois, 18% are PTAs. To convert to a PTO, the Bylaws and other documents would have to have all PTA references removed. To create a PTO, \$1000.00 would be needed for the conversion (\$750 to IRS, \$50 to Secretary of State (filing fees) and ~\$150 for accountant fees) and officers of the PTO would need to be elected. After tax exempt status is granted (possible 30-60 days for approval) next steps will be identified to set a date to vote to dissolve the PTA with 2/3 of those present and voting. The PTA checking account would need to be spent down while new money would go to the PTO. Mary Ellen Meindl stated that we would continue to operate primarily as a PTA until everything is ready to convert to a PTO and dissolve the PTA.

**Other Business:** Linda LaBelle reported that the Burlington Northern has requested the pedestrian tunnel be closed in Riverside and the ICC will hold a hearing on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the ICC's website to comment on the closure. Cathy Louthen encouraged all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade parents to come to the April 16<sup>th</sup> Hauser PTA meeting before the Open House.

**Announcements:** Thank you to our Committee Chairs and many volunteers during March: **Family Fun Night;** Mary Ellen Meindl, **Flying Carpet Club;** Aberdeen Ozga & facilitators, **Library Bulletin Board;** Samantha Durst & William Sleeth, **March Cultural Arts volunteers, Box Tops/Campbell Soup Labels;** Michelle Hruska, **Website;** Chris Hajer, **April Meeting hostesses;** Jennifer Sedivy & Lauren Zobel.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Patrick O'Laughlin, Recording Secretary.