

Central School PTA
General Meeting
September 12, 2007
7:30 p.m., Central School Library

President Kristin Makely called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Alan Fegley introduced Mr. Roger Bowley, Central School's Interim Principal, and reported the following:

1. Search for permanent Principal will begin in January 2008.
2. Haddonfield schools are working with the Municipal Alliance to prevent future drug/alcohol-related tragedies; including distributing the Safe Homes Pledge.
3. High School renovations current focus.
4. 26 teachers and 6 administrators were replaced, 16 due to retirements; District is seeking a World Language teacher for the elementary schools.
5. Broken slide at Central will be fixed.
6. Board of Education (BOE) goals:
 - a. Strengthen parent/community ownership of schools: pass budget;
 - b. Invigorate student centered learning environment and strengthen acceptance of all students: continue differentiation, and as result of student life survey, continue to promote respect for others;
 - c. Seek/develop shared services and efficiencies: work with other districts to cut costs, i.e., school supplies, bus routes, increasing skill level of maintenance employees, joint classes to offer more diversified high school classes.
7. There is a new food service company which uses a finger scan to identify students; an alternative number can be assigned.
8. Security badges have been implemented for faculty and parent visitors.

President's Report

President Makely introduced herself, Mr. Bowley, and the PTA Board members. She reported that the PTA helps parents and teachers stay connected, and that it enriches the school environment with fundraisers and activities. She thanked Shelly Hammon, Pam Gess, and Laura Perna of the bake committee; and Jennifer Wilhelm for organizing the ice cream social and teacher welcome. She presented a book to Jennifer Wilhelm who recently resigned from the Presidency due to an up-coming relocation.

Principal's Report

Principal Bowley reported that he spent one week with Terri Freed, loves being at Central School, has applied for his New Jersey principal's certification, and hopes to be Central's permanent principal for at least ten years. He is implementing the Guided Reading Program which will include baskets of level books in a book room. He has made two changes in the cafeteria which have been well-received by everyone. First, he changed the seating arrangements from class-seating to grade-seating. There are now fewer tables, more space, and better opportunities to mingle. Second, he has implemented a four-level voice policy which quiets children by raising a hand instead of using a whistle. When substitute teachers have extra time, they will assist the first-grade teachers.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pam DiPadova reviewed the budget report. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the budget. The budget was approved as presented. Lisa Mazzola conducted an audit of the PTA books as required by the New Jersey PTA and concluded the books are in order.

Committee Reports

Art Goes to School: There will be an open house meeting at Lizzie Haddon on October 1. More information will be forth-coming in the backpacks.

Membership: Andrea Rizzuto reported that 90 people have already paid PTA dues.

Note Cards: The note card fundraiser is underway. A new company is being used which offers journals and predesigned note cards. Samples are available to view. Sue Kamerling can be contacted with any questions.

Enrichment: Claudia Petaccio is organizing eight assemblies.

After-school Enrichment: There will be three sessions of after-school enrichment this year, including a new pottery class. If anyone has ideas for new classes, please contact Jane Nugent. Sign-ups for classes will be go out in two weeks, as well as requests for help.

Principal Advisory Committee (PAC): There will be a new parent orientation for parents new to our school. An information packet will be distributed to them with a grade-level contact.

Picture Day: Picture Day is September 27. Kristin Makely needs a couple of volunteers to help her.

Fashion Show: The fashion show will take place on November 1 at Tavistock Country Club. For the previous eight years, Macy's fashions were modeled. This year, models will wear fashions from Haddonfield stores. Volunteers are needed to help with the auction. There will be an advertisement book with patron listings. Mr. Bowley and teachers will model the fashions.

Gift Wrap: The "We've Got the Beat" Gift Wrap fundraiser is underway. Children may wear their "School Rocks" sticker on dress-up day, September 21, and dress up to show "they've got the beat." The gift wrap display table can be viewed tonight and at back-to-school night. Hip-Hop book bag clips and a chance to win Haddonfield gift certificates will be given to families selling ten or more items. The sale concludes September 28.

Outdoor Classroom: Meggin Patterson successfully obtained the approval letter from New Jersey for the outdoor classroom plans. There will be many learning opportunities for the students, such as examining the different varieties of plantings. The outdoor classroom will be constructed in phases. The first phase will most likely be the hardscaping. Volunteers will be needed in the spring.

Reflections: Anne Vial reported that the Reflections art contest is a national PTA event. This year's theme is, "I can make a difference by . . ." The categories include literature, photography, visual art, music composition, dance, and video. Information will be sent home in mid-November.

Municipal Alliance: The Municipal Alliance is working to promote alternatives to underage drinking. Packets will be distributed at back-to-school night with a Safe Homes Pledge.

Zone PTA: Lisa Stickevers reported that the Zone PTA has representatives from all of the PTAs. A major project is its community calendar. Next year, Zone PTA will ask for donations of \$35 per family to pay for the publishing costs of the calendar. Donating families will be listed in the calendar. Zone PTA provides picture day and scholarships to high school students. The "What's On Your Mind" forum is sponsored by the Zone PTA, and will take place on October 16. It will be an open-microphone session, and BOE members will be available to discuss various issues.

New Business

Anne Vial and Leslie Schwab attend the BOE meetings. There are two meetings per month. They need volunteers to help attend the meetings.

Vice-President Pam Strobel read the announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

