

SOCSD PTA Council Minutes
Monday, September 20, 2010
Tappan Zee High School Library

Meeting called to order: 7:05 p.m. by Michelle Jones.

Attendees: Pamela Aguilung, Maureen Aitchison, Trish Bakker, Moira Byrnes, Vicki Caramante, Jane Anne Casey, Janet Dayson, Orli Irgang, Michelle Jones, Evan Karzhevsky, Micki Leader, Kathy Mart, Mary Paul, Ron Shapiro, Seta Tunell, Patricia Waffenschmidt; Guests: Merle Payne, Laurie Becker, Don Payne

Minutes: May 27, 2010 minutes reviewed and approved.

PTA Directory: Michelle Jones distributed hard copies of 2010-2011 PTA Directory and also advised that it is posted on the District website. An update will be done in early October.

Treasurer Report: Given by Kathy Mart.

Proposed Budget – distributed hard copies of 2010-2011 proposed budget; indicated that most income will be coming from Founder’s Day. This year’s budget is based upon what was spent last year.

Dues – Kathy will email dues bills shortly. Dues bills are due back on October 15, 2010. This date has been moved back from the original due date in January (as per current bylaws) and bills are now due by October 15, not January.

Council President’s Report: Given by Michelle Jones.

Flu Shots for Staff – table was set up and staffed by Michelle, Rosemary, and SOCES parent volunteer nurses. Proceeds helped with Founder’s Day Budget. Council received \$1.00 - \$2.00/flu shot administered, and proceeds helped to cover expenses toward the Founder’s Day budget. This event is quite simple to do and is expected to be done again this year.

Proposed Budget 2010 – 2011 – Vicki Caramante motioned to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Mary Paul, all in favor 100%; budget approved.

President’s Principal’s Dinner – will be hosted on October 21, 2010 at Casa Mia at 6:30 p.m. Invitations were mailed last Thursday, September 16. Michelle will scan and email to President’s of TZHS and SEPTA.

Dates Review:

- PTA/BOE Retreat – will be hosted on October 19, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Will include all unit presidents and Board of Education members.
- NYS PTA Convention – will be held on November 12 – 14, 2010 in Buffalo, New York. It is important that each unit send a delegate. Good opportunity to attend workshops, network, learn, etc.

Basics Review:

Recording Secretary shall obtain and bring the following to each meeting:

- NYS PTA Resource Guide
- Current PTA Unit Membership Lists – ensure that each voting member is also a current PTA member in good standing.
- All Council records on disk; will help will end of year transitions.

File Cabinets – Council has been looking to secure some file cabinets for storing materials and files. Micki Leader suggested calling United Way for donation of file cabinets and other office supplies. Kathy Mart will follow up.

PTA/District Goals Alignment – Michelle Jones is looking at diversity; SOMS awarded highest membership growth for 2009-2010 in Central Hudson Region. TZHS also received award. Goal: Engage more active volunteers in PTA.

Fiscal Issues—

- Taxes and 990-N -- Michelle indicated that Unit President's should talk to their Treasurers about taxes and 990-N forms.
- Bond – Vicki Caramante asked about the status of the bond for roof repairs for SOMS and TZHS. There will be a meeting next week with Dr. Mitchell and indicated that it does appear that we will need to put up a bond for this work. More information to follow.

Founder's Day – Seta Tunell will oversee this event for the upcoming year. She will chair the committee alone in accordance with PTA best practices, which does not encourage co-chairs. Seta advised that the flyers will be going out to the Committee members and posted on the website.

Installation and Candidates Forum – will be run by Moira Byrnes this year. It's not too early to begin talking to units about getting Nominating Committee together for next year. Michelle will give Moira the binder.

Unit Reports:

TZHS – given by Mary Paul and Trish Bakker

- First meeting was fairly well attended.
- Will be getting speakers in;
- Will be doing Heros & Cool Kids Mentoring Program for 6th grade and up.
- Unit membership is 60-70; will be doing a membership drive where each member emails 10 people they know (point of contact); similar to a “reach out and touch” program.
- Back-to-school night on Thursday evening.
- Founder's Day – need to get TZHS onto website and get info out early.
- Project Graduation – very successful.
- Yankee Candle Fundraiser – purchase through them if you are purchasing candles.

SOMS – given by Evan Karzhevsky

- Membership is 199; 49 is staff.
- Welcome Back Breakfast for staff on first day back.
- SOMS received check for \$50 from NYS PTA in recognition of achieving the highest growth in Central Hudson Region for 2009-2010.

