

MINUTES FROM THE 6/2/08 PTA COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:46. The following people were in attendance: Kathy Mart, Karen LaFiandra, Cindy Pardo, Mary Paul, Jane Ann Casey, Marybeth Carley, Janet Armetta, Theresa Costello, Judy Hurban, Micki Leader, Lucia Caruana, Jean Dennehey, Terri Drexler, Allison DeRosa, Kathy Von Dollen, Christine Brew-Mitchell, Christine Shin, Laura Neuendorf, Denise Jensen and Michelle Jones.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 4/28/08 meeting by J. Casey, seconded by M. Paul and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

The actual revenue total column on the spreadsheet needs to be corrected. What is the \$140 in the council initiative in the proposed budget column for? No budget signs were sold. Dues and contributions will stay the same for the 08/09 budget. A. DeRosa, J. Dennehy and K. Mart will audit the accounting records.

Council President's Report

The budget passed by only a small number of votes this year and last year. The budget was very close to what the contingency level would be—did that help it pass? Seniors are upset about the budget and rising costs. Can the school district try to keep costs down for such things as utilities, paper, etc. The cost for the calling post was about \$260, which provided 2500 calls. Council will pay the entire cost rather than billing the individual units. The flowers for PTA installation were ordered through J. Casey. Two additional pins to be given out at installation will be ordered by C. Shin.

The slate for PTA Council for 2008/2009 is as follows:

Jean Dennehy and Lucia Caruana—Co-Presidents
Michelle Balm and Mary Ellen LeWarn—Vice Presidents
Christine Shin—Treasurer
Kathy Mart—Recording secretary
Beth Stout—Corresponding secretary

J. Casey made a motion to vote slate all as one, seconded by M. Paul and approved by everyone.

A suggestion was made to put information about PTA positions in the SOCSO e-mail newsletter so people could better decide what to volunteer for. Has there been anyone interviewed for the CSE chair position? A SEPTA member has volunteered but has not heard anything from the Special Ed department.

Unit President's Reports

SOMS

The staff loved the staff appreciation day. The 8th grade trip ended early due to torrential rain and the fact that staff was told that Hershey Park would be closing the rides. The slate for next year has a couple of open positions. Rachel's

challenge was presented at the last meeting. Dennis O'Sullivan did a presentation on drugs and alcohol to the 7th and 8th graders, as well as the PTA. NJHS inducted over 100 7th graders at their meeting in May. The eighth grade dance will be held on June 20th and the moving up ceremony will be on June 26th.

ECP

The Family Fun day was enjoyed by those who came, but the revenue only covered expense for the event. June 13th is the Family Picnic and June 25th is graduation. The slate for next year is complete.

SOCES

The Luau was not well attended. The fourth and fifth grade night has about 140 kids responding and will close out on June 4th. A breakfast was provided on staff appreciation day. The plant sale took place the Friday before Mother's Day. Checks and returned pictures from the spring picture fundraiser are still being returned. The slate for next year is full.

SEPTA

Paul Trinkoff did a presentation on May 15th about the importance of exercise. The meeting was well attended. SEPTA is working on co-sponsoring two meetings with ECP and possibly holding meetings together with SOMS PTA. The slate is full for next year.

TZHS

The staff appreciation breakfast was successful and each staff member also got a pen. About twenty-five people attended the time management workshop. The PTSA will give out 25 scholarships and the guidance department will give out 20 scholarships. The prom is June 12th and none of the guests will be allowed to leave before 11PM. Project graduation will be at the high school starting at 11PM and ending at 5AM. Students will take buses from SOMS to the high school. Many activities have been planned including game stations, a comedian and breakfast. Usually about 80% of the students attend. Graduation is June 26th. The slate for next year is full.

Other Business

It has been questioned as to why the kids involved in SADD have not come forward to make a statement regarding Howard Sokol. The administration feels that the kids should not be involved in this. M. Leader has a petition that will be circulated and presented to the BOE.

The PTA Council will have a representative read the following statement at the next BOE meeting:

Although we, the South Orangetown Central School District PTA Council, understand an individual's right to due process, we in looking out for the welfare and safety of our children, feel it necessary to make the following statement. Understanding that this is Mr. Sokol's decision to make and the Board cannot take any specific action, we are compelled to come forward to make you aware

of our concerns regarding the inconsistent message our children are receiving. As an advocacy organization, the SOCS D PTA Council is concerned with the education, the care and the protection of children and youth. Therefore, we recommend to the SOCS D Board of Education that, in the best interest of our students, Mr. Sokol NOT be sworn in as a BOE member.

A motion to accept the above statement was made by D. Jensen, seconded by M. Jones and approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mart