

Central School PTA
General Meeting
February 13, 2008
8:30 a.m., Central School Library

President Kristin Makely called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried. The minutes from the General Meeting on January 9, 2008 were approved as presented.

Guest Speakers

Bonnie Rubin-Sugarman, Director of Special Education, spoke about the special education program in the school. She addressed her background, the laws governing special education, IEPs (Individualized Education Programs), inclusion, and the benefits to everyone from the program.

Report of Dr. Cheryl Laney, Board of Education

Dr. Laney reported that the Board of Education is working very hard on the budget and trying to keep the increase to less than 3%. The Board approved new high school courses including a writing course for ninth grade and an art course. New faculty is not needed for these courses. The Board is also focusing on developing more courses for middle students, unlike the advanced placement courses.

President's Report

President Makely reported the following:

1. Please vote "yes" for the budget.
2. Thank you to Trish Kane for the fun skating party; Toni Conquest for the Spaghetti Dinner; Sook Kim and Chris Manning for the Bingo Night; and Jennifer Fontaine for the Jr. Great Books program.
3. This is the last week of the current After-School Program. Information will be coming home in the backpacks regarding the next session. Thank you to Leslie Schwab, Jane Nugent, and others for the success of the program.
4. The PTA received thank-you notes from first and fifth grade classes for the field trip to the New Jersey State Aquarium and the fifth-grade T-shirts, respectively, provided by the PTA.
5. Valentine's Day parties will take place tomorrow.
6. *The Focus* is now on-line, but not yet reaching everybody.

Principal's Report

Principal Roger Bowley reported the following:

1. Picture Day is on March 4 for group class pictures and other groups like the Environmental Club, Safeties, etc. Volunteers are needed to assist with Picture Day.
2. E-mail communication is a preferred method of communication because the school is running out of and trying to conserve paper.

3. As shown in a Power Point presentation, the Book Room is underway. Shelving is installed, baskets and clothespins are purchased, and over 4,000 books have been processed, including more than 500 titles. Thank you to Maria Sobel for her tremendous support and hard work with the room and program; and to the numerous volunteers. Volunteers will be needed in the future to reshelve books on a continual basis once the teachers have finished with the books.
4. Adopt-An-Animal assemblies will take place on February 25.
5. Information will be sent home regarding the NJASK testing for the third through fifth grades.

Treasurer's Report

Vice President of Budget and Finance, Jessica Hamilton, reviewed the Budget Report. She reported various sources of cash in including bank interest, and profits from the secret shop, after-school enrichment, skating party, and spirit merchandise; and sources of cash out including expenses for the classroom allotments, class trips, enrichment committee, administrative matters, and the guided reading room.

Committee Reports*

Nominating Committee: Lisa Stickevers thanked Alison Pelose, Jane Nugent, Diana Connolly, Ann Kriebel, and Kerry Richards for serving on the committee. She reported the following nominees for the PTA Board of Directors for next year:

President: Pam Strobel
Vice President: Michelle Smith
Treasurer: Jessica Hamilton
Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Tully
Recording Secretary: Lisa Hurly
Vice President of Budget and Finance: Heidi Lahm

The nominees will be voted upon at the next PTA meeting on March 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Book Fair: Alison Pelose reported that the Book Fair will begin on Tuesday, February 26, and will have a Road Trip theme. Last year's magician will perform at two day assemblies and at Family Night on February 26. He incorporates books like Harry Potter and Dr. Seuss into his show. A volunteer is needed to dress in a Clifford costume. A contest will be held for the students to guess how many cars are in a jar. A fundraiser requesting loose change/dollars will also be held to buy books for the school and to help people in need.

Enrichment: Claudia Petaccio reported that Susanne Lypka ("The Bug Lady") will visit the school on February 15. Joe Holiday, Magician, will perform two morning shows, and one evening show at 6:30 in the library on February 26. On May 14, Michael Patrick O'Neill, an author, will visit the school. He writes non-fiction books. He is a photographer and scuba diver, and his topic will be marine animals. Next year, a laser assembly program will be scheduled.

Spring Social: Leslie Rice reported the following:

1. The Spring Social will take place at the home of Rochelle and Stephen Fernands on Washington Avenue.
2. The profits will be donated to complete the Outdoor Classroom.
3. A “save-the-date” announcement is in *The Focus*.
4. A theme is being developed which may be “Weekend Getaway” or “Preakness.”
5. All services are set up including caterers and miscellaneous providers. Lisa Hurly has volunteered to handle the food stations. Food will be provided by Severino’s, Kitchen 233, and Little Tuna. Kathy Tully and Kathy Bayer have volunteered to handle marketing.
6. There is an auction committee. Items to be auctioned include leftovers from the fashion show.
7. Six more volunteers are needed, and a coordinator of volunteers is also needed.
8. A planning meeting will be held on March 3 at the Fernands’ home to finalize plans and themes.

Family Dance: Cheryl Quickel reported that the Family Dance will be rescheduled to April 4 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The theme is Boardwalk. Food may include hot dogs, pizza, soft pretzels, vegetables, ice cream sundaes, and popcorn. The dress will be summer wear such as flip flops and Hawaiian shirts.

Zone PTA: Lisa Stickevers reported that the PTA, although not allowed to work on ballot measures, is allowed to do direct lobbying in support of the budget.

Vice President Pamela Strobel read the announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

*Some Committee Reports were presented out of order to accommodate the presenters’ schedules.