

Central Parent Council

Minutes from February 6, 2014

In Attendance: H. Daly, B. Packert, B. Callaghan, C. Costa, N. Israeli, T. Ruocco, L. Squicciarini, K. Walter, A. Reese, T. Coyle, M. Strunk, L. Reichbach, J. Emanuel, M. Marascuillo, G. Reynolds, J. DeMarco, G. Bordeman, M. Sepanski

Absent: M. Hooks, D. Tsotsos, W. Deschutter, K. Ferrandino, C. Walkin, D. Lynch, K. Robillard, C. Haskell, C. Hodgson, A. Mitchell, N. Pultz, L. Koke, C. Goetjen, L. Riffaud, P. Guida, T. Ruocco, R. Taglich, G. Cimino

CPC Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by H. Daly. Helen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A. Reese motioned to approve the minutes and G. Reynolds seconded.

H. Daly made opening remarks to audience. Helen was invited to attend and attended the 16th Annual Legislative Round Table. Topics included budget, implications of testing, tax caps and more. Meeting was with the Chancellor of Education.

Helen invited Senator Marcellino to talk about these issues at our meeting today.

Helen explained the contents of a packet she handed out regarding these very important issues.

Helen discussed the last CFA meeting discussing the need for another counselor at the Jr./Sr. HS for mental health/alcohol problems or a full time social worker.

V.C. Beth Packert discussed the S & R report. Items in the report were addressed by other people below.

- 1) LH School will renovate the front office over the summer and add more cameras.
- 2) Adding alarms to the doors in the HS
- 3) LH and WS adding a CAPS program.

A.Reese discussed a meeting being held February 13th @ 9:15 am at LHS to discuss bullying in connection with what kids are doing at school.

February BOE meeting will have the students from the new Virtual Enterprise elective present their business. The students developed a product from start to finish. They will compete nationally and internationally. Students from all over the country are able to buy each other's products. The students also present to local businesses to sell their product.

A.Brogan from the BOE spoke about how a new member is brought in. If a new member is needed close to an election they wait for that or if it is too long before an election the BOE can either appoint a new member until the next election or have a special election.

Parent items – there was an infection after a wrestling match. Verified that the school takes all necessary precautions.

Treasurer Barbara Callaghan report: no new business to report.

School Reports

WSS: see monthly notes. 6th grade winner in the geography bee. Very well attended skate night (125 people). Movie night and 5th/6th grade concert coming up. Made fleece blankets for a baby care drive. Also, 2nd grade b-day in a box, 4th grade HiHi this month and a Daddy and Me event.

CFA: see monthly notes. Meeting discussed the “Start the Conversation...Save a Life” event on March 27th sponsored by the Life Center. Mr. Matik talked about the support they provide currently. Every 2 weeks the guidance counselors and the social workers try to identify at risk kids. Looking for CFA Nominating Committee members. Literary Luncheon on 3/26 at Huntington Country Club. Guest is online blogger Josh Marshall. Yankee Doodle Circus flyer in back of room.

GPFA: see monthly notes. Installing new “Book Nook” during February break. Islander game well attended. Kindergarten “Bubble Mania” and 1st grade “Slapstick Science”. Speaker on Bullying at next GPFA meeting.

LHSPTG: see monthly notes. Had 3rd grade math game night, 2nd grade magic night with Mr. Homer. 5th/6th grade band and chorus concert included a harp solo by Louisa Zerbo. The March meeting will have John Contess coming to talk about navigating the increased technology.

Seahawks Booster: see monthly notes. Among their many happenings coming up are : Revamping the fitness center, Banner fundraiser, clothing sale, personalized bricks still for sale, 3/22- Night at the Races fundraiser, increased summer camps and the location of the fitness center to be determined.

Arts Booster: see monthly notes. HS Musical, “Once Upon a Mattress” this weekend, Pampered Chef cooking party, Mardi Gras fundraiser at the Huntington Ballroom and starting a used shoe fundraiser.

CA: see monthly notes. Jr./Sr. High trying to get Street Corner Symphony for end of month. Cliff Mendelson came and students made pottery which will be auctioned off at the literary luncheon.

Guest Speaker

Senator Marcellino

Started talk with saying there is no \$2 billion surplus.
No full day kindergarten because can't afford it and there is no room.
The Senates goal is flexibility. He feels the schools know what to do without the state telling them what to do.

Senator John Flanagan chairs the Education committee which Mr. Marcellino is on.

Stated that 17% of students are on Long Island but we only get 12% of the aid packet. Poorer districts get more money.

Common Core – The Regents control education policy. The members are appointed by vote of the legislature.

Sheldon Silver is in charge of appointing the regents.

This year there are 9 empty seats in the Assembly and 2 empty seats in Senate. But he is trying to get his people on board to vote no to the Common Core and hold off for 2 years. Feels we are moving too fast in implementing the Common Core standards.

If it is not put off for 2 years the legislature will have to step in. Which he is not in favor of since he feels the teachers know what to do better than the legislature and they could make bad mistakes. However, if people opt out of taking exams we could lose aid.

The SAT's are moving to Common Core as well.

Questions to Mr. Marcellino:

Privacy Issues and Storage of Data- He does not think personal information should be included.

GEA – Need to change how money is used from toll/bridge fairs.

Tax Cap Solution- Governor wants 2% cap. Governor's goal is to consolidate districts. Senator Marcellino is in favor of local control.

Senator Marcellino left at 11:12.

Dr. Wilansky

Teachers proficiency scores should not be linked to Common Core scores yet.

Senator Marcellino insisted that the Education Commissioner come to hear feedback from all the school districts.

Traditional Regents will still be taken as a safety net. Geometry Regents will not be Common Core yet.

We do not get old test back because did not want to do field test questions.

“In Bloom” – National Data Base. Since we did not get money for “Race to the Top” did not have to join National Data base.

Mrs. Bellino

Peer to Peer is the difference in how the students will learn – learning from each other.

Affiliation of teachers college is our curriculum.

Tech fair at end of April for grades K-12.

Our test results were not bad compared to the state.

Mrs. Bellino just wants the teachers to teach well and not be judged on the tests.

Dr. Wilansky feels there are other ways to learn and does not want our children to sacrifice that.

Words their way only goes up to 4th grade. 5th grade moves to vocabulary use.

“How Words Work” is what is taught.

Discussed snow day situation. Are scheduled for 183 days and need 177 student days. Assume the Monday after Easter will be removed if have 2 more snow days.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51. Motion to adjourn Lolita Reichbach and Beth Packert.

