

Village School PSA
September 14, 2010
Meeting Notes

Suzanne Niro called the meeting to order at 9:45am. Suzanne asked Mr. Schillaci to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and alerted everyone to the fire exits.

Executive Reports

Membership:

Linda Lautenberg referred to the PSA packet which was distributed to the children this week, and the membership dues letter/envelope. Joining the PSA will get your email on a list of frequent updates and information about school happenings. She is hoping for 100% membership this year.

Fundraising:

Sue Leidel introduced herself to the group and discussed the upcoming Ladies Night Out, which will be held on October 21st at the Shadowbrook in Shrewsbury. She gave an overall explanation of the event for new parents - prizes are donated and you can purchase raffle tickets as well as bid on certain items. She presented a list of places that were contacted to request donations, and asked for help in getting additional items for the raffle. Copies of a letter to request donations were also available. Volunteers are also greatly needed.

Carolyn Zofchak advised that the Ad Journal is accepting business cards for the journal at a cost of \$20 per ad.

Correspondence:

Pam Hroblak reiterated the importance of sending in the membership envelope as that is where the email list is created from. She reminded the attendees to sign-in so that they could be eligible for the monthly prize that is given at each meeting. Pam also presented thank you cards from Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Savare, Mrs. Kenney, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Moor and Mrs. Andrews for the Readers Workshop, and noted that the cards and other updates are listed on the bulletin board at the front of the school.

Treasurer's Report:

Maria Curreri referred the attendees to the hand-outs (September 2010 Report and 2010-2011 Budget) and noted that the budget has not changed since last year. Ruth Davis and Michelle Sottile accepted the report.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Schillaci reviewed the following items:

1. Thanked everyone for their support in his transition to Principal of Village School, and mentioned that this is his 15th year in the district. He also thanked Dr. Ledford and Suzanne for their help.
2. Thanked Terry Ferguson for coordinating the bus help and Linda Fernand for organizing the staff lunch.
3. New this year - at approximately 9:05am each morning the entire school says the Pledge of Allegiance together as a unit. Also new this year, the State has mandated that there needs to be 2 drills each month - one fire drill and the other TBD. This will start in November.
4. The Modular Wing is down and out for bid. Hopefully work can begin this month.
5. The Rain Gardens are in and accessible. The students will learn about helping the environment through the Gardens.
6. Last year's PSA gift to Village is a new sign. It is in the planning stages at this time.
7. In teacher news: Jamie Croddick (Steele) is back as a Basic Skills teacher, Ms. Barbara is celebrating her 3 year wedding anniversary and is expecting a baby, Mrs. Rausch is due in November and Mrs. Damji, who is due October 1st, will begin maternity leave soon. Ms. Vaccarino will cover her class.

Vice Principal:

Dr. Ledford discussed the following:

1. Echoed Mr. Schillaci's gratitude statements.
2. Advised that the Back to School dates are as follows: Pre-K-1st grade will be held on September 16th at 7pm and 2nd-3rd grade will be held on September 20th at 7pm.
3. With regard to lunch, Chartwells Food Service has a website (www.mealpayplus.com). Parents can go on the site and personalize it according to their child's allergies, limitation of certain food items purchased, etc. During lunch, recycling will continue as will the presentation of Good Conduct Awards. Dr. Ledford also thanked the PSA for

helping to fund the stickers used for this.

4. Additional staffing news/ welcome: Jeanette Malizia will be the new ESL teacher, Maria Education, Ms. Vaccarino will temporarily replace Ms. Damji during her maternity leave, Ms. Cutillo will temporarily replace Senorita Bazan who is also out on maternity leave, and there is also a temporary replacement for Stacy Campbell. Welcome back to both Ms. Brennan and Ms. Pugielli who returned from maternity leave.

Teacher's Rep:

Ms. Devaney thanked the PSA for the mailboxes and advised that Ms. Edwards, the Reading Specialist, will run a workshop for 3rd grade parents on Back to School night. Information will be sent home soon. Ms. Edwards also needs volunteers to help level the books. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Ms. Barbara thanked the PSA for the staff lunch.

President:

Suzanne introduced herself, as well as Mr. Schillaci and Dr. Ledford. She gave an outline of the goals of the PSA and explained that all of our fundraising money goes back to the students as well as teachers, the school and the building. Some of the things that the PSA does include fundraising, gifting to the school/teachers, donating the end of year memory books and 3rd grade t-shirts, as well as many other things. The PSA packets went out via Kid Mail yesterday and today, and all forms should be sent back as quickly as possible. The PSA intends to "go green" as much as possible and all future communications, including the newsletter and School Store notifications, will be sent out via e-mail. There are several open positions on the PSA, including Carnival Coordinator and Special Projects. Special Projects is responsible for Community Day which is coming up quickly on October 2nd. Suzanne also requested additional volunteers for all committees, and stated that this is a very important time to get involved because the upper schools do not have as much parent involvement. Suzanne closed by introducing the members of the Executive Board.

Committee Reports:

ARISE:

Ana Van der Woude explained that ARISE is a support group for families of children with special needs. They hope to provide 2 workshops this year. ARISE information and website can be found on the Special Services tab of the District site.

Art Appreciation:

Ruth Davis described what parents involved in Art Appreciation do. It's very simple as the lesson plans and supplies are given to volunteers. She asked for volunteers and mentioned that there will be a sign-up sheet available at Back to School night.

