

Cedar Hill PTO
Minutes from March 6, 2008 General Meeting

I. **Call to Order** and approval of Minutes of January 17, 2008 General Meeting. Edge moved to approve; Dana Hughes seconded. Motion approved.

II. **Officer/Committee Reports**

Co-Presidents - Elaine Edge and Laura Page

- Elaine and Laura put in an order to the Technology department for 8 Smartboards. The Technology department will ask for them at the Board of Education meeting next week.
- Cedar Hill will be allocated \$17,000 for Technology from the District.
- Since we now feel more comfortable with funding for Technology from the Benefit and the budget, we do not feel the need to host a Benefit next year. There will; however, be a meeting in the future to brainstorm about ideas for some type of fundraiser to cover ongoing PTO expenses.
- There is usually a presentation about the budget at the PTO meeting in April. Since we feel comfortable with the budget we do not feel the need to host this presentation. Instead, parents are welcome to attend budget presentations at the other elementary schools on April 9 and 10.
- We would like to invest in new signs on the inside of Cedar Hill to keep the school organized and to use as a safety measure.
- The Next BOE meeting is at Mt. Prospect this Monday night.

1st Vice President – Meetings - Karen Lanigan

- The next general PTO meeting is May 16.

2nd Vice President – Fundraising - Danielle Balseiro

- We made \$70,000 at the Benefit, thank you to everyone who participated!

3rd Vice President – Newsletter - Dana Hughes

- Scoop deadline - the new deadline for the online Scoop is **Wednesday** for Friday's publication. Dana has asked those who are submitting entries to send them to Dana's personal email address: danahughes@optonline.net.

Treasurer – Donna Conti

Secretary – Jeanne Finn

- Fun 'n Games Night is scheduled for April 4 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The plans for the evening will include a scavenger hunt and the entertainer, Steve Max. There is a meeting tomorrow after drop-off to help with the event, all are welcome.
- We will recognize Autism Awareness from March 31 – April 2. Some of the activities will include: students will attach colored puzzle pieces to a large ribbon in the cafeteria, grades 3-5 will have an assembly, grade 4 will have a "hands on presentation" to understand what it is like to have Autism, the school will be decorated, and the students will wear blue on Autism Awareness Day – April 2.

Trustee – Laura Begg

Trustee – Debbie Moldovan

- The Science Fair is this weekend, over 100 children will participate. If you can, come lend your support.

III. New Business - None

IV. Old Business - None

V. Today's Meeting Speaker

Julianne Mahler, Rowena Wu, Krissy Uhler, and Jeanne Finn gave a presentation titled "Building a Caring School Community" which described the current anti-bullying initiative. Some of the highlights included:

- A district-wide anti-bullying committee was created to help reduce the occurrence of bullying in the Bernards Township schools. The initiative includes education & training for students, staff, and parents, prevention strategies, identification of areas which need improvement and reporting procedures.
- A cross-section of community members are involved including teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, representatives from the YMCA, police department, senior citizens, and Bernards Health Department.
- Bullying is defined as behaviors that are unfair and one-sided. It occurs when someone keeps hurting, frightening, or leaving someone out intentionally. Bullying always involves an imbalance of power that is not based on physical size.
- Bullying tends to develop in elementary schools, peak in middle school, and begins to decline in high school.
- 160,000 students stay home each day because of their fears of being bullied.
- Cedar Hill has always addressed and tried to limit bullying by educating the students with programs such as K-5 Bully vs. Buddy lessons, school assemblies, character education activities, and D.A.R.E.
- Thank you to all parents who completed and returned the surveys about bullying.

VI. Adjournment

Edge adjourned the meeting with a motion by Jeanne Finn with a second by Karen Lanigan.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeanne Finn, Secretary