



**PTO Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2016**

**In attendance:** Darcy Carn, Jenn Kohan, Jill Miller, Lisa Wood, Denise DiSarno, Galia Sicard, Sue Gully, Ann Butler, Ann Maio, Sara Lesende, Elise Moholkar, Kathy O'Leary, Kathy Powers, Christine Blocker, George Villar, Sheila Connelly, Melissa Backer, Chrystyna Lazirko, Jennifer Dawson.

**The minutes from June 14, 2016 were approved.**

**President/Vice President's Report**

Darcy introduced Jenn Kohan, the new co-president. There are many new people on the board this year and it was wonderful to have new energy. She reported that due to the inclement weather, the Back to School BBQ had to be postponed. It will be rescheduled in May or June. There are hopes for a "Dunk Tank" and other fun carnival games. The PTO sold over 100 Jets tickets, which is intended to be more of a Long Hill family event rather than a fundraiser. Also new this year will be a Devils night in February. In September the PTO had the Kid Stuff Coupon Book fundraiser, Buzz Book/PTO membership drive, and School Supply Kit Fundraiser. The PTO is interested in the staff's thoughts of the School Supply Kits. Presently, the Fall Fundraiser (Gift wrap) is going on and Spirit Wear information will be announced very soon. If parents have not taken the District's Communication survey, there is still time to participate. The PTO will add a link onto the PTO Facebook page for parents' convenience. The district is presently participating in the "Bring Dinner Home" Drive in support of Camden Street School in Newark. In December the PTO will be sponsoring the annual coat drive in Millington and Central Schools and the Mitten Tree in Gillette. Finally, information has been shared with the PTO about The Great Oak Ski & Board Club for students in middle school. There will be a meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in William Annin Middle School in Basking Ridge. The flyer will be posted on the PTO Facebook page.

**Financial Report**

Jill reviewed the financial report. She commented that the financials are in good shape. Back to School spirit item sales brought in \$72 at Gillette, \$118 at Millington and \$73 at Central. The food day period of September-November 2016 has netted the PTO approximately \$9200 not including expenses. So far expenditures have been the Michael Buckley Author Visit at Millington, Cultural Arts events (Mayhem poets at Central and Pushcart Players at Gillette), bagel breakfasts for the staff at all 3 schools, Gillette's Back to School social and various teacher requests.

Account balances as of October 18, 2016

Assets:

Central School Funds	\$ 2,054.21
Checking Account (MSB)	31,659.41
Dedicated Fund	38,775.53
Recreation Fund - Savings	504.85
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	<u>\$107,459.35</u>

TOTAL ASSETS \$107,459.35

Liabilities:

CS Party Dues	<u>\$ 184.06</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 184.06
OVERALL TOTAL	\$107,275.29

**School Representatives' Report**

Central: Elise shared that the first of two school dances will be October 21<sup>st</sup>. The second dance will be March 24<sup>th</sup>. The NJ Consortium Problem Solving tournament will be Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. The Halloween parade is Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:15PM. Finally the Central School boy soccer team beat Pingry today!

Millington: Galia reported that author Michael Buckley visited the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Picture retake day is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Millington Night of Magic is Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Finally, the Halloween parade is at 1:45PM on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> with class parties following.

Gillette: Jill shared that the Gillette Back to School social on September 22<sup>nd</sup> was a great success.

**Secretary's Report**

Lisa read thank you cards from:

- Bonnie Plotkin, who greatly appreciates the generous retirement gift and commented she felt blessed to have been part of such a special community.
- Emily Palla, who was grateful for the seat sacks that will help her 3<sup>rd</sup> graders stay organized.
- Jane Fragnito, who is looking forward to incorporating the five Kindles. They will be a "true asset" to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading program.
- Connell Rae, 2016 graduate of WHRHS and one of the recipients of the LHT PTO Scholarships. He commented how extremely lucky he was to grow up in a town of such dedicated parents.

Correspondences were sent to The Doran Family, The Stirling Elks, and Allison LaHoff of Halls Garden Center & Florist. The PTO is sincerely appreciative of their generosity.

**Teacher's Report**

Kathy Powers is looking forward to being the Teacher Liaison again this year. She reported that the third grade teachers were extremely grateful for the seat sacks.

**Administration Report**

Mrs. Dawson reported that the students are halfway through the first marking period. She thanked the parents for their support and understanding during the transitions at the beginning of the year. All classes are back to their original rooms with the exception of one 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class that has been permanently moved. The Halloween parade will be on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:45PM. A flyer will be sent home covering safety reminders. She commented that they are expecting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to be good role models for the younger students.

Mr. Villar spoke about the Central School 40 Book Challenge that was initiated by Mrs. Paugh, the Central School librarian. It is meant to inspire and motivate middle school students to read, though they are not required to read exactly 40 books. Students seem to be responding well to the program. He also commented on the the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math program. Sixth graders are now receiving an additional 40 minutes of math instruction per week by utilizing one period of their study halls. He also shared that there are 7 new staff members out of 35. They are becoming acclimated to their new school and they are working with their team members and curriculum partners.

Chrystyna Lazirko, the Guidance Counselor at Central School, spoke a little about herself and her role in the middle school. She is working closely with Lisa Sanfilippo, District Counselor,

and has been in contact with Dr. Borin and Mrs. Molindyke. She has an open door policy and is able to assist students with their academic, social, and emotional needs. She is not involved with discipline. She is the testing coordinator and helps students with their transitions to high school.

Melissa Backer, the new Dean of Students, also described her role in the district. She will be involved with HIB, state testing, student discipline, character education, and intervention and referral services. She commented on the Week of Respect, Peace in our Schools Week, and Red Ribbon Week (Making healthy choices). She encourages parents to check out the Respect Tree in the hall near the office.

Shelia Connelly, Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Webmaster, is looking forward to the results of the communication survey. She mentioned some changes to the website and would like Friday Flyers information to be sent to her by Thursdays at noon. The district will be covering the subscription to Brain Pop since it is a reoccurring expense. The district is very appreciative that the PTO paid for it in the past. She will be assisting teachers to maximize the potential of BrainPop.

**There were no teacher requests to be discussed.**

**There were no requests requiring voting.**

**Additional comments:**

In regard to the 40 Book Challenge, a parent inquired why 40 was chosen. Mr. Villar explained the "40 books" refer to an existing motivational reading program.

It was asked if Millington School could also receive self refilling water stations. Mrs. Dawson and Darcy will do some inquiring.

In regard to testing the school water for lead, there have been discussions at the BOE level.

A parent shared some information about the playgrounds in Gillette and Millington and commented that some parents are gathering information about the cost of new pieces. At Gillette she mentioned including something motion based and removing the metal climbing piece. Perhaps a more challenging piece could be used at Millington.

**Closing**