

## MINUTES FROM THE 9/8/08 PTA COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:42. The following people were in attendance: Kathy Mart, Jane Ann Casey, Marybeth Carley, Theresa Costello, Micki Leader, Lucia Caruana, Jean Dennehey, Allison DeRosa, Kathy Frost, Christine Shin, Laura Neuendorf, Beth Stout, Liz Lotz, Michelle Balm and Michelle Jones.

All members introduced themselves and the role of the council and delegates was discussed. The main purpose of the council is to advocate for the welfare of our children and our role is to inform, advise, guide, instruct and encourage the leaders of local units while also being responsive to their needs for conferences, leadership training and coordination of efforts of the unit PTA's. There should be four delegates per unit and at least one should attend the council meetings. The role of the delegate is to report what is discussed at a council meeting at their unit's PTA meeting and to bring any issues/question to the council meetings.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 6/2/08 meeting by L. Neuendorf, seconded by M. Balm and approved by all.

### Treasurer's Report

Three bills are still outstanding and need to be paid by council. A bill for paper, the WOS staff appreciation sign and a printing bill for the Founder's Day program. SOCES PTA paid the bill for the staff appreciation sign in error. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by A. DeRosa, seconded by M. Balm and approved by all.

For the 2008/2009 the dues and contributions from the PTA's will stay the same. The Verizon contribution line will come off the budget. The two council initiative lines will stay in the budget, but will have a zero amount. Could the council initiative line be used for K-12 anti-bullying assemblies/programs, maybe having 3 or 4 during the school year. Each PTA would pay part of the cost to council who would then pay for the program. The Founder's Day expense line will be raised to \$1000. Prior to the budget vote notices should be sent home to ask people to put out their budget signs or they could get one to put out.

### Council President's Report

Dr. Mitchell had each PTA president/co-president fill out a questionnaire prior to his meeting with each PTA. The PTA council's priorities are Powerschool, school start time, keeping the Princeton Plan, keeping class

size small, field trips and improving the parent participation in the interviewing process. SEPTA's priorities are communication, specialized services for children, the interview process, children who are not reading on level, lack of trust and a concern about how many children are on the autistic spectrum. SOCES's priorities are field trips and communication. What needs to be done or can be done to increase participation in PTAs. PTA meetings need to be more positive.

Any corrections to the PTA directory need to be sent to Laura N. by September 17<sup>th</sup>. Laura also needs to know how many directories are needed for each unit. The BOE retreat will be held the end of September or the beginning of October. The PTA presidents can also attend. The NYS PTA Convention is November 7-9 in Rochester. The Central Hudson PTA Fall Convention date is still to be determined. There is no date yet for the President/Principals Dinner. The Superintendents is to address the community on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the high school auditorium. The unit president's still need to receive the resource guide.

## Unit President's Reports

### SOMS

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance was well attended. People without tickets got into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony. A welcome back breakfast was provided on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The membership drive started in September rather than sending the membership forms home in August. Families can sign up to receive correspondence only via e-mail. This will not be used to solicit for committee work or volunteering for events. The first meeting is September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### ECP

The first meeting will be on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> after the meet the teacher night. The Family Picnic will be held in September. Each class will have a color code so that parents in each class will be able to meet and greet each other.

### SOCES

SOCES PTA is also trying to send correspondence home through e-mail to save paper. Theresa C. went to the WOS faculty meeting on 9/8 to give an overview of the PTA. The executive board is looking for feedback on PTA programs such as RIF, assemblies, etc. The first PTA meeting will be on the Kindergarten meet the teacher night at 8:15.

### SEPTA

The first meeting will be held in October.

## TZHS

198 students attended Project Graduation. Forty-five scholarships totaling \$11,000 were given out. The high school has a new Assistant Principal. A welcome back breakfast was held on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Old Business

The members of SEPTA PTA that were willing to be on the interview committee for the special ed position were never contacted about any interview. In the future can administration reach out to the Unit Presidents as well as council presidents when a parent volunteer is needed at an interview?

### New Business

Powerschool will be replaced by another software product.

The following are some questions raised about TZHS:

Why do some of the seniors not have a ninth grade class?

Can there be honors level classes in 9<sup>th</sup> grade? Not just having additional work in ELA or SS in the second quarter if you had a certain average in the first quarter.

We have an open campus where do the students go if they leave the property?

Ed Bolan is very supportive about teachers joining the PTA.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by A. DeRosa, seconded by J. Casey and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mart