

**BETHPAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTA MEETING
September 25,2008**

The meeting was called to order by President Ilyse Cuzzo at 7:38 P.M. Ilyse Cuzzo introduced the new slate of officers. Vice President – Michele Morano, Treasurer – Christine Bergin, Recording Secretary – Felicia Salvo , Corresponding Secretary – Denise Mandolese and teach representatives Ida Barry and Callan Lonergan. It was also announced that Dr. Deborah King is no longer the Director of PPS in Bethpage.

Guest Speakers

Ida Russo – Interim Director of PPS – She plans to create new procedures and policies in the district. These policies will be in place for the next director. She will continue to visit and observe all district programs.

Maureen Conklin – Kramer Lane District Psychologist – She spoke about all the different programs in all the five schools as well as the different support systems available. For example: Resource Room, Speech, OT, Reading , Labs in the Middle School, Use of Wilson Program.

Mr. Steve Furrey – Principal of CBS- He introduced the new inclusion teachers at CBS Erika Le Maire – 4th grade, Joanna Sieben – 5th grade and Callan Lonergan – Kindergarten. Mr. Furrey explained in detail how the inclusion program works, the options available for self contained in kindergarten and first grade and the great accomplishments of special education at CBS. He also answered a number of questions from our members about the CBS programs.

Barbara Cataldi – CBS 5th Grade Inclusion Teacher – She spoke about how co-teaching models work. These are the examples of the models used:

- 1- One Teach, One Observe
- 2- Station teaching
- 3- Parallel Teaching
- 4- Alternative Teaching

Kathleen Fasano – Challenger/Satellite- She spoke about the criteria to be meet in order for students to qualify for these programs.

Ida Barry- ACE Program Teacher – She explained how this program called “Academic Career Experience” works for the high schools students. The program teaches them life and work skills in order for them to be prepared after graduation.

Correspondence – The corresponding secretary, Denise Mandolese read thank you notes. Some were for the books donated to our district libraries. Another was for a scholarship given to Sam Jambrone. The last was from Dr. King for the flowers SEPTA sent to her after her surgery.

Meeting Minutes – A motion to accept the May 29, 2008 minutes was made first by Gina Mc Govern and then by Karen Fikar.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Christine Bergin discussed the treasurer’s report in detail giving the opening balance with a credit for interest and various checks written for the PTA Council Dinner theme baskets, flowers for Deb King, change for membership drive, PTA Council Dues and the ending balance was stated. She reported that the audit for 2007-2008 school year was completed by Anna Israelton and Jackie La Rose. The budget was presented to the members and voted on and accepted by a quorum.(After the meeting, it came to the Presidents attention that Miscellaneous Expenses was missing from the budget and needed to be revised.and revoted on at the Nov 6th meeting.)

President's Report - She explained to all the members the various committees positions available and what they were about. A sign up sheet was sent around to voluntary for these committees as well as a sheet to gain members e-mail addresses. Various upcoming events were discussed like the Autism Speaks Walk in October, Autism Fundraisers ,workshops and seminars pertaining to special needs issues.

Board of Education Report – BOE representative Anna Israelton reported that the BHS track will be reopened this weekend. The bleachers were going to be repaired. A recycling program is underway in Bethpage. Astronomy night is on November 7th. Bethpage is the only school district participating in the 21st Century Scholar Program. The Board has made its top priority finding a new Director of PPS. Anna is in the process of changing the SEPTA website and adding tips from parents.

Membership- Janet Tancora Membership Chairperson stated that we now have about 210 members in the district.

Old Business – Cheeburger Cheeburger was a huge success in June. Celebrate Reading Day was an amazing experience for all the children. The PTA Council Dinner theme baskets were a big hit and very much appreciated by the PTA Council.

New Business – Ilyse Cuozzo discussed firstly,homecoming on Oct 11th and that SEPTA was helping out BHS & JFK. Michele Morano discussed the Night of Giving Fundraiser. Copies of the flyers are scheduled to be delivered to the elementary schools next week and tickets were now on sale for \$10. She also discussed the game night idea, which would allow the grade school children to get together to play games and receive the games through raffle. This will possibly take place in March. The Journeys newsletter is in the process of being completed for the fall. Michele mentioned that submissions to the newsletter could still be done. Ilyse Cuozzo then discussed having an educational mini fair in the late spring regarding special education programs, interventions and support services available. The board had discussed creating a support group session after each meeting to discuss concerns and problems members are having. The next meeting is scheduled for November 6th. John Busto from Busto's Karate will speak regarding the effect of karate on children with special needs.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Fikar and a second motion by Jen Testani.

Respectfully Submitted
Felicia Salvo – Recording Secretary