

Central PTO Board Minutes
Friday, January 9, 2015
Skokie School Curriculum Room

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am.

Approval of Minutes – Janet Beatty

Minutes from the December 5, 2014 meeting were approved.

FAN – Nancy Fehrenbach

There are two programs this month. On January 14th, Wes Moore will be at New Trier to talk about his new book The Work and on Sunday, January 25th, there will be a film screening of “The Internet’s Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz”.

Superintendent Report – Trisha Kocanda

Trisha addressed the recent school closings due to cold weather. She informed us that these decisions are made collaboratively with the other schools in the New Trier District and they take into consideration the safety of the students as well as staff and substitute teacher availability. A day will be added at the end of the school year.

Kelly Tess has been officially named Principal of Skokie School.

There has been more discussion regarding the PARCC test. On January 29th, parents will be invited to attend informational meetings regarding the test. There are a lot of concerns with how it will be administered and the hours of time and resources that it will take. The PTO’s should encourage their parents to attend these informational meetings

Trisha’s initial Entry Plan will be shared at the next Board meeting.

At the last Board meeting, Beth Martin, gave a brief overview of a new program that would address social/emotional learning. They are looking into bringing this new program on-site at Skokie.

Enrollment projections have been done and it does not appear that there will be any major staffing changes.

School Board Report – Bill Meuer

The Board approved an increase in compensation for substitute teachers.

Three new Board members have been slated and will be voted on at the April meeting.

The Tax Levy was approved for \$3 million, rather than the \$4 million that was previously stated.

Treasurer's Report – Karen Hawkins

Audit is done. Checks have been mailed.

Vice- Chair, Communications/Technology – Casey Russell

Nothing to report

Skokie/Washburne PTO – Erika Kreisa

Requests for furniture in the lounge, resource center and bookroom were approved.

Crow Island PTO – Shannon Preda

The Peace Power toy drive held in December was very successful. 524 toys were delivered to Lurie Children's Hospital.

In Dec. they also held their annual community service project of making sack suppers for Night Ministry.

They will hold their Math Night in Feb. for 3rd and 4th grades and in the spring for 1st and 2nd grades. They are revamping this parent/child evening with a new spin to make it more fun.

Crow Island will hold it's 75th Anniversary celebration on October 3rd.

Hubbard Woods PTO – Georgie Geraghty

There is a foundation for a coding club in place. Daniel Ryan is working with the other Principals to coordinate and keep consistency. Teachers who are willing to teach have been identified. It's a general plan with more details to come. It will, most likely, begin as a trial with 3rd and 4th graders.

Hubbard Woods will focus their 100th year anniversary on a capital project. It will take place in the fall.

Greeley PTO – Irene Zmudka

Nothing to report.

President Report – Cynthia Cata

InforSnap and the By-Laws were reviewed and discussed.

Cynthia reviewed the InfoSnap wording and all were in agreement that it does not

need to be changed. Each PTO should send an email for their own financial appeal.

The following changes will be made to the By-Laws.

Article II, Section 2 - Although faculty and administration of District 36 are considered “Regular Members” – they will not pay dues or vote.

Article II, Section 5 – Needs further review.

Article IV, Section 2 – Add FAN under the list of “Representatives”. Change the Winnetka Alliance for Early Childhood Development to The Alliance for Early Childhood.

Article V, Section 4a – It should state that the past Central PTO Board President acts as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Article VI, Section 4c – Should read, “pay out funds in accordance with the budget as approved by the Membership and authorized by properly signed vouchers. All checks for \$500 or less shall be signed by the Treasurer. Checks for more than \$500 shall also be signed by one other authorized Officer; however, if the check is paid electronically, the other authorized Officer may approve it via e-mail. This e-mail shall be printed and retained with the Treasurer’s records.”

Article VII, Section 3a – Each school should review these procedures.

ADD – Article I, Section 6 – OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS. It is the purpose of the Central PTO to support, not sponsor, outside organizations.

These changes will be incorporated and reviewed at our next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10:17 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Beatty
Secretary