

General Membership Meeting



May 12, 2011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the April 14, 2011 General Membership Meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence and Special Announcements

Dana Wiley welcomed new Chairpersons who will be joining the PTA for 2011/2012: Janell Harper, Newsletter and Publicity; Nicole Bowman, Ways & Means Art Memory program; Joan Sterns, Ways & Means Dine and Share; Dena Pusateri, SpiritWear; Leslie Threadgill-Smith and Pam DeWitt, Volunteer Coordinator; Allison Baker Wabel and Amy Pirretti, Health and Safety; Kelly Gyorke, Website.

Many thanks to Kelly Ekstrom for her contributions to the Website to date. Kelly Gyorke has redesigned our Website with the same address, www.cmpta158.org, to be more intuitive to users, including forms, pictures, and a PayPal button for direct donations, among other items.

Treasurer's Report

Paul King reported there is \$39,000 available cash as of 5/12/11 with some grade levels and departments with budget money outstanding. Paul requests that all check requests be received by him by the end of May so that all checks can clear the bank by June 30th, otherwise those monies would be taken from the 2011/2012 budget, which would require a membership vote to adjust the balance.

Dana Wiley commented that she will send a note to both principals and ask them to share that information with Staff Liaisons and the staff in general. Toby Davidson commented that she had put that information in her last newsletter, but will do so again.

Jill Cross requested that when field trip permission slips are sent home that a note is included near the cost of any monies sponsored by the PTA be noted to increase awareness that the PTA sponsors those events. Toby Davidson responded she would be happy to look into that.

President's Report

Dana Wiley reported the PTA is looking for a Chair for Ways & Means for the cash raffle that was introduced in last month's meeting. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would be please let Dana know. Dana will also look into students at the college level who may be interested in working on this as a not-for-profit internship or a committee of people interesting in handling various aspects, such as ticket printing, advertisement on the tickets, advertisement to sell tickets, etc.

Upcoming events over the summer include: fall fundraiser; Wrap Paks; Membership; Open Houses; updating e-mail lists. The copy center is open with reduced hours over the summer. Also if any Chairs require building space for next year fall please fill out the required forms and submit them to the office(s) prior to the end of this school year.

There will be a final meeting for the Executive Board and Committee Chairs on Thursday, June 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the PTA room to end this year and begin transitioning and planning for next year.

There will be a summer PTA celebration to thank all of our outgoing and incoming Chairs for their hard work this year. The celebration will take place on June 12th at Dana Wiley's house. Details to follow.

Dana thanked all of the Chairs and Executive Board members for all of their work this year in making the PTA a success. While the role of a volunteer can be labor intensive, it is well worth it to give us all a chance to act as advocates for our children, the staff, and our schools.

Thank you notes and pins were handed out to the Committee Chairs and Executive Board members.

Vice Presidents' Reports

Daunel Czarnecki had nothing to report.

Joselyn Hummel not in attendance.

Riaz Baxamusa had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Assemblies – No report.

Beautification and Gardening – Dana Wiley reported for Bill Heiden. The flower sale went well, with product sold at approximately \$5,000 and a \$1,000 profit to the PTA. Bill is meeting with Doug Renkosik to discuss campus additions for next year. The Butterfly Garden has been cut back and will need mulch and weed killer applied. The new Butterfly houses will be installed in the new few weeks. At the Chesak Garden beds were raised so the children can plant vegetables. Troop 1657 will work on their Gardening Merit Badge there this year. The Chesak Garden will also serve as an educational resource for students. Any excess food grown will be donated to the Grafton Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed for the Garden to help tend it this summer. Bill is planning a Garden Walk to include the Butterfly Garden and the Chesak Garden in July, and Troop 1657 will participate in that also.

Dad's Club – Paul LaFleur reported he is gearing up Dad's Club for next year with events such as Pumpkin carving, a Chili Cook-off, and a Mother's Day event.

Family Events – Dana Wiley reported for Jennifer Lupo. The final Family Event is Muffins with Mom scheduled for Saturday, May 14th from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Chesak cafeteria. Food pantry donations will be picked up at the event.

Health and Safety – Dana Wiley reported for Joselyn Hummel. The next Health & Safety newsletter will be sent out in late May.

Membership – Daunel Czarnecki reported for Lynn Miller. Membership forms are available and membership dues for those attending the meeting would be \$5, and a reminder that all Chairs and Executive Board Members must be a paid member to hold those positions. Lynn is also working on a theme for next year's membership drive.

A suggestion from the floor was made to offer parents the opportunity to purchase a PTA membership for your child's teacher or any of the specials teachers. Dana Wiley responded that was an excellent suggestion and she would coordinate with Lynn to get that information out to people.

Dana Wiley commented that the National PTA is proposing to raise dues from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per person in 2013. Dana has e-mailed our local PTA rep and our state PTA rep in protest of that action given the economic conditions.

Publicity – Jill Cross reported that newsletter items are due by Monday. The bulletin boards are available to the PTA all summer, and Jill will work on something fun for Kindergarten tours.

Reflections – Kelly Gyorke reported all artwork has been returned to the students. Only half of the Committees budget was spent this year. National winners have been announced and are posted on our Website, but none of them were from Chesak or Martin.

SpiritWear – Daunel Czarnecki reported for Lucy Higginbotham. The RFP and vendor meeting process happened with 3 vendors in the past month. Lucy, Joselyn, and Daunel met with the vendors and determined the Heads Up Apparel with be our SpiritWear vendor for 2011/2012.

