**PTO Meeting Notes**

**October 20, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Motioned by Sue Duffy

Seconded by Elizabeth DuSold

Introductions

**School and District Updates – Mrs. Krueger**

1. Mrs. Krueger provided a handout of the agenda of the Data Days that occur at Central three times/year (fall, winter, spring).
2. During the data days grade level teams meet with Mrs. Krueger to complete an in-depth assessment of where each student is with regard to their growth goals and needs.
3. Data is used to guide instruction in reading and math for each individual student
4. Data is also used to determine groups of students/individual students who require academic intervention/enrichment plans
5. Standardized test scores (MAP, Fluency, ISEL, Words Their Way) are reviewed extensively to guide next steps in instruction
6. Parents receive information about their individual child/children at parent-teacher conferences.
7. This year Central School has 4 title I instructional associates who provide support to the entire school.
8. Title III funds are also available and are utilized for before and after school ELL support.
9. The school newsletter is being delivered this year in the form of a email blog that parents can sign up for. The 4th and 5th graders are involved in the production of the blog. Mrs. Krueger passed out a flyer explaining how to sign up.

**Co-President Update – Stacy Weinert and Katrina Williams**

1. The following items were discussed at the District 62 Parent Communication Council meeting:
   1. Status of the Superintendent search
   2. District 62 now has 60% of the student population that qualifies for free and reduced lunch. Central has 45% qualifying for free and reduced lunch. This is a significant increase that has happened over the past several years.
   3. The District 62 crisis management/safety plans exceed State of Illinois requirements
   4. Central Elementary was recognized as the only school in the district that participated in the Walk to School Day.
   5. Bike to School Day is scheduled for May 4th. There are several schools that are interested in learning more about how Central conducts the Walk to School Day in order to participate in and have a successful Bike to School Day.
   6. The Des Plaines Park District is available to assist with volunteer staffing at school events. They are also willing to help with planning of events.
2. The PTO needs to decide the status of the 5th grade field trip for the drug and alcohol unit, as it is not in the PTO budget this year. Robert Crown has doubled the price per person for this field trip to $10 and there is a large 5th grade class this year. Total cost will be $630. The district pays for the cost of the bus. The sexuality unit of the field trip is part of the curriculum and is mandatory. The drug and alcohol part is an add-on. We do not know how much money is coming in this year because some of the fundraisers have been changed and we do not know what kind of revenue they will generate yet.
3. There are 2 fifth grade field trips this year. It was decided that the $5,000 gift to the school from the PTO a couple of years ago would be used for the fifth graders to attend Camp Duncan for a full day of team leadership. However, this could not be arranged because District 62 administration had concerns about some of the liability issues in Camp Duncan’s contract regarding the site. The fifth grade team and Mrs. Krueger are checking to see if maybe these activities could be done at the school instead of at the campgrounds.
4. Many of the schools in the district are using World’s Finest Chocolate for a fundraising event. This is the number 1 fundraiser for most of them, with sales ranging from $3,500-$5,000. This may be something that Central may want to consider in the future. Students are only allowed to solicit for fundraisers 3 times per year, so we will probably have to consider this for future school years, since this year we already have 3 fundraisers planned. Unless the fundraising committee wants to forgo the Noodle Night and do this instead.
5. The school directory is coming home soon.

**Budget Update – Diann Parcelli**

1. There is currently $15,681.40 in the bank, but this is before expenses.
2. We made $8,600 in sales (not profit) with the Charleston Wrap fundraiser.
3. Please remember to submit invoices and receipts

**Fundraising - Susann Folsome, Karen Poskozim, Melissa Samp**

1. The Square 1 Art fall fundraiser will be coming home soon. Most classes have finished their art.
2. The Dine and Share at Buona Beef for September resulted in no money for the school because purchases were below the minimum amount required by the restaurant.
3. The next Dine and Share will be October 22nd at Noodles and Company in Park Ridge.
4. We have received a lot more Box Tops this year versus last year.
5. Target is dropping its school donation program in May 2016, so make your purchases now.
6. The PTO could make the decision to replace the Noodle Night scheduled for the spring in order to sell World’s Finest Chocolate this year. This is, in part, a philosophical issue. Does the PTO want to make as much money as it can this year since STRUT and Parents Night Out are being eliminated from the schedule, or do we want to have the kids do something they can participate in more fully that isn’t just a catalog sale? Kids can only solicit in 3 fundraisers per year. So far we have done Charleston Wrap and we have Square 1 Art. So the 3rd will either be continue with Noodle Night or World’s Finest Chocolate. Based on some of the discussion around this, it appears that the unofficial consensus is to stick with the plan for Noodle Night.
7. Noodle Night will be listed as an agenda item for November so that further discussion can occur. We need to solicit food donations very soon. If we can get all of the food donated, there will be 100% profit for the PTO from the ticket sales.

**Programs/CASE – Sue Duffy, Elizabeth DuSold, Peg Martin, Amy Hoffman**

1. Spooky Skate is October 29th. There will be a food drive for the Des Plaines Food Pantry that evening.
2. Classroom Halloween parties are scheduled for October 29th for kindergarten and October 30th for grades 1-5.
3. The Taste of Central/Craft Night is scheduled for November 5th. The Taste part of the evening has been cancelled; there will be craft making only. The craft is for the holiday trees that will be in downtown Des Plaines. The theme this year is sharing. The tree lighting will be December 4th.
4. There is no school on November 10th and 11th.
5. Coaches are needed for Girls on the Run starting in April. Times are Monday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Hospitality – Diana Del Valle, Sue Duffy, Amy Hoffman, Rebecca Cusack**

1. Science Night was October 15th and was well attended.
2. The 4th and 5th grade Veterans Day concert will be November 3rd. Mrs. Tran is coordinating with the VFW and grandparents/parents in order to recognize veterans. Bake sale treats are needed for both the afternoon and evening performances.
3. The next popcorn day is November 6th.
4. The November birthday lunch is scheduled for November 17th.

**Central Cares – Tracy Sommerfeldt, Dawn Wilson, Mandy Collingsworth**

1. Kindergarten has the Des Plaines Food Pantry red bucket for the month of October
2. Walk to School Day on October 7th was very successful.
3. The kids will be doing another international outreach project this year.

**Appreciation – Dolly Nordheimer, Kari Pittro**

1. Principal Appreciation Week was October 19-23. Mrs. Krueger was appreciated with various gifts from the PTO and the students.
2. New Appreciation Secretaries are being sought for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Correspondence – Adrienne Balow**

1. Notifications of upcoming events are being sent on a regular basis.

**Recording Secretary – Julie Salmons**

1. Meeting minutes from the September 15th meeting were sent and approved via email. They will be posted on the PTO web site.

**Other:**

Mrs. Lucas shared the following:

1. The school supply boxes that the PTO distributed to teachers at the beginning of the school year was a genius idea. All of the teachers really appreciated the gesture.
2. Thank you to the PTO for contributing to the magazine subscriptions. There are so many great features of these subscriptions including
   1. a digital component
   2. non-fiction/informational text
   3. printables
   4. vocabulary games
   5. Reading A-Z with level readers on all topics

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Motioned by Diann Parcelli

Seconded by Susann Folsome

Notes taken and prepared by Julie Salmons

Minutes approval

Motioned by

Seconded by