

**Central School PTO Meeting
November 8, 2011**

Call to Order 7:07 p.m. in the Central School Library.

Board Members Present: Jeannine Glavas, Amy Jacksic, Erin Durkin, Sue Pipal, Jeanine Vaia, Angela Izzo, Patrick O’Laughlin and Aberdeen Ozga.

Minutes Motion to Approve the Minutes of October 14, 2011.

Motion made by Jeanine Vaia; Seconded by Erin Durkin. Motion carries.

Officers Reports

Co-Presidents’ Report

Traffic Safety Amy Jacksic reported that the Traffic Safety Committee is in favor of moving 3rd grade drop-off/pick-up to Zone C, though if the 3rd grader has younger siblings, the drop-off/pick-up Zone of the younger sibling will apply. These changes are proposed to be publicized following the Science Fair. Jeannine Glavas asked attendees to remind their children to always cross the street with a crossing guard, especially behind the school. She also noted that if you normally drop your children off in the back but you are late for school, you should drop them off in front as the back parking lot is blocked off with saw horses after the morning bell rings.

School Consolidation Amy Jacksic reported that Lt. Governor Simon had formed a Classrooms First Commission which met last week. Mary Ellen Meindl represented D96 at this meeting and will provide a report at the next School Board Meeting.

Board of Education Meeting Jeannine Glavas attended two hours of what turned out to be a six hour BOE meeting on October 18, 2011. She reported that the most recent D96 Report Card shows 94.5% of our students meeting or exceeding standards compared with 92.2% in 2009-10. D96 spends \$11,753 per pupil annually, which is 1.8% higher than the state average. The proposed construction project for Ames and the Central/Hauser campus was discussed as well. The project is scheduled to commence on June 9, 2012 and will cost approximately \$10 million. Asbestos removal will be done in June, along with necessary electrical, plumbing and systems upgrades. Total improvements to all of the D96 schools will be \$24-25million, but the work at Blythe and Hollywood will be scheduled for a subsequent academic year.

Student Directory Jen Pacoureck reported that the committee is taking special care to ensure that on-line access to the contact information for our PTO families is appropriately restricted. The directory should be ready soon.

Feedblitz/Communications Meg O’Brien, reporting for Dr. Limperis, demonstrated how to make Central PTO the homepage on Apple computers so you can see what’s new in the Central School community: 1) Using the Safari browser, go to www.CentralPTONews.org 2) Use the dropdown menu in Safari to select “Preferences” and 3) block and copy our web address into the “Home Page” option.

Laptops for Learning Meg O'Brien also reported that if any parents of Central School 5th graders missed the info sessions on the Laptops for Learning program additional sessions will be held Wednesday November 9 at 12:30 in the Hauser Auditorium and at 3:15 p.m. that same day in Hauser's Library. Another session will be held on November 10 at 7 p.m. at Ames.

1st VPs' Report Teachers Holiday Gifts Erin Durkin reported that she and Tracy Sloan will be contacting Lead Room Parents after Thanksgiving regarding the need to collect for teachers' holiday gifts.

2nd VP's Report

Fundraising Update Sue Pipal reported that the 100% Fund co-chaired by Jane Wilhelm and Amy Hill exceeded its budget goal with income of \$5,900. It is still accepting donations. The Innisbrook Fundraiser, chaired by Stefanie Dockendorf also exceeded its goal of \$2,000 income.

Field Trips Sue Pipal reported that she, Kate Nessinger and Mary Ellen Park are working together to update the Field Trips. All trips will be scheduled for the spring to help facilitate the packing of classrooms and supplies for this summer's proposed construction project. It is proposed that: 1) the kindergarten classes will go to the Riverside Arts Center, consistent with last year, 2) the 1st grade classes will tour Central School and take a walking tour of Riverside through the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, 3) the 2nd grade classes will see "Barrio Girl" at the Reskin Theatre, 4) the 3rd graders will visit the Chicago History Museum and possibly Lincoln Park Zoo, 5) the 4th graders will tour Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, and 6) the 5th graders will tour the Art Institute of Chicago and take an architectural walking tour of the Loop.

Philanthropy Requests Amy Jacksic made a philanthropy request to acquire three easels at a total cost of \$65. She explained that they would be useful for displays at various PTO activities.

Motion to Approve Philanthropy Request for PTO's acquisition of three easels at a total cost of \$65: Made by Sue Pipal; Seconded by Kim Bolton. Motion carried.

Original Works Jeannine Glavas reported for Jen Gentile that 211 items were ordered and profits were \$820.84. Orders will be ready in two weeks.

Treasurer's Report

Angela Izzo reported that the PTO's income in October was about \$3,000. \$325 was added to the 100% Fund this month and a Target check for \$1,196 was deposited. In evaluating the Budget, there is a need to update it to reflect certain items previously approved by the membership as well as some anticipated expenses as follows:

Cultural Arts Adopt a Painting	3,472
Fall Family Night elimination of income	1,000
Road Runner Year Book Printing (paid last year)	1,163
Philanthropy (approved but not paid last year)	6,778
Halloween Windows	100
Bike Show	475
Alternate Auction Dinner (Sam's House)	500
Public Storage for 6 months	600

Total Additional Expenses: 14,088

Angela noted that the public storage estimate (for the purpose of keeping PTO property safe during construction) may be high. Jen Pacourek suggested that the PTO might want to explore how much we can store through different means before June. For purposes of the Cultural Arts prints recently reframed, Dr. Lamberson had advised us not to store anything in PODS that we weren't prepared to lose.