Question from the floor asking if the vendor is local. Daunel Czarnecki responded they are located in Barrington.

Staff Appreciation – Niki Burkey reported that Staff Appreciation week was a huge success with a theme of the Greatest Staff on Earth. Niki thanked the core group of volunteers who helped put the week together, as well as those who made donations to the week or gathered donations for the raffle prizes. The HEA began the week with breakfast, and then the staff were treated to salty snacks (all items 100% donated), lunch from Jersey Mike's at a reduced cost, and a sweet treat finish (all items 90% donated). With the generosity of so many Niki reported she is able to return \$2,000 of unused money back to the budget.

The staff had the opportunity to participate in some fun activities and dress up like clowns, and it was very well received by the staff and the children. Niki then showed a video montage of the week's activities showing the week's success, which will be posted to the PTA Website.

Staff Liaison – Toby Davidson expressed her appreciation to Niki Burkey, the Committee, and the parents for a fun and festive SA Week. The children loved the decoration and the teachers dressing up, and the treats were wonderful. Everything was greatly appreciated and many thank you cards were written to express that.

Dana Wiley commented that all of the thank you cards received by the PTA are hung up in the PTA room for all to see.

Variety Show – Dana Wiley reported Julie Filipek is working on securing dates for next year's Variety Show.

Volunteer Coordinator – Jill Cross reported over the summer the incoming Chairs will take over the Chesak Garden, Wrap Pak, and Open House coordination.

Ways and Means – Jackie Carnana had nothing to report. Dana Wiley reported the PTA will begin contacting vendors in the fall for a spring product sale.

Website – Kelly Gyorke reported on the new Web design that will grow over time. She requests each Chair look at their page and notify her of any corrections. Kelly is also looking for any updated pictures, etc. The PTA is now on Twitter. To be notified of Twitter updates simply text "follow cmpta158" to 40404. You may stop texts by texting "leave" to 40404. We are currently looking into a new Facebook page also.

Wrap Paks – Caryn Hursey reported they are beginning to receive forms back. As an incentive there will be a raffle drawing each week for 3 weeks for one free Wrap Pak; each Monday through Friday those forms that are returned in paper or online one winner will be chosen from both schools to receive a free Wrap Pak. Paper orders are due June 10th and online orders are due June 15th. Delivery is set for August 17th.

New Business

Jill Cross and Dana Wiley are PTA representatives of a new initiative, D158 Strategic Planning Committee. Jill Cross reported their role is to design a five-year plan for the District. This committee is comprised of teachers, staff, parents, Del Webb residents, business owners, etc. Jill discussed a list of activities and reports the committee has seen to date. For more information please contact Jill or Dana.

Jori Toman is the PTA representative for the D158 Wellness Committee. Jori Toman reported this committee's role is to assess the wellness of the children and food issues. Jori discussed information from the committee focusing on birthday treats in the classroom. A discussion ensued about the benefits and detriments of cupcakes and candy being used to celebrate birthdays, and Jori would like input from people regarding alternate suggestions.

Dana Wiley commented we could post a poll on the Website for feedback from our families on this topic. The PTA would also be interested in the Committee's recommendations so that we may be compliant with their suggestions for our reward offerings in the future.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Maciejewski reported the 5th grade students went on a tour of Marlowe Middle School in preparation for their transition next year. Also thank you for SA Week—it was fantastic and fun. We have great schools, teachers, and parents, and we wouldn't be the great schools we are without everyone.

Mr. Lamb reported that the Wellness Committee should be a management of the food issue within reason. During his PBIS lunches with the students he has noted them eating raw vegetables, so he believes awareness is happening within families. Art night was amazing. Mr. Lamb notes that it is amazing what is done in our community, and it is a reflection of the community's values towards educations. The Data Management System being introduced to the District will be a valuable tool for teachers.

Unfinished Business

Dana Wiley announced the proposed budget for 2011/2012 would be voted on. Dana reminded everyone in order to vote you must be a paid member in good standing for 30 days. Paul King called for any questions regarding the budget before the vote.

Question from the floor regarding how will Chairs know how much money they have to spend on activities next year. Paul responded they would have to speak to the grade teacher liaisons to determine how the budget will be spent for the year prior to any activities being booked.

Dana commented that we will have a plan to present to the teachers to they can determine how to spend their budgets, with 80% focusing on the children. Paul commented he has put together a list of expenses for the last two years that is detailed by grade level for the teachers to use as a guide for budgeting next year.

Dana commented that activities do not necessarily have to be cut next year, but alternative means of funding may need to be evaluated, i.e. parents pay more for field trips.

A motion was made by Riaz Baxamusa to vote for the 2011/2012 budget and seconded by Jori Toman. The vote proceeded by a show of hands. Those in favor were 19 and those opposed were 0.

Dana Wiley announced the motion to approve the 2011/2012 budget was passed and the budget approved.

Jessica Olszewski represented the Nominating Committee in calling for an election for the 2011/2012 Executive Board. Jessica addressed each nominee and asked if they would officially accept the nomination for the positions of: Dana Wiley, President; Riaz Baxamusa, Vice President; Jori Toman, Vice President; Daunel Czarnecki, Vice President; Paul King, Treasurer; Heather Schuster, Secretary. Each nominee accepted the nomination. Jackie Carnana motioned that all candidates be voted in a slate vote at once. The motion was seconded by Niki Burkey.

A vote ensued by a show of hands for the 2011/2012 Executive Board. The vote was unanimous with no opposition. The 2011/2012 Executive Board was elected.

Adjournment

Dana Wiley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2011.