

Central School PTA
General Meeting
January 9, 2008
7:30 p.m., Central School Library

President Kristin Makely called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried. The minutes from the General Meeting on November 14, 2007 were approved as presented.

Guest Speakers

Luis Bayona, world language Spanish teacher, is teaching third, fourth, and fifth grades. He will use full immersion, teaching 100% of the time in Spanish. He is creating a positive environment for language acquisition, where the children feel free to take risks. He uses Third Physical Response (TPR) which includes music and kinesthetic movements. He will be creating a curriculum within the next few months emphasizing language and culture.

President's Report

1. President Makely thanked Jessica Hamilton and all of her volunteers for a wonderful Holiday Breakfast. She also thanked Michele Plunkett, Melissa Adams, and all of the bakers for the Cookie Walk which raised about \$800.
2. President Makely thanked Ann Carson and Mirian Devine for a great job done at the secret shop which earned \$61.25.
3. Regarding the outdoor classroom, the extra bricks were removed. There has been discussion regarding the plantings. One idea was BYOB – Bring Your Own Bush.
4. The Board of Education is beginning the budget process. Attendance is encouraged at the meetings which are listed on the town calendar. The next meeting is tomorrow night.
5. The Book Fair is coming up on February 26, 27, and 28. The same magician as last year will provide entertainment for the family program Tuesday evening, February 26. The theme is Road Trip. Volunteers are needed for the Book Fair.
6. A Chair of the Nominating Committee for next year's PTA officers is needed. A Motion to nominate Lisa Stickevers as the Chair of the Nominating Committee was made, seconded, and carried.

Principal's Report

Principal Roger Bowley reported the following:

1. The Holiday Breakfast was lots of fun! He thanked Jessica Hamilton, the many volunteers, and the fifth graders who did a great job helping.
2. The Student Council collected over \$500 for the Adopt-An-Animal project. The students will decide tomorrow which animals to adopt. Some of the adopted animals may visit the school.
3. The Book Room is almost complete thanks to John Rihl. \$12,000 was obtained from grant monies and the Principal's budget to purchase new books. First and second grades will receive \$1,000 of new books each; and third, fourth, and fifth grades will receive \$3,000 in new books each. Baskets, clothes pins, and plastic bags have been/will be obtained. Entering books into the database is a big project and volunteers are needed to begin next week. Many volunteers will be needed next month as well. He thanked the PTA for all of its help.
4. The second set of after-school programs, and the Junior Great Books program, are underway.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pam DiPadova reviewed the Budget Report. She reported that cash came in from several sources including the Holiday Breakfast, Cookie Walk, Secret Shop and dues. The expenses out were mostly from the outdoor classroom project.

Report of Drew Hansen, Board of Education

Mr. Hansen stated that he is the newest member of the Board of Education. He was appointed last calendar year. He reported the following:

1. A vote will take place tomorrow night regarding the school calendar. If passed, a trimester will replace the current four marking periods. The February break will be shortened to a four day weekend. Most of the current February in-service will occur in November. The half days in November will be replaced with full days. This is supported by the administration.
2. The budget process begins tomorrow. There will be a portion of each meeting devoted to a work session on the budget which will be open to the public. The first draft of the initial budget will be presented tomorrow evening at the meeting.
3. An agreement was signed with the College of New Jersey to provide educational opportunities here for our teachers. Graduate level courses and degrees will be offered at the Middle School. Neighboring district teachers can participate too. The facility only will be provided at no cost.

Committee Reports

Enrichment: Claudia Petaccio reported that the New Jersey Aquarium visited the kindergarten and first grade classes yesterday, and that a magician will perform at the Book Fair on February 26.

Spring Social: Leslie Rice is chairing the Spring Social. It will be on May 17, 2008. Please contact her if you are interested in volunteering.

Family Dance: Cheryl Quickel and Karen St. Angelo are chairing the Family Dance. It will have a Boardwalk theme and will take place on March 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. E-mails and flyers will be distributed.

After-School Program: Leslie Schwab reported that the second program just started and has nine classes for six weeks. It takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. More volunteers are needed on Thursdays to help with dismissal in the hallway next to the All Purpose Room. There will be one more session this year after the February break.

Reflections: Anne Vial reported that Central School submitted 28 entries, 11 of which advanced to the county level. Four students won at this level from Central School. The artwork is on exhibit tonight at the Markeim Art Center. Nicole Cucinotta did a great job shrink wrapping all of the art, and with the lunchtime art sessions.

Skating Party: The Skating Party will be held tomorrow night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cherry Hill Skating Rink. The admission cost is \$5.00, which includes one drink, and slice of pizza or pretzel. Skate rental cost is \$3.00.

Zone PTA: Lisa Stickevers reported the following:

1. Calendar changes were discussed.
2. New buzzer systems were installed at Tatem and Elizabeth Haddon Elementary Schools.
3. Regarding the Board of Education meetings, although there is a public work session for the budget, verbal comments will not be accepted at that time. A group called Save Our Schools is working to win the budget. A good PTA goal is to urge people to vote. There will be two vacancies on the Board of Education. Larry Berger is leaving, and Drew Hansen seeks reelection.
4. Zone gives scholarships to high school seniors. Photo Works donated \$4,500 toward the scholarships.

New Business

New Jersey testing was discussed. The status of the graffiti on the playground, and concerns shared by several parents about young elementary school girls having issues of negative body image were also discussed.

Vice President Pamela Strobel read the announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.