

## **Central School PTA Minutes** **Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

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

**Minutes:** The December 4, 2007 minutes were approved by Mary Ellen Meindl and seconded by Jeannine Glavas.

**Correspondence:** Linda LaBelle passed around thank you notes from teachers and from the Jan family and sign up sheets for snacks at the Board of Education meeting.

**President’s Report:** Linda LaBelle reported that the Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers. The position entails 2-4 meetings (about 1 hour each) and making phone calls. The job is finished by March. Linda stated that the PTA Board has a general liability insurance policy. She proposed that we obtain additional coverage for theft of an officer, burglary and robbery for a cost of \$175 annually (\$250 deductible, \$50,000 limit). Mary Ellen Meindl made a motion to approve; Allyn Pilewski seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Linda LaBelle reported that Innisbrook and the Children’s Art/Notecards are finished and the 100% Fund is doing well. Central PTA will not have to spend a lot of time on fundraising for the second half of the year, so more time can be spent on the kids. We are still waiting for the final online check from Innisbrook.

**Principal’s Report:** Dr. Limperis announced that Erin McCarthy, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, has a new baby girl, she will be back on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Rainbows, a support group for kids dealing with a loss, is looking for volunteers. They meet at lunch. Please get your articles in for the newsletter by January 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, if there are student’s accomplishments (outside of school) that you would like announced during the morning daily message, please email Dr. Limperis. Dr. Limperis reported that in Illinois, teacher directed Physical Education is required five days a week; currently we only have it two days a week. The program will be expanded using the Teacher Directed Physical Education (TDPE) Gym, which will be located in the Champions room. The District paid for an architect to determine if the building could support it and Central School paid to reinforce the wall. The PTA already paid for a climbing wall, but \$1200 is still needed for the other stations. A motion was made by Jeannine Glavas to approve the \$1200 and seconded by Patrick O’Laughlin. The motion passed.

**Teacher Representative:** Samantha Lutz passed around writing activities from Mrs. Feldman and Mrs. Murdock’s 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classes. The teachers appreciate all the support from Central PTA. The teachers also like being included in the communication from the website/feedblitz. The teachers have all signed a pledge to ensure the “T” in parent teacher association (PTA) is supported

## **Committee Reports:**

**Jr. Great Books/ Flying Carpet Club:** Aberdeen Ozga stated that Jr. Great Books begins next week. The books and itineraries will go home with the children this week. Thank you to the teachers for the use of their classrooms.

**Artist in Residence Program:** This year's Artist in Residence, Bill Buczinski, who is a poet will inspire kids to write stories and poetry on January 28th, 30th and 31<sup>st</sup>. Teachers will pick 3-4 students who are finished with their projects to share them at an event on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The follow-up classroom author sharing events will need help from the PTA and homeroom parents. If you would like to be involved in the Artist in Residence Program next year, please contact Dawn Gmitro.

**Spring Family Fun Night:** Mary Ellen Meindl reported that the Spring Family Fun Night would be dinner and a movie. Two movies will be shown, in each of the gyms (1 PG and the other G rated).

**Pavers:** Nikki Hajer stated that four pavers were sold for a profit of \$360.00.

**Ice Skating Party:** Linda LaBelle reported that the date for the Ice Skating Party has changed to February 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 pm.

**Historical Perspectives Program:** Linda LaBelle stated that the Historical Perspectives Program on February 15<sup>th</sup> will be about Laura Ingalls Wilder.

**PTA/PTO Committee:** Nancy Hopkins gave an overview of the PTA. The PTA is an advocate for children. The State PTA says that we should have a legislative chair (although they don't have a legislative chair) and have money in the budget to send representatives to the state convention. From the dues paid to the Central School PTA, \$3.25 goes to the State PTA, funding 3 ½ positions (office staff). The Board is made up of volunteers. The main legislative initiative for the State PTA is H.B. 750, a \$9.5 billion tax increase (a 3-5% increase in the income tax and a sales tax on services as well as a \$2.7 billion property tax rebate), which is stalled in Springfield. The State PTA is in favor of (but did not introduce) legislation to 1) change punishing 17 year old as adult for misdemeanors to 18 year olds and 2) require eye testing for Kindergarten. They also support S.B. 335 calling for a sign to be posted on the exterior of buildings where a baby can be relinquished from its mother. The State PTA doesn't have a lobbyist (they don't have money for lobbyists) and they do not go to committee meetings to testify. They rarely introduce bills. The main benefits of membership are training, group insurance rates, providing bylaws and tax-exempt status. The PTO is a for-profit company that supports locally based groups, with no state level organization.

**Board of Education Update:** Allyn Pilewski reported that the next Board of Ed meeting is January 15<sup>th</sup> at Hauser Library. The Education Committee meets at 6 pm and the General meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Announcements:** Thank you to our Committee Chairs and many volunteers during December: **Library Bulletin Board**; Samantha Durst & William Sleeth, **Kids Care**; Cheryl Dowling & 5<sup>th</sup> grade helpers, **Room Parents**; December classroom activities, **Specials Collection**; Sue Miller, **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Gingerbread House Party**; Beth Corbisiero & Allision McCarthy, **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Jan Family Paver Collection**; Anne Kodama, **December Cultural Arts volunteers** and the **January Meeting hostesses**; Jodi Connelly & Nikki Hajer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

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