Bingo Night:

Linda Lautenberg said that Bingo Night will not take place until January or February. There are 2 nights, and it is separated by grade. This is not a fundraiser, but a family fun night.

Board of Education:

Ana Van der Woude is our Board of Education Representative, and also sits on the Board of Education.

Box Tops:

Jane Zysk advised that she collects Box Tops and Labels for Education. We get paid twice a year, in April and December. Village also participates in the Stop & Shop Bonus A+ program (sign up on-line), and the Tyson Foods Rewards Program, as well as recycling old printer cartridges and cell phones. In doing this, last year \$1441 profit was gained.

Bus Safety:

Terri Ferguson thanked all of the volunteers who helped the first week of school. A request for this will be sent out once again in August 2011. She asked for volunteers to help with bus safety, which occurs 3 times a year.

Carnival:

Carolyn Zofchak, last year's Carnival coordinator discussed the event, and all of the exciting things that go on. She informed the group that a Coordinator is greatly needed.

Cultural Assemblies:

Danielle Curcio spoke on behalf of the Cultural Assemblies committee. The committee expects to present 4 assemblies

this school year. The first will be in September with Mr. Simon Says visiting the school. The next will be in October, and it will highlight the author of the Adventures of Uncle Stinky series, Chris Rumble. The children will have the opportunity to purchase books and they will be autographed by Mr. Rumble. In January, a 2-day workshop will be presented by Cliff Sunflower, The Honeybee Man. Volunteers will be needed to help with this workshop. The final assembly for the school year is to be determined. Danielle asked for leads/referrals for future assemblies.

Drug and Alcohol Liaison:

Laurie Fontana reported that Red Ribbon Week will take place next month (the week of October 18th). The theme will be “Sprinting to a Healthy Future” and the event’s goal is to promote healthy living. Volunteers will be needed.

Games Coordinator:

Lisa Goldberg was not in attendance, but Suzanne spoke on her behalf and reiterated Lisa’s email that went out requesting donations of games to be used during recess and after school.

Go Green Committee:

Tara Brunner spoke and stated that the goal of the Go Green committee is to teach the children about the environment.

HCAA Liaison:

Laurie Fontana advised that you can support the HCAA by becoming a sponsor. New members are welcome - the group meets the 1st Monday of the month in the High School library.

HFEE Liaison:

Doreen DeMarco explained that the HFEE (Holmdel Foundation for Excellence in Education) meets every month. The group raises money for all 4 schools. Last year, \$150,000 was raised and a World Language Lab was installed at the high school. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on October 12th. There are two upcoming HFEE events - A D’Vine Affair at the Wine Bar on October 6th and a Casino Night in April.

Historian:

Cherylee Schachel showed the group past memory books, and explained that several volunteer historians go to school

events and take pictures. She asked for parent help in sending in personal photos of their children and mentioned that they should be school related and labeled with the event it is from. The child's name need not be included. Photos can be sent via email or hard copy via Kid Mail in an envelope marked "Historian". Additional volunteer historians are needed and a sign-up sheet was on-site.

Holiday Shop:

Linda Lautenberg spoke for Christine Reddington, who runs the Holiday Shop. This is a kids only shop, and is not a fundraiser. Volunteers will be needed.

Hospitality:

Linda Fernand asked for help. It is a simple job - only need to assist 1x/month in setting up coffee, etc. for PSA meeting. Additional days when hospitality helps out include the teacher's luncheon and the Kindergarten Meet and Greet.

Kindergarten Meet & Greet:

Ruth Davis gave the date of the Kindergarten Meet and Greet - September 22nd from 9:30-10:30am and from 1:30-2:30pm. Siblings are welcome.

Newsletter:

The newsletter chairperson was not at the meeting, but Suzanne spoke on behalf of this and explained that the newsletter will be distributed via email. If anyone has information that they would like to contribute to the newsletter, it should be sent to Adrienne Burmeister.

Op Get Out the Vote:

No report.

Plant Sale:

Laurie Fontana and Maria Curreri coordinate the Mother's Day Plant Sale. It will take place May 5th and 6th and volunteers will be needed.

Publicity:

Darlene Kiss stated that there was nothing to report.

School Store:

Lisa Jordan reported that the first School Store will take place on October 21st. The flyers that were previously sent out via Kid Mail to notify of each month's store will now be distributed electronically.

- Special Projects:** No report. A coordinator is needed.
- Specialized Fundraising:** No report.
- Student Directory:** No report.
- Sunshine:** Laurie Fontana asked for frequent updates on faculty/staff so that she can ensure that she is able to acknowledge them in a timely manner.
- Sweatshirts:** Spirit wear is being handled by Lisa Goldberg and Teresa Rampulla, who were not at the meeting. Suzanne stated that an order form was sent via email and that samples will be available at Back to School nights.
- Website Position:** No report.
- New Business:** Suzanne reiterated the following important dates: Back to School Nights at 7pm on 9/16 (*Pre-K through 1st*) and 9/20 (*2nd and 3rd*), Kindergarten Meet & Greet on 9/22 from 9:30-10:30am and 1:30-2:30pm, Community Day on 10/2 and Columbus Day (*school is closed*) on 10/11.
- Old Business:** Dr. Ledford reminded the group at the circle drop-off in the morning. It is from 8:55-9:05am only. Anyone arriving after 9:05am must walk their child in to the office, and sign them in late. She also asked that we please be courteous of other parents and children during the drop-off procedure.

The next meeting will be October 12, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am by Darlene Kiss, and seconded by Chimin Hu.