

Unionville High School PTO
Meeting Minutes November 13th, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. *In attendance were:* Carol Catanese, Carol O'Brien, Lori Joseph, Eileen Bushelow, Elizabeth Bushelow, Pat Muller, Jim Fulginiti, Rekha Doraiswamy, Holly Manzone, Hannah Christopher, Donna Perri, Jay Cranston, Mary Aiken, Laura Quick, Muffi Scott, Lisa Wentz, and Barb LaChance.

Minutes: The October meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to amend the minutes to include a statement introducing Mary Ann Marotta from MM Architects. Motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Wentz reviewed the Treasurer's Report, she reported that the Art Gala should make over \$4000.00, there are still some expenses outstanding. Art Gala sales were down but raffle and advertising were up. A motion was made to approve the report; the motion was seconded and passed.

Special Student Presentation: Carol Catanese introduced high school senior Elizabeth Bushelow who gave a presentation on the organization "Best Buddies Pennsylvania." She is the Unionville High School Chapter President of this organization which pairs students with intellectual disabilities ("buddies") one-to-one with high school students ("peer buddies") based on common interests. So far there are seven Best Buddy matches in Unionville High School. Activities include lunch, football games, and the "Best Buddies Ball" which is like a prom. Elizabeth stated that this club changes lives, theirs as well as hers, and she hopes it continues after her graduation. She thanked Mrs. Aiken for all her support, faculty advisors Mr. Brown and Mrs. Mustin, Mr. Fulginiti, Mrs. Catanese, and Mrs. O'Brien. Mr. Fulginiti commented that it's a great program with a wonderful philosophy, and Carol Catanese commended Elizabeth for her efforts.

Presidents' Report: Carol Catanese thanked Susie Racobaldo, Linda Steller, Ruth Simonson and all the Art Gala volunteers, it was a wonderful event. She thanked the Bike Drive gals Barb LaChance, Robyn Freifelder, and Linda Riondet and Picture Re-take gals Karen Leach and Diana Streater. She also thanked Staff Appreciation gals Michelle Keil and Amy Kerntke for the snacks on Election Day. Carol announced that Tammy Everitt had been in a bicycle accident and is mending, please contact Trish Nalls if you are interested in making a meal. She would like all to support the upcoming high school play *Arsenic and Old Lace* which will be running 11/15-11/17.

Principal's Report: Mr. Fulginiti thanked the Art Gala folks for a great event and the Staff Appreciation group for goodies on Election Day. At this upcoming School Board Meeting on 11/19, Sharon Parker will be recognizing the National Merit Scholars as well as the Commended Students. There are no immediate plans concerning the Building Project. Per fall sports, several fall teams won their division in the Ches Mont League, congratulations to those coaches and athletes. Our Marching Band is just phenomenal; they recently performed in the Cavalcade of Bands Grand Championship in Hershey in the highly competitive Liberty Open division. Our Academic Team is doing well with a 2 and 0 record, while our Forensics Team is also doing great. The fall play *Arsenic and Old Lace* opens this Thursday and promises to be a hit. The football team has made the second round of Districts. Mr. Fulginiti stated that he is on the Strategic Planning Committee for Arts and Technology and that technical training is the wave of the future, with education going hand in hand with technical expertise. Carol Catanese pointed out that juniors are able to take engineering courses at CAT Brandywine and that this is an incredible program for young students. Per report cards, they will not be going out tomorrow 11/14 since administration is working out a glitch. When report cards are distributed, letters from the District will be mailed home to parents containing information such as password and access codes for SAM. During prior meetings on the grading policy, there was a decision made not to round which contradicted the Student Handbook. The staff was informed and we will be going forward with rounding. Eileen Bushelow asked if students were now allowed to use iPods in school and Mr. Fulginiti replied that there are pros and cons to this and each teacher will allow iPod use based on his or her own discretion. Eileen thanked Administration for this decision, noting that it will benefit auditory learners. Mr. Fulginiti commented on the issue of no homeroom, noting that students are now in their rooms first thing in the morning and not all over, as was the case under the old homeroom system. He mentioned that there is currently a Co-curricular Committee looking to develop a time period every other cycle called "Alpha Home Room" where there would be available time in the morning for kids to report to a Home Room setting for organizations, clubs, etc, to meet.

Guidance Report: Dr. Deady announced that his granddaughter is nine months old and a second grandchild is on the way! Information sessions for this summer's Governor's School will be on 11/20 at 7:00am and 2:30pm. Applications are due on January 15th. The 9th grade conferences were enjoyable and SAM will prove to be a wonderful tool. Senior applications continue to come in, and for January 1st deadlines, counselors will no longer be available over the winter break so please get info in early. In meeting the District goal of looking at the college application process, meetings were held with admissions personnel from Swathmore, U Penn, and John Hopkins to gather valuable information on how they make their decisions. The conclusion was made that there is no magic formula, schools want a diverse class and want to know where kids are headed and why. Pat Muller asked about the options for the average student, Mr. Fulginiti responded that the Counselors give the same effort and energy to all kids at all levels.

Teacher Representative Report: Mr. Cranston commented that when applying to a school you should address your letter to the Mission Statement. There was a staff e-mail put out for Projects Requests and the forms were e-mailed. All in all, SAM will be a great program and there has been positive feedback from other Districts. Concerning the Referendum, the teachers were disappointed but won't give up. Mr. Fulginiti mentioned that some voters voted "no" simply because they could, and that 75% of the voting population has no school connection. Barb LaChance mentioned that there were mostly seniors at her voting place; we need to get parents out and vote.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Lynn Majarian encouraged everyone to attend next month's PTO meeting since a quorum is needed for the Project's vote.

Vice Presidents' Report: Carol Catanese reported that the Alumni Reception is on 12/19. She informed everyone that Joanne Bates went to the 2008-2009 Calendar Meeting and changes have been made, with Spring Break back on the calendar. The calendar can be viewed on the District Website.

Committee Reports:

After Prom: Carol Catanese reminded everyone that there is a General Meeting tomorrow at 7:00 in the LGI. A new IT Committee is being formed, please come if you are interested in helping out. Thursday is the Decorating Committee meeting in the LGI at 7:00. Pat Muller mentioned that photo collages and video collages are part of the IT Committee.

Community Service: Barb LaChance announced that the Coat Drive information will begin showing up on e-News and that Give-away Day will be December 15th with 150 bikes ready to be given away.

Curriculum Council: Hannah Christopher reviewed the new courses being offered at the high school and reminded everyone that the minutes from the last Curriculum Council Meeting will be available in the Bridge and on the website.

FOCUS: Pat Muller announced that FOCUS will be bringing Dr. Michael Fowlin PhD in Psychology to the District to speak on diversity and tolerance. She is hopeful that the PTO will help with funding. They are shooting for May 5th, check out his website at www.michaelfowlin.com.

New Business: Carol Catanese announced that Sue Siensa's Peer Outreach program "Youth to Youth" is looking for adult volunteers for the first weekend in January. Carol introduced parent Donna Perri who presented Spirit Wear samples for the high school. Donna distributed a price list showing price comparisons.

Meeting adjourned 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Joseph, Recording Secretary