

Central School PTA Minutes

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Introduction: The meeting began at 7:04 pm in the Library. The PTA officers in attendance: Linda LaBelle, Mary Ellen Meindl, Jeannine Glavas, Kathy Dudek, Allyn Pilewski, Rick LaBelle, Patrick O’Laughlin, Sue Miller and Nancy Hopkins. Also in attendance: Central School Principal Dr. Limperis and Central School Teacher Samantha Lutz.

Minutes: The September 4, 2007 minutes were approved as corrected by Jeannine Glavas and seconded by Rick LaBelle.

Correspondence: Sue Miller sent the correspondence around.

President’s Report: Linda LaBelle reported that the District 96 Emergency Closing committee (chaired by Blythe Park Principal Robert Chleboun) is investigating a phone calling system called “School Reach”. It is an outsourced service that takes the telephone number for a child (up to 3 per child- home, work, cell, etc) and calls all the numbers at once with emergency closing information. The basic package cost is estimated at \$695.00. Linda informed about the district-wide brown bag lunch meeting where the PTA Presidents, from all the District 96 schools, meet once a month with Dr. Lamberson to share ideas and concerns.

Linda thanked the committee chairs and volunteers especially Kim Bolton (Student Directory), Mary Ellen (Family Fun Night), Paula Fudacz (Innisbrook) and the hostesses Mary Jurgens and Michele Mendoza.

Dr. Lamberson will attend the Central School PTA meetings in November and March.

Treasurer: Rick LaBelle reported that the books were closed on June 30, 2007 with an ending balance of \$30,945.33. The audit of the 2006-2007 budget was presented and approved.

Principal’s Report: Dr. Limperis stated that a Health Aide is needed in the District to work all day Fridays and be available to substitute part-time to assist with a number of students needing daily diabetic care. If anyone knows of a RN, LPN or BSN that is interested, please have him or her contact the office. Anyone without formal training could be trained through the North Riverside or Brookfield Fire Departments.

Social Studies Committee is discussing whether the 5th Grade field trip to Springfield should occur during 4th grade (when the class is studying Illinois Government) or 7th Grade (when they are studying the Civil War). The total cost is approximately \$9700 of which \$1500 has been underwritten by a REEF grant. The estimated cost is about \$63 per child.

On Wednesday Dr. Limperis and Dawn Gmitro attended the SEED's (Supporting Eco-friendly Everyday Solutions) meeting in the Township Hall- all schools in the area were represented. The subject of the meeting was Promoting Environmental Advocacy in our Schools.

During the teacher in-service, the MAP test data will be analyzed. The MAP testing went very well. The test is comprised of 1 hour reading and a 1-hour math section per student. Dr. Limperis asked the PTA to consider bringing in dinner for the teachers during the November 19th Parent-Teacher conferences from 12:35 – 8:30 pm.

The District Math Meeting was well attended last week.

Teacher Representative: Samantha Lutz was introduced as the Teacher Representative. She stated that the Hike and Bike to School Week was going well. She thanked all parents for their assistance especially when they dropped off popsicles to help everyone cool off on the very hot days. The Original Artwork program has just begun and artwork would be coming home.

Committee Reports:

Jr. Great Books: Aberdeen Ozga stated that the response to the survey about the Jr. Great Books program was about 27% (66 responses: 38 paper, 29 online). The following sessions will be offered: 5th Grade- 2 sessions, 4th Grade- 1 ½ (a co-lead volunteer is still needed), 3rd Grade- 3 sessions, 2nd Grade- 5 sessions and 1st Grade- 3 sessions. Each session will be made up of small groups of 5-6 students (the recommendation is for 6-8 students, so there is some room for additional students). There will be a two tiered training process: 1st- one representative for each grade will be sent to training (costing about \$130 per person), 2nd- an abbreviated training will be offered after Thanksgiving break. The program is to begin in January using anthologies that contain 10-12 stories.

Spirit Wear: Elaine Cinkay stated that Spirit Wear is not a fundraiser this year, although last year a profit of approximately \$200 was made. This same vendor, Custom Sportswear, is being used who will pre-package the orders by class. The order sheet will be sent out on the 17th and will run for two weeks. Nancy Hopkins stated that Land's End is selling Central School Logo short and long sleeve polo shirts that can be ordered at the same time as Spirit Wear and no shipping charge will be incurred if purchased at this time.

Library Support: Jeannine Glavas thanked the Library volunteers. Volunteers are still needed to shelve books and every Friday morning volunteers are covering new books, so if anyone is interested, please stop by.

Halloween Windows: Blythe is coordinating the Halloween Windows this year. It will take place from October 18th – 20th and there will be a \$5.00 charge to cover clean up.

Halloween Program: There will be a Halloween play, parade and class parties on October 31st.

Innisbrook Sale: Paula Fudacz stated that 79 orders have been received of that 19 were online. Many of the orders were large. Delivery will be November 8th with distribution November 9th.

100% Fund: Sheila Daily thanked the committee for all their help. She also thanked all contributors and stated that about \$9000 has been contributed by about 40% of the school, with some giving more than the \$100 suggested amount. A questionnaire may be sent out next year to gauge thoughts on the 100% Fund.

Box Tops/Labels: Michelle Hruska thanked all the volunteers and stated that in the past we have bought gym equipment, recess balls and poly fit spots with Campbell's labels. Cash is earned from BoxTops and Tyson products.

Children's Art/ Original Works: Krista Varady stated that the Children's Artwork Fundraiser is due October 12th to guarantee holiday delivery to the school. Other artwork can also be sent in and separate order forms are needed for each artwork.

PTO: Mary Jo Robling advised that a committee was formed to see if the PTA should become a PTO. If anyone has an opinion on this, please come forward. For more information on the topic please see the book "Politics of PTA" (in the Library), the PTO Today website or contact committee members. Mary Jo stated that they are looking at the costs for insurance. One difference between the two is that the PTA is a national organization, whereas the PTO is an individual organization at a school. Other items that are being researched: what legislation is the State PTA supporting? Do we support it? If anyone is interested, they could become a Legislation chair and follow this subject. Also, some time is spent recruiting PTA members and dues are paid to the state and national PTA (from the current Central School dues of \$15.00, \$3.25 goes to the National PTA per family, and the rest of the dues help pay for the Student Directory, District Calendar and for part of the Roadrunner Yearbook). The Reflections program is a specific PTA program and would be dropped if the decision were made to change to a PTO organization. In a PTO organization every parent/family is automatically a member however, an annual membership fee is paid to have access to various PTO resources.

Mary Jo also encouraged Central parents to attend the Board of Education meetings. The next meeting will be on October 16th at 7:30pm at Hollywood School. An agenda will be sent around, and if a topic is of interest, please attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

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