

**Central PTO Board Minutes**  
**Friday, September 12, 2014**  
**Cynthia Cata's Home**

**Present:** Cynthia Cata (Chairperson), Casey Russell (Vice Chair-Communications/Technology), Karen Hawkins (Treasurer), Janet Beatty (Secretary), Erika Kreisa (Co-President Skokie/Washburne PTO), Neilly Hallerman (Co-President Skokie/Washburne PTO), Shannon Preda (President Crow Island PTO), Georgie Geraghty (President Hubbard Woods PTO), Irene Zmudka (President Greeley PTO), Trisha Kocanda (Superintendent), Nancy Fehrenbach (FAN Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

**President Report** – Cynthia Cata

Cynthia welcomed everyone to the board and introductions were made. Cynthia went over the structure of the meetings - the meetings should last about an hour, updates will be given from the Superintendent and School Board Rep. and each PTO President will share information.

A re-cap regarding non-profit donations was given. Cynthia reminded the Board that we will donate to four organizations (FAN, Alliance for Early Childhood, Erika's Lighthouse and Haven). In the event of a budget shortfall, Central PTO will ask each individual school PTO to contribute to cover the difference.

There was a discussion regarding the posting of information for outside organizations on PTO websites. It was suggested that a link to the organization on the Community page be given.

There was a request for our financials from a parent and the question was raised as to how this should be handled. All agreed that transparency is important. Numbers should not be emailed to an individual, but personally shown. Those who are interested are welcome at our meetings.

Linda Yonke, New Trier Superintendent, would like to come and speak to our district parents regarding the upcoming referendum. She's looking for dates in early October.

## **FAN – Nancy Fehrenbach**

Nancy highlighted all of the upcoming FAN speakers.

Attendance at events is up 55% with 14,000 attendees and 23 programs.

There is a new funding model in the works - a possible \$3.00 per student “tariff” to be paid by each school. The District is in discussion regarding this.

## **Treasurer’s Report – Karen Hawkins**

Karen let everyone know that she is beginning to work on the audits.

## **Vice- Chair, Communications/Technology – Casey Russell**

Regarding the website, Central PTO will cover the cost of the domain name.

Each school is responsible for their own website content.

## **Superintendent Report – Trisha Kocanda**

It’s been a good start to the year. Trisha looks to us, the Central PTO, as a resource and wants to have an open dialogue.

Negotiations with teachers continue.

Our new Assistant Principal, Max Weinberg, is a good fit for our district and has the support of the staff.

Our new Technology Director, Maureen Miller, has jumped right in with the implementation of iPads and embraces technology as a teaching/learning tool.

Our new Director of Student Services, Beth Martin, will present at the upcoming school board meeting.

A posting for a permanent HR position will go out this winter.

Trisha has had a good transition into her role. She is looking at the Strategic Plan and hopes to have it refined by the end of the year. She will hold focus groups with students in grades 4, 6 and 8 and is also hoping to have the opportunity to meet with parents to get their feedback.

There are 4 vacant seats on the Caucus. Applications are due September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Georgie shared that she has received positive feedback about Trisha and how accessible she is to parents.

Georgie inquired about the redistricting “rumor”. Trisha responded, stating that this is, in fact, a rumor. The population in each school has stabilized; therefore, nothing is on the table at this point.

### **Crow Island PTO** – Shannon Preda

Crow Island held grade specific play dates over the summer. The kindergarten ones were the most successful.

There is new furniture in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade wing.

They’ve taken their directory online. Donations for runathon and teacher gifts are being collected online too. The PTO will manage the funds and make distributions to the teachers and associates for holiday and end of year gifts. They asked for a \$45.00 donation, per student.

The committee folders have all been gathered online in Google docs and/or dropbox. The Job Fair will hold online sign-ups in the spring.

### **Greeley PTO** – Irene Zmudka

Dream Green – The district is helping to manage this and they’re looking toward a spring completion.

They’ve added an Organic day to their lunch program and have had a good turnout of ordering so far.

They held their new parent party last night.

They have also put their directory online.

### **Hubbard Woods PTO** – Georgie Geraghty

Hubbard Woods has not gone online for anything yet, but Georgie will look into it. They are moving toward putting documents online.

Kiddos Catering is now handling the lunch program. Parent, Heather Pigott, coordinated this. The cost is \$5.00 per lunch and Kiddos handles everything. There are many choices and fresh fruit is provided with

every meal. The PTO has added a .50 cent charge to each meal, .25 of which will be used to cover environmental conservation expenses at the school, including composting.

Georgie brought up the concerns of the parents regarding all of the construction happening close to Hubbard Woods and Skokie. Drop off and pick up can get tricky with trucks in the way. She asked if it was possible to have extra police or crossing guards available during lunch. Trisha shared that the zoning board, builders and realtors are in discussion concerning this issue.

**Skokie/Washburne PTO** – Erika Kreisa and Neilly Hallerman Social dance has started at Skokie. They've asked parents to be mindful of social media and the posting of pre-party pictures. Kelly Tess has also addressed this in the Scoop.

The Green Initiative, led by parent Liz Kunkel, will include composting. She will meet with Kelly Tess and Cathy Rosen to work out the details. She would like for students to get involved.

Parent Elizabeth Christopher has started a Safety Committee. She is using positive reinforcement to encourage the kids to wear their helmets. She is doing crossing guard appreciation and is trying to encourage more support from the police.

Kelly Tess has been great and is building a sense of community.

The Parent Party will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00p – 6:00p at the Crow Island Woods.

The meeting concluded at 10:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet Beatty  
Secretary