

Central School PTA
General Meeting
November 14, 2007
8:30 a.m., Central School Library

President Kristin Makely called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. The agenda, and minutes from the General Meeting on October 10, 2007, were approved as presented.

Guest Speakers

Maria Sobel, Language Arts Specialist, spoke about the implementation of the Guided Reading Program, resulting from last year's audit of the language arts curriculum. The program is based upon a reading workshop model focusing on skill development and reading level. The groups of children will change. Materials will be obtained within a range of reading levels and the location of the book room will be determined.

Mr. Bowley added that the book room needs to be maintained so teachers can use it efficiently. The small, flexible, groups of children will work at their current instructional/skill level. Shelving and bookcases will be obtained and installed. Baskets and plastic bags will be needed to organize the books. The books will be arranged alphabetically by title within each reading level, and will include literature from all genres. There will be a method for teachers to take books out and to communicate their impressions with other teachers. This is a district-wide initiative for the elementary schools. The Board approved \$3,000.00 from the budget to start the program.

Report of Dr. Cheryl Laney, Board of Education

Dr. Cheryl Laney reported that the Board is considering revising a provision of the 24/7 policy to include a higher standard for "leaders." Currently, only a police report issued against a student prevents that student from being a peer leader. The policy may be viewed on the Board's website.

The Board is also considering a trimester program for Kindergarten through Eighth Grades. Pros include more time for teachers to get a sense of the child, and an increase in full instruction days. The February teacher development days would be moved to November. Each period would be about twelve weeks long.

President's Report

President Makely reported that volunteers will be needed for the Guided Reading Program, and line items will be added to the budget to help fund the program and maintain the book room. A line item will also be added to the budget for the outdoor classroom for teacher purchases. The PTA is hoping that benches will be donated.

President Makely thanked Danielle Pierznik, Michelle Smith, Nicole Cucinotta, and all of the volunteers for the Fashion Show.

Teacher conferences will be held during the upcoming half days of school. Volunteers are needed for next week's Holiday Breakfast and the Secret Shop on December 3-5.

The PTA received thank-you notes for the Raptor Project.

Urban Promise requested that the schools help provide toys to underprivileged children this holiday season. New toys may be dropped off at the office.

Principal's Report

Principal Roger Bowley thanked everyone for all of their support. He also noted that his sent e-mails are not reaching everyone, and requested that the PTA put a message on its website inviting parents to contact him if they are not receiving the e-mails.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pam DiPadova reported that cash-in includes \$39,230.21 from the fashion show; and \$11,673.36 from gift wrap sales, for a net increase in cash of \$40,366.59. Cash out includes about \$12,000.00 in expenses for classroom allotments, the back-to-school coffee, class trips, enrichment committee, environmental club, and ice-cream social.

Committee Reports*

Cookie Walk: Michele Plunkett reported that the Cookie Walk will be setup in the hallway during the Holiday Breakfast. Volunteers are requested to bake a batch or two of a favorite treat. Bags will cost \$5.00, and can be filled to the top with treats. A flyer will be coming home. Donations should be labeled if they contain nuts.

Outdoor Classroom: John Rihl reported that the radius walls have been built, and will be completed when the capping arrives. The sidewalk has been completed. New concrete has been poured, and planters will be added. The cleanup of the dirt and mess was finished today. Lisa Stickevers added that the outdoor classroom, through future plantings, etc., will be incorporated into the science curriculum. They would like to display a banner by the construction stating something like, "PTA Funds at Work."

Holiday Breakfast: Jessica Hamilton reported that the Holiday Breakfast is scheduled for December 1. The Kindergarten students will sing at 8:30 a.m.; the first graders will sing at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed Friday after school, Saturday morning, Saturday for the transition between the first and second seatings, and for the cleanup.

Fashion Show: Danielle Pierznik reported that the fashion show raised over \$28,000. About 100 more people attended the fashion show this year, and the Committee has received positive feedback

from retailers. The Committee thanks everyone for all of their help in making the fashion show a success.

Reflections: Nicole Cucinotta reported that there were two lunchtime workshops at which the students could work on their submissions. The Committee hopes to add an after-school enrichment class next year. Shrink wrap and mounting will take place after school today. The county submissions will be displayed at the Markheim Art Center.

PAC Meeting: Jane Nugent reported that Mr. Seshens requested more instruments, including large instruments. Mr. Quinesso requested LCD projectors for every classroom.

Zone PTA: Lisa Stickevers reported the following:

1. The elementary Spanish teacher should begin teaching in early January.
2. Teacher focus includes professional development and formative assessments.
3. Graduate courses will be available in the school buildings and will be offered to teachers as in-service training.
4. Teachers prefer trimesters. Parents may not want to wait until December for a first teacher conference.
5. The Board of Education vacancy was filled by Drew Hansen.
6. The 24/7 policy was discussed.

Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night: The Spaghetti Dinner will be held January 25 at 6:30 p.m., and Bingo Night will immediately follow the dinner.

Skating Party: The Skating Party will be held on January 10 at 6:30 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.

Junior Great Books: Junior Great Books will begin in January. Jennifer Fontaine needs volunteers interested in leading discussion groups.

Gift Wrap: Gift wrap orders were delivered to the school and then taken home by the children for distribution to purchasers.

Shopping Night: Nicole Cucinotta reported that several new stores will be participating. A date needs to be set and flyers will be sent home.

New Business

Danielle Pierznik expressed interest in forming a Dad's fundraiser, such as a softball or basketball game, or golf tournament. Different clubs could attend and sell different items as a PTA fundraiser.

Lisa Stickevers inquired about the status of the broken slide, and also reported that the Domenick John Hair Salon is hosting a fundraiser for Keeping Kids Warm this Saturday.

President Makely read the announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

*Some Committee Reports were presented out of order to facilitate presenters' schedules.