

Central School PTO Minutes Tuesday, February 3rd, 2009

Introduction: The meeting began at 7:02 pm in the Library. The PTO officers in attendance: Mary Ellen Meindl, Melinda Brom, Jane Wilhelm, Kathy Dudek, Nancy Hutchings, Linda LaBelle, Jennifer Sedivy and Patrick O'Laughlin. Also in attendance: Central School Principal Dr. Limperis.

Minutes: A motion to approve the January 13th, 2009 minutes was made by Linda LaBelle and seconded by Sandy Briolat. The motion passed.

Officers' Reports:

President: Mary Ellen Meindl reported that the District 96 is looking for positive messages from Central parents to parents new to Central. Please send any messages to Mary Ellen about "What I like about Central School". The district is looking at a new vendor for contacting parents in 2009/10 since School Reach has increased their prices greatly. Dr. Lamberson is looking for members for three advisory councils: Communication, Before/After School Program and Long term planning for the International Baccalaureate Program at Hauser (will affect current 1st Grade students when they attend Hauser). Upcoming events: Preschool screening February 19th & 20th; Kindergarten registration March 5th at 7 pm; District Hardscape Plan will be addressed at the February Board of Education Meeting; PTA/O Presidents will host a meet and greet for the District 96 candidates on March 10th from 7-9 pm at Hauser.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Wilhelm distributed the financial statement through January. Items of note: the student directory was paid for today about \$400; Innisbrook internet sales are about \$1600; the Riverside Township grant of \$1000 for the Striding Lion program is listed under Specialized Fundraising.

Principal's Report: Dr. Limperis reported that the bully prevention program will be at Hauser tomorrow. With bullying, it is repetition that causes problems. The program helps to identify bullying and cyber bullying. There will be a presentation and question and answer sessions with the trainers and police. So far, the 5th Grade teachers, 6th Grade teachers, 5th & 6th Grade Specials teachers, Social worker, Ms. Berman and Ms. Westin (Asst. Principal at Hauser) have been trained. There are plans to contract with the IVPA to provide training to the other grades. This year, the Kindergarten Tea will be cancelled, since there is an afternoon Kindergarten. The first days of Kindergarten are being redesigned, so if you have any thoughts on what would make school easier for beginning Kindergarten, please email Dr. Limperis. A World Language Committee is being created to look at languages for Central school as well as a timeline for implementation. The Committee will meet once in the spring and six meetings next year. Anyone who is interested to serve on this committee, please contact Dr. Limperis. There will be a new writing program for next year and a new science curriculum is being evaluated. If anyone has an old musical instrument they would like to donate to the music program, please contact Dr. Limperis.

Teacher's Report: Dr. Limperis gave Samantha Lutz' report, since she and Michelle Laughlin began a Master's program tonight. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Friday February 13th in the afternoon. Ben and Karen from Striding Lion gave a great performance today and the kids were very inspired. It was called "How the Sun and Moon got in the sky". A parent is needed to tape the student's performance on February 26th, since it is required for the Illinois Arts Council grant. There will be a dress rehearsal at 10 am, a performance for the students at 1 pm and an evening performance at 7 pm. The 100th day of school is wrong on the calendar, it should be February 10th. For 5th Grade their last day will be after the clap out. They will not have to come back the following day. Dr. Limperis passed around a 4th Grade project with two hearts: one the student wrote how they were thankful to their families and the other the parents wrote back. In March there will be an all school art project called Youth in Art. Mrs. Mathis will project silhouettes and any creative parents who would like to help put up the display are needed.

PTO Committee Reports:

Artist in Residence/Striding Lion: Kathy Dudek reported that K-3 will use voices and bodies to tell stories about characters in their imaginations. All 4th and 5th Grades will use poetry, music and geometry to create an imaginative show. There will be a multigenerational performance on February 11th at 3:30 pm at the Scottish Home.

Preschool Screening: Kathy Dudek stated that 8 volunteers are needed for the preschool screening on February 19th and 20th. It will be a half day commitment to take kids to the screening station and back to their parents.

Library: Jeannine Glavas spoke about an opportunity to volunteer in the Library making book covers on February 9th after drop off at 8:30 am.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Mary Ellen Meindl reported that the Teacher Appreciation Week Committee is co-chaired by Lauren Zobel, Sandy Briolat and Melinda Brom. The first meeting will be Friday in the Library at 9 am. The theme for this year is “Central School Teachers- you take the cake”. Teacher Appreciation Week is in May.

Nominating Committee: Mary Ellen Meindl reported that the Nominating Committee is progressing well and the slate will be presented at the next meeting.

Other Business: District 208 Candidates Mike Welch and Matt Sinde came to speak about their candidacies for District 208 Board of Education. Lisa Freel encouraged all to attend the Riverside Children’s Theater Guild’s performances on February 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22.

Announcements: Thank you to all the volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

The Minutes are respectfully submitted by Patrick O’Laughlin, Recording Secretary.