

## District Wide Parents' Council (DWPC) January 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Madeline Hoetger at 9:45.

**Old Business** – a few changes were made to last month's minutes – the Anna Devine rep's name was wrong it should read Maryellen Whittington-Couse, the Miller roundtable should read – They are in need of some old office chairs for the sixth and seventh grade game night and the eighth grade sleep over. They had an assembly and the rope course is done. Boot camp is not going to be done this year instead they are going to do a how to take a test course. It was also noted that sometimes Myer is spelled with an e after the M in it – last month it was okay. Madeline asked for someone to make a motion to accept the minutes with the changes - Cathy Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes Barbara Burns seconded the motion.

Treasurer's report was put on hold – Vera was not at the meeting.

Madeline Hoetger brought up an issue that involved an email that she received regarding the lunch program – the email came from a parent who has attended the Health and Wellness Committee meetings – the person does not have children in the district but would like to know if we could look into the choices – Ed Carelli and Greer Fischer would be the contact people that we would contact to help in this area. Maureen is on the committee and spent some time discussing with us some of the Federal guidelines and some of the changes that have occurred in the district so far this year. Changes here in the district have been made regarding snacks, addition of whole wheat bread, low fat milk, and a look at high carbs and fat foods. The next Health and Nutrition meeting is scheduled for Tues. Jan. 16 at 6:30 at Crown Street. We are going to have Ed Carelli and Chris Farrell come in and share what is going on with the district in this area.

### **Board of Education – Maureen Bowers**

Winter Carnival – issue came up at the Board meeting as to whether the Winter Carnival will be cancelled or not due to the austerity budget. Right now a decision has not been made.

Regent's week is now going to be a week off for the students at the high school. Initially, school was going to be in session all week for all students. Due to a staffing problem and the logistics of being able to test and teach at the same time it was decided that only students being tested would report. Maureen was put on hold while we waited for her packets.

### **Administrative – Mr. Gretzinger - Superintendent**

Mr. Gretzinger is going to be doing his next Public Access Television show – this next show is going to be an interview involving a question and answer session with parents. The show is completely run by the students and is taped at the high school; Barbara Burns, Diana Cline and Madeline Hoetger are interested in doing the show.

Other names were given to Mr. Gretzinger, he will be contacting folks and letting them know the procedure and times (the group will be meeting on Tuesday, Jan 9 from 11:00 – 12:00 – taping will be on Jan. 11 at 2:15). The show is on Public Access on Thursday evenings at 8:30. The first two weeks in February will be a good time to schedule a time to have a combination of Up Close and Personal and Mr. Gretzinger is going to present the Building Referendum and we are also looking at rescheduling Kevin Cahill at another time. We had a lengthy discussion regarding ways to get the word out about the budget. An issue also came up involving school conflicts involving several events that might be occurring at a school the same evening. If this is a problem it would be a good idea to first approach the PTA/PTO and see if a change can be made. Sometimes a time switch might help. The idea came up that Absentee ballots can be picked up and used by the students that have graduated. This area came up as a topic that should be addressed in the future as students begin to graduate and leave the area for college.

### **Gary Tomczyk –**

Gary Tomczyk presented info to the group regarding the Excel program. The program involves a \$6 million referendum with projects being looked at in the health and wellness area, upgrades, lockers, windows, carpets, roofs, oil tank removal, stage curtains, smoke detectors and auditorium seating.

The access of the money is not in the general fund – it is in control of the Dormitory fund – once the project has been approved – they have to be submitted to the State Ed department – it will probably take about two years before everything starts. If the money is not used in the next two years the money will be given to another school. The only cost will be the interest on the bond which we have as state aid. The school board approved the referendum at the last meeting so the proposal has been sent up to NY for approval. If voters approve the referendum then it will be up to the State Ed department to approve everything and get everything going.

## **Joe Previll**

Joe addressed the problem involving the calendar that was brought up last month. Last month it was brought up that folks were having trouble getting the calendar off the website – it can be easily accessed by hitting the **tab marked shortcuts** – master calendar – family link has the 2006-2007 annual calendar. Each school will have their own calendar and someone at each building will be updating the calendars. Mr. Previll also addressed the issue about having the schools each have a link from the district website this cannot happen due to security. A PTA/PTO/PTSA can have a link from their website to the district site.

## **Maureen Bowers – continued from above**

Maureen went over the packet that she passed out from the recent meeting. A list involving the Building Referendum repairs was included a lengthy discussion occurred. Also included were the Regents Exam schedule, a special education department district plan, several letters were also included in the packet.

Coffee and Conversation tentative upcoming meetings -

Jan. 23rd – at the library 5:30-7:30

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> - Monkey Joe's 9:30 – 11:30

March 14 – Deising's - time to be announced

## **Roundtable/Building Concerns –**

**Myer – (Ellen/Diana Cline/Debbie Ferraro)** – They are looking at the number of fundraisers so far this year, they had a cookie walk that was a huge success. Coming events - family night (Jan 26) 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade dance will be in Jan. They are fundraising for stage curtains.

**Chambers - (Cathy Murphy)** Annual Frosty Breakfast will be held on Jan 21 everyone is welcome to come and have their picture taken with Frosty.

**Bailey – (Marianne Bennett)** – Feb. 14 soup and salad appreciation luncheon for the staff – ice cream sandwich give away will take place for the kids.

**George Washington (Caroline Ramaley)** They are trying to get a Family Dance Night together the annual spaghetti dinner has been tentatively set for date March 23, and they are looking at planning vendor sell in the spring.

**Miller (Lisa Klotz)** – A holiday dance took place and parents made cookies that were passed out to the students. An ELA information session presentation will be taking place for parents, also coming up is a test taking strategy course for students.

**Sophie Finn (Madeline Hoetger)** – Dec. was busy, a pancake breakfast took place and a Santa sale. Upcoming events are - Brooks Barbeque in March and a cookie dough sale in Jan.

**Edson (Cheryl Oliver)** – The Holiday concert took place with a bake sale that was very successful, and we had a food drive for families in the school. Upcoming events 5<sup>th</sup> grade are having a Lucky Night in Jan, an assembly with Tiny Glover is going to be taking place in Jan.

**Graves – (Lu Mabey)** – Holiday concert, food drive, the school went to Charlotte's Web. Chris Farrell is coming to their meeting to talk about redistricting. They have formed environmental committee they started a worm composting project. They will use the worm castings and make a garden. A wind turbine is being looked at to purchase. If anyone has any ideas for assemblies with recycling themes contact Lu.

**Zena – (Lisa Klotz)** – Rene had to leave so Lisa filled in – The holiday concert went well. They collected shoe boxes and filled them with gifts and they were distributed – Jan 19 they will be seeing Charlotte's Web – they did a lot of school activities involving the movie as a theme.

Rescheduling Kevin Cahill – we are looking at getting dates for an April- Madeline will contact his office and get some dates. Caroline will be helping to organize and get the word out to the schools once plans have been finalized.

Motion to adjourn was made by Diana Cline – seconded by Cathy Murphy at 12:20.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Oliver. Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.