

Unionville High School PTO Meeting Minutes March 4th, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. *In attendance were:* Carol Catanese, Carol O'Brien, Lori Joseph, Eileen Bushelow, Jim Fulginiti, Rekha Doraiswamy, Jay Cranston, Frank Deady, Lisa Wentz, Barb LaChance, Robin Kitay, Joanne Bates, Barbara Guin, Mary Kot, Janice Clark, Dawn Talley, Mark Stookey, Dolores Leiser, Jeff Leiser, Pat Muller, and Sharon Parker.

Carol O'Brien welcomed to the meeting special guest Superintendent Sharon Parker.

Minutes: The February meeting Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the Minutes; the motion was seconded and passed.

Presidents' Report: Carol Catanese thanked Peggy Christian and Eileen Bushelow for the Fashion Show which was a huge success, Lynn Majarian for the Phone-a-Thon, and Janice Clark for the great job on the Used Book Sale. Carol O'Brien added that the Used Book Sale funds our PTO Projects which are truly appreciated by our teachers.

Principal's Report: Mr. Fulginiti announced that in the interest of saving money, school is ending after third marking period. (ha ha) He thanked the PTO for all their wonderful efforts, particularly Janice Clark for the Used Book Sale. Recent student accomplishments include the Academic Team participating in the County Championship tomorrow evening, the Science Olympiad, our successful Swimmers, and wrestler Nick Fisher who has competed at the Sectionals, the Districts, and the Regionals. Course selection is about complete with close to 100% of kids registered. Per NHS, the new system of calculating GPA's has led to some delay with Sandy Litvin working hard through the issues. PSSA test dates are 4/1, 4/2, 4/3 and details will be finalized in letter form outlining this year's dramatic changes. Transportation and meals will be provided for all students, and no after school activities will be cancelled. As we did not make AYP last year Mr. Bachelor and Mr. Fulginiti spoke to all Juniors about the importance of the test and explained that all Juniors who are not proficient will take Mastery Courses next year, and those Junior who attain proficiency will be exempt from final exams. Mr. Fulginiti explained that while we are not teaching to the test, curriculum ties in with the PSSA. Sharon Parker added that the tests are a responsibility of being in the District, so we need to prepare for them. She mentioned that a team of educators from North Alleghany is coming here tomorrow to find out what we're doing right, and this is a great compliment.

Guidance Report: Dr. Deady stated that AP registration ends this week, and the Community Scholarship applications are due by the end of the day on March 13th. With regard to college application, the new grading system is explained in an information sheet provided to each college. Colleges will look at GPA's in the context of the school they are coming from. Mr. Fulginiti stated that the administration has done numerous visits to admissions offices to communicate our situation.

Teacher Representative Report: Mr. Cranston reported that the students from the Science Olympiad did a great job. The Book Sale people did a great job as well, wow! He thanked the PTO for the Projects items, most of which are up and running. The 10th grade UN trip for Cultural Studies was quite successful despite two incidents with his bus.

Student Council Representative: Carol O'Brien reported for Shannon Pitt who was in play rehearsal for the Pirates of Penzance, which opens March 13th. The Mardi Gras dance was a great success, with MORP coming up in the spring. The Student/Faculty Basketball game will be on March 6th. The NHS Blood Drive was the most successful in recent history, and the annual Daffodil Days fund raiser just finished, with money going to the American Cancer Society. The Speech and Debate Team sent eight students to Harvard two weeks ago, with plans on sending students to the State Tournament. If all goes well the UHS

team will be represented at national tournaments in Las Vegas and Wisconsin as well as the Tournament of Champions. The first ever Cancer Society Dance-a-Thon will take place on 4/18-4/19 and benefit the Four Diamond Organization.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Wentz reviewed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report; the motion was seconded and passed.

Vice Presidents' Report: Joanne Bates announced that the Scholarship Fund has brought in \$5,000 so far.

Committee Reports:

Used Book Sale: Janice Clark announced that the sale grossed over \$40,000! She would like to acknowledge the gals on the Used Book Sale Committee who were instrumental in the success of the book sale: RaeLynn Bond, Michelle Engelmann, Valerie Grant, Kathy Adams, Leah Gower, Linda Mercner, Cathy Robine, Jane Lawrence, Patty Geaman, Martha Diffey, Linda Bowen, Jean Kountz, Sara Bleemer, Laura Quick. Thanks also goes to the high school staff, Jim, the administration, Mark Kline and the fantastic Custodial Staff, Sharon Parker and the District office, and Rehka for e-News. Mr. Fulginiti has agreed to let the PTO use the gymnasium next year.

After Prom: Carol Catanese stated that the committee is still in need of volunteers. Freshman and Sophomore parents are encouraged to work the walk-through which will include Jeff Avery running a Casino Event fund raiser.

FOCUS: Dawn Talley recognized high school FOCUS rep Pat Muller and thanked the PTO for funding the Mike Fowlin presentation. Robin Martin at the middle school will be giving an internet safety presentation on 3/27. Dawn introduced the possibility of providing dance instruction for kids to support and promote appropriate dancing at the Prom and other dances.

Old Business: Carol Catanese announced that a nominating committee is being formed if anyone would like to help out, and the slate of Exec Board Officers will be presented at the April PTO meeting. The bulk mailing permit filing at the Post Office has been done.

Guest Speaker: Superintendent Sharon Parker indicated that the at-risk cell phone behavior was being addressed by District administration and a message was conveyed to parents via the rapid dial system. Sharon hopes we are moving to a solution to this and encourages everyone to attend Robin Martin's presentation on 3/27. The next Food For Thought session will be the last Monday in March. Administration recently visited Strathaven to look at their "Wall of Honor" which showcased high school graduates and their contributions. We are looking to do the same thing, with the program presentation being done in the fall. There will be a Summer Enrichment program this year with a pamphlet soon to be available outlining the two-week mini courses. Per the high school Renovation Project, the School Board at their last meeting presented a \$30 million financing package to be put on the ballot on Primary Day 4/22, with the scope of the Project remaining unchanged. As an offset to the taxpayer a \$20 million Capital Campaign involving targeted giving could be realized per Robert Evans. On March 11th there will be a Town Meeting at the middle school with Chester County 20-20, Nancy Moore, serving as moderator.

Meeting adjourned 9:41pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Joseph, Recording Secretary