Central PTO Board

Minutes of Meeting

November 8, 2013 9:00 am

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Location: Skokie School, Winnetka, IL

Members Present: Nancy Fehrenbach (Chairperson), Melinda Baldwin (Vice Chair-Communications/Technology), Lisa Lux (Treasurer), Heather Bartell (Secretary), Anissa Forman (Co-President Skokie Washburne PTO), Barb Brown (President Crow Island PTO), Karen York (President Greely PTO), Heather Pigott (President Hubbard Woods PTO), Dr. Cathy Rosen (Principal Washburne School)

Members Absent: Thomas Hagerman (Superintendent Winnetka Public Schools), Kendra Wallace (Liaison from School Board), Jennifer Pehlke (Co-President Skokie Washburne PTO)

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1. President Report- Welcome
2. Secretary Report- Minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report- Lisa Lux

Federal Tax filing is in process.

1. VP Communications Report- Melinda Baldwin

Up to date.

V. Crow Island Report- Barb Brown

Come to School Day is next week. CI is currently planning the annual Parent Party. Monies from PTO funds have been allocated for improvements to individual classroom libraries. CI is planning for its 75th Anniversary party in October 2015 and currently collecting email addresses of famous alums.

VI. Greely Report- Karen York

Dream Green fundraising process has concluded. The Architect is currently working on plan to maximize the funds and scope. Expectations are for completion of project at start of school year 2014-15 and to make an impact immediately.

VII. Skokie-Washburne Report- Anissa Forman

Social Dance came to a successful end. Parents will be receiving a short survey regarding potential changes to the program. PTO is working on a new website.

VIII. FAN Report- Dr. Rosen

There was a good discussion about the documentary “Finding Kind” which will be shown this week at the school. Dr Rosen lead a discussion regarding the upcoming events sponsored by FAN. Please refer to the FAN website for dates and times.

IX. Hubbard Woods- Heather Pigott

The PTO is in the process of planning HW’s 100th Anniversary for 2015/2016. There will be multiple celebrations and a large gift to the school. A total of 18 stand up desks have been purchased for the classrooms. PTO is in process of interviewing new vendors for Hot Lunch program.

X. PTO Sponsored Organizations

There was a significant discussion regarding the organizations that are approved for direct PTO communications. Two years ago the Central PTO, in conjunction with the District, narrowed the approved list to five: FAN, The Alliance, Winnetka Public School Foundation, Erika’s Lighthouse and Haven. There are another 18 organizations that are allowed to post a link on the individual websites. There continue to be several organizations who have requested multiple times to be included as approved organizations.

Heather Pigot submitted the following PTO guidelines for determining sponsorship of non-profit organizations.

* Only submissions from non-profit organizations that offer activities for students or parents of students, in grades K-8 can be considered.
* Preference is given to organizations from New Trier Township.
* Flyers for activities that compete with District offerings (including camps) will not be accepted.
* Organizations must provide programs and services that specifically support or enhance the academic or social/emotional well-being of children in our district.

Nancy Fehrenbach brought additional clarity to the discussion by citing The National PTO organization as a guideline for choosing the key organizations that support the schools as well as those that receive funds from the Central PTO.

XIII. PTO Liability

There is a concern regarding PTO organized lunch programs specifically related to food allergies and any liability related to this. Nancy clarified that this is covered under our insurance. Food vendors are provided with district guidelines with respect to food allergies as well.

The discussion also lead to concern over security issues for food vendors. There will be follow up with all district food vendors at the individual schools.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 10.

Meeting concluded at 10:00 am

Minutes submitted by: Heather Bartell, Secretary