- First Unit Meeting will be Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m; expect to have a large turnout as Karen Tesik will be addressing the new schedule.
- Sixth Grade Meet-the-Teacher is on Wednesday evening; will have membership and Founder's Day information on the tables.
- School store and clothing sale are underway; School Spirit Sale also underway and doing well.

SEPTA – given by Orli Irgang

- October 26 will be the first meeting
- Will have five meeting this year.
- Will be holding a carwash fundraiser
- Executive Committee to be held soon.
- SEPTA needs table at all back-to-school nights. Vicki offered to share with SOCES and will have space ready for next week 4th and 5th grade nights.

SOCES – given by Vicki Caramante

- Welcome Back Breakfast for all three schools on September 2. Spoke to staff at CLE and WOS that morning to welcome everyone to the new year, stress the importance of partnerships, collaboration and membership in PTA. Because of the tragedy suffered at TZE, we did not speak to staff that morning; Dr. Lee has invited us to speak at a staff meeting. Membership forms were distributed to all staff in the two schools with an incentive to join that day: a tote bag filled with teacher goodies. A staff survey was also distributed to the two schools that morning; we have received about 6 responses. An email will be sent to staff at all three schools once we have a date to meet with TZE, announcing the number of staff to join so far, a reminder to join, and another copy of the survey.
- Membership – Our chair has attended almost all back to school nights; others have attended when she could not. As of Friday our membership was 206 with more applications coming in; many more teachers have joined this year than last.
- PayPal - working very well!
- New logo will appear on t-shirts; logo magnets will be distributed to anyone who has paid membership dues. New logo is also on the website. Jane Casey to give Vicki air freshener so that it can be sold for SOCES.
- Initiatives
 - School Supplies – in consultation with staff of WOS & TZE, SOCES arranged for parents to have the opportunity to purchase school supply kits on line. About 200 kits were delivered to the schools in the summer; students have their supplies waiting for them on the first day. We expect CLE will participate this coming year. Parents seem to like the idea but asked for more advanced notice next time. We anticipate advertising the kits in Spring.
 - Germ Smart© - our Parent Assembly is scheduled for Oct. 4th. We will only be able to present/operate the program in WOS this year as the curriculum still needs to be revised to be age-appropriate for the upper grades. Kristan Bridges and the Germ Smart© Committee will work on this over the coming months, collaborating with school nurses, staffs, medical professionals, etc. Last year absences were reduced by 20% and visits to the nurse dropped 40%, all due directly to Germ Smart©! Information will be in October newsletters.

- Field Trips – procedures in place developed with Business Office to ensure payments are collected and donated in a timely manner. First trip in October to Hudson Highlands for 4th grade.
- Assemblies – the District is allocated \$31,500. Once we know how much Arts in Education funding is available to SOCES, we will have all paperwork submitted to the Business Office per agreed upon Arts in Education funding procedures. We expect to spend approximately \$6-7000 per building through this program.
- SOCES School Spirit Week – runs November 1st-5th. Our Membership Chair and Building VPs are reaching out to principals and staff to plan activities. Events will include Decorate Your Door Day.
- Next SOCES PTA meeting – Wednesday, October 13 at CLE 9:30 a.m. School nurses have been invited to speak about lice. Trish Bakker offered information on Lice Enders, a company that comes to the school and checks and remove lice from the children onsite.
- SOCES Anniversary – This year SOCES will celebrate its 45th anniversary; so successful due to good hard work, parent involvement and collaboration. SOCES not planning a big celebration but touting this information on website and other places.

NYS PTA Presentation – given by Merle Payne and Laurie Becker. Topics covered:

- National Standards for Parent School Partnerships – full PowerPoint presentation and notes can be found on the NYS PTA website in Members Only section.
- NYS PTA Reorganization - Update

Handouts were provided. See attached for full information.

New Business:

Robert's Rules – should be reviewed by all.

Title 1 – should be reviewed.

Board of Education will rotate through meetings every month; all agreed that was valuable. Also mentioned that a PTA member should attend Board of Education Meetings to give monthly update/presentation. Jane suggested rotating delegates. Michelle stated it is important to get communication/reporting back and forth. Council should discuss further.

Announcements:

Next PTA Council Meeting – Monday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.

President's Meeting – September 28 at 9:15 a.m.

Jane Anne Casey motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:59 p.m. Agreed by all. Meeting adjourned.

Pamela Aguilin

SOCSD PTA Council Secretary

Date Approved: October 4, 2010

As Presented