Central PTO Board

Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2013, 9:00 am

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Location: Nancy Fehrenbach’s Home, 594 Willow Road, 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), Jennifer Pehlke (Co-President Skokie Washburne PTO), Barb Brown (President Crow Island PTO), Karen York (President Greely PTO), Heather Pigott (President Hubbard Woods PTO), Thomas Hagerman (Superintendent Winnetka Public Schools), Kendra Wallace (Liaison from School Board)

Members Absent: None

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1. President Report- Nancy Fehrenback called meeting to order. Introductions were made by all members of the Board.
2. Secretary Report- No minutes to approve as this is the first meeting of the year.
3. Treasurer’s Report- Lisa Lux

Central PTO will be covering the cost of hosting the domain names for all four PTO websites. It is important that all domain names be registered in Lisa Lux’s name. In the past, each school has handled domain hosting differently with separate cost structures. In order to provide uniformity of service and cost, going forward all access and expenses will be processed through the Central PTO.

1. VP Communications Report- Melinda Baldwin

A. Winnetka Public Schools compiled a list of 18 affiliated organization that are approved for advertising through the PTO web pages. Any correspondence for these organizations will be directed to the Community Page on the Central PTO website. All PR that is approved should be done through the Central PTO website. Individual schools have different formats depending on the interest and audience of the individual school. The five affiliated organizations that provide direct exposure on website and publications are: FAN, Erika’s Lighthouse, WPSF, The Alliance and Haven.

B. Beginning in the school year 2012-13 all minutes for Central PTO can be found online. Going forward, the website will maintain one year history of Central PTO minutes. Past minutes can be provided upon request.

V. Superintendent’s Report- Dr. Thomas Hagerman

A. The extreme heat at the beginning of the school year proved to be a strain on students, staff and facilities. Several facilities are limited by the current electric grid which does not allow for central air conditioning and/or individual cooling units. There will likely be further discussion at the upcoming School Board meeting regarding long term options for the individual facilities.

B. It was a busy summer for District 36 employees with a multitude of opportunities for professional development. Many teachers attended workshops for the adaptation for the K-4 Math curriculum. There were 2 day, 4 day and on line versions available for the teachers.

C. Enrollment was down by approximately 30 students throughout the District. This was anticipated, but not as great as previous estimates. There were a significant numbers of new registrants the week prior to the start of school. Crow Island was up approximately 25 , Greeley was up approximately 5, Hubbard Woods was down approximately 20, Skokie was flat and Washburne was down approximately 35. The District anticipates losing an 8th grade team next year, as the last large class graduates this Spring.

D. This is a year for Collective Bargaining for District 36. New Trier district is in the negotiation process. Wilmette and Kenilworth have reached reasonable agreements. The School Board is committed to being fiscally responsible while serving the needs of the community.

E. There will be a staffing change in the Communications Department from two part time positions to one full time position. A search is under way.

F. ISAT scores decreased across the State. District 36 ISAT scores decreased across the board between all schools and throughout the grades. Some of of this is attributed to the new testing material and more rigorous standards for levels competence, i.e. “meets standards”, “exceeds standards”. There is expected to be additional discussion at the upcoming School Board Meeting.

VI. School Board Report- Kendra Wallace

A. It was an exciting start to school as this was the first time that school opened with 1:1 technology.

B. The School Board will be attending its annual retreat on September 17.

VII. Crow Island Report- Barb Brown

The school year is off to a great start with many new families and children. Through PTO funds and the childrens’ request, CI was able to add additional outside play equipment including an additional Imagination Playground and Gaga Pit. The PTO Board and all of its committees are well staffed and in full swing.

VIII. Greely Report- Karen York

Greely is off to a great school year. The Dream Green outdoor living space project is in its final push to receive all pledges by November 1st. It has been a 4-5 year initiative. The project will be 100% funded by private donations. The School Board is aware of its plan.

IX. Hubbard Woods- Heather Pigott

Hubbard Woods is off at a great start. There is a new crop of very helpful and excited volunteers. Heather asked for input on the cost of directories for each of the individual schools. There was a range of cost and size among the group. Hubbard Woods is doing a school survey to choose official school colors. The PTO is continuing to look at other options for the lunch program.

X. Skokie-Washburne Report- Anissa Forman and Jennifer Pehlke

Back to School Nights at both schools were a success. The Skokie-Washburne PTO has launched a financial appeal of $60 per family. This is an increase from previous years. The funds will be used to upgrade the Audio Visual system in the gym and auditorium. Co Presidents clarified the purpose of Social Dance as dance lessons for the sixth grade students.

XI. Communications Guidelines Discussion

The group came to the general agreement that all Public Relations for the individual schoolsl is done through the Central PTO website and official material from District 36.

XII. Other Central PTO Business

Next Meeting: Friday, October 18 at 9:00 am at Skokie School

Meeting concluded at 10:25 am

Minutes submitted by: Heather Bartell, Secretary