Motion to Amend Budget to include additional expenses of:

Cultural Arts Adopt a Painting	3,472
Fall Family Night elimination of income	1,000
Road Runner Year Book Printing (paid last year)	1,163
Philanthropy (approved but not paid last year)	6,778
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Bike Show	475
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Motion made by Patrick O'Laughlin; Seconded by Jen Pacoureck. Motion Carried.

3rd VPs Report Veterans Day Jeanine Vaia reports that the reception for Central's guest veterans will be held in the Hauser Library following the program in the Hauser Auditorium. There is no need to donate items for this reception.

Staff Conference Meal Donations and help are needed for the Staff Conference meal during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 21. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Specials Collections Jeanine stated that the holiday collections for Specials (which includes Art, Music, PE, Custodians, Librarians, Paraprofessionals and other staff) begins after Thanksgiving.

Principal's Report

Meg O'Brien reported on behalf of Dr. Limperis that report cards and ISAT results will be distributed on November 18. She also advised that lunchtime for 1st graders will be moved to the second shift (same as the 4th and 5th graders) following Thanksgiving break. First graders will have exclusive use of the playground equipment as 4th and 5th graders will be on the blacktop. First grade snack time will be adjusted consistent with their change in lunchtime. Finally, as also referenced by Jeanine Vaia, Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place November 21.

Teacher Representative

Cara Ross reported on behalf of Samantha Lutz that the children at all grade levels are very excited about the upcoming Science Fair. She also advised that normal classroom activities have been somewhat altered this week due to extra rehearsals for the Veteran's Day Program.

Committee Reports

Yearbook: Kim Bolton reported that she needs a co-chair for the RoadRunner yearbook. 5th grade teacher Steve Elgeness is helping set up a Wiki to help the students with their articles. If you have photos of PTO and/or classroom activities that you would like considered for publication in the yearbook, forward them to Kim via CD and she will upload them to a password protected Flickr site.

Target Fundraiser (out of order) Katie Leander reported that the Feedblitz helped this fundraiser increase from 37 participants to 40. She intends to do a targeted e-mail to kindergarten parents. Katie also advised that Target's computer system experienced a glitch in registrations right around the same time that our Feedblitz went out and she does not know if it impacted any Central families who may have tried to register their cards at that time.

Science Fair: Amy Jacksic reported for Jennifer Hepker Royer that 145 students, doing 106 experiments, registered for the upcoming Science Fair tomorrow. Set up will be at 5 p.m. and the Fair will run from 6-8. Kindergarten will display in the library, 1st and 2nd grades in the gym and 3rd-5th grades in the cafeteria. Stefanie Dockendorf has prepared a 16 page program reflecting all the students and their experiments. Jennifer Hepker Royer donated a professional looking banner. The volunteer judges, all from science-related fields, are committed and enthusiastic. Katie Leander reported that Bob Uphues from the Suburban Life newspaper emailed her to advise that he could not send a reporter to cover the Science Fair. It was suggested that we write our own article and e-mail it to the newspapers with photos. Jen Pacourek suggested that we post the article on the PTO website.

Spirit Wear Jeannine Glavas reported for Becky Wood that the on-line sale will be extended from November 4 to November 11.

RAIN Jeannine Glavas reported for Mary Komperda that the movie "Including Samuel" will be shown at Oak Park's Maze Library on November 17 from 6-8 p.m.. A panel discussion including Paula Kluth of Oak Park's Inclusion Network and social worker Jessica Paganis follows.

Halloween Village Event Jeannine Glavas reported for Dana Tomas that Central PTO rather unexpectedly was asked to sponsor this event on Saturday, October 22. About 80 children from the community made Halloween paintings for the windows of Riverside's businesses at the Water Tower, supervised by parents from Central. We have reached an agreement with the other schools to rotate responsibilities. Next year, Ames will coordinate this event.

Guest Lecture Jeannine Glavas reported that Hauser PTO has sponsored an annual lecture of interest to the community for many years, but recently asked the elementary school PTOs to take turns sponsoring as well. The PTO at Blythe Park School will be sponsoring the 2012 lecture on February 13 on the topic of Internet Safety. Central School PTO will be responsible for the 2013 lecture. Ideas are welcome.

Global Connections Allyn Pilewski reported on her recent exposure to the International Baccalaureate Program. There are two main components: global awareness and the acquisition of a second language. Colleen Lieggi is working on the idea of using Skype to communicate internationally. Allyn intends to review the curriculum guide and identify opportunities for our students to make global connections.

Flying Carpet Club Aberdeen Ozga reported that volunteers are still welcome for our Junior Great Books program which runs the weeks of January 9-March 12, 2012. Flying Carpet Clubs meet once per week (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) during the lunch/recess hour. Volunteer info/training sessions will be held November 12 at 10 a.m. or November 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Cultural Arts Molly Carl reported that she, Jeannine Glavas and Amy Jacksic recently attended an Art Institute Training course for parent volunteers. The faculty emphasized that our focus with the children of this age should be on art appreciation and emotional response to art, as opposed to detailed facts about the artist's life or memorization of technical terms. Molly indicated that we may need to revamp some of our materials.

Book Fair Amy Jacksic reported that she, Angela Izzo and Kim Macchia need 65 volunteers for this event, which will take place Friday, January 27-February 2, and will focus around a Luau theme. We tend to take our profit from this event in the form of book product, which then can be directed to our Central School classrooms or to community charitable programs of our choosing.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m..

Minutes respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Aberdeen Ozga.