

Central High School Alumni Association
Minutes of Meeting on Sept. 19, 2017
Held at Central High School

- **Meeting was called to order by President Bianco at 4:38 pm**
In attendance were: Don Bianco, Sal Masiello, Steve Bianchi, Paul O'Brien, Jayne O'Brien, Deb Cockfield, Ron Tella, Gene Richmond, Cathy Crepeau, Anna Marie Richmond, Lyle E. Perra, Jon Mendlesohn, Nikki Jimenez and G. Gail Davis.
- **Meet The New Principal:**
Principal Mendelsohn welcomed all at the meeting and asked if all were receiving his weekly blasts. He noted that the school year was off to a good start. He noted that there were 75 students the Fuse Academy, a school within a school program. He said that he was excited to work with the alumni association. He mentioned the new after school program starting a Central on October 2nd or 3rd as part of a five year grant awarded to CHS. He felt the program could be a game changer for the school. He reported that the school this day had received an additional 306 Crome Books bringing the total at the school to approximately 900.
- **Minutes of previous meeting:**
The minutes of the meeting were approved on a motion by Gene Richmond, seconded by Paul O'Brien.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
Treasurer Jayne O'Brien noted the following: the general fund had receipts of \$90 (membership) and expenses of \$53.50 (flowers), \$49 (stamps), \$90.96 (mobile device), \$84.68 (Transax), and \$2.50 (Mastercard), leaving a balance of \$1,677.96. Grant Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,600.01, expenses of \$500 (grant to CHS Track, \$145 (RI Shriners), deposits of \$600 (Comedy show statement), \$2,992 (Funny4Funds), \$30 (transfer from General fund) leaving an ending balance of \$4,577.01. The Scholarship Fund had a beginning balance of \$12,064.56, expenses of \$4000 (scholarships) leaving a balance of \$8,064.56 The report was accepted on a motion by Sal Masiello, seconded by Lyle Perra.
- **Committee Reports:**
 1. Comedy Show Report: President Don Bianco noted the success of the comedy night and further noted the final proceeds of \$3,996.40, after matching funds from FM Global are received.
 2. Nominating Committee: It was noted that the new chairman of the committee is Steve Bianchi. Committee members include Elaine Colaneri, G. Gail Davis and Marion Avarista. Steve indicated that he is actively looking for candidates. However, to date no one has shown any interest even though it has been mentioned on the web site as well as in the current

newsletter. Don Bianco noted that it is sometimes necessary to reach out to someone and not wait for volunteers.

▪ **Unfinished Business:**

1. **Merchants Services Account:** Treasurer Jayne O'Brien announced that the program has been set up and is included on our website. Visitors to the site are able to join and/or make donations via charge card. It is however a work in progress and we are adjusting and ironing out any problems. It will be in use as part of our Scholarship fund drive.
2. **Bylaw Update:** Sal Masiello has volunteered to chair the committee. Members include Marion Avarista, Paul O'Brien and Debbie Cockfield. Chairman Masiello said he will be contacting the members of the committee soon to set up the initial meeting.
3. **Yard sale:** Cathy Crepeau wants to hold a second yard sale and members present agreed with her. The date has been set for Nov 4th. Members Nikki Jimenez and Anna Marie Richmond offered to help. Cathy noted the need for Principal Mendelsohn's help with procuring a place to store items and for setting a drop off schedule.

▪ **New Business:**

1. President Bianco noted that the scholarship committee will remain the same and will review the documents from 2017 and set up the 2018 program. Jose Gonzalez, chairman; committee members Ron Tella, Sylvia Long and G. Gail Davis.
2. The annual appeal will include information from the 2017 appeal and hopefully information from the recipients regarding their journey thru the academic year since receiving the scholarship. The appeal will also make use of our merchant services account and allow donors to charge their pledge as well as making a sustaining donation monthly. President Bianco also noted the attempt to add more influence this year on an applicant's financial need as well as academic achievement.
3. **2018 Gala.** Vice President Cockfield will once again chair this event. President Bianco will handle the program booklet once more. The date is tentatively May 5, 2018.
4. **Membership Goals:** In an attempt to find new ways to get more members as well as more active members. Cathy Crepeau and Steve Bianchi will co-chair and work towards this goal. Sal Masiello offered a suggestion that an open house be held on a Saturday. He suggested Brewed Awakenings as a possible site. We would invite all members and attempt to get other CHS graduates

- to attend by word of mouth and any other means available to us. A motion was made by Paul O'Brien, seconded by Anna Mari Richmond to allot up to \$300 for this open house. The motion was carried.
5. LED Sign: President Bianco noted that in asking Principal Mendelsohn what the Association could do for the school he noted his wish for an LED sign to be placed outside of the school to let others know what is going on at Central. President Bianco has done some research into the cost and found it runs between \$4000 and \$25000 depending on sign and type of sign. Furthermore he has found that local zoning allows the sign to be placed on a school building with the only restriction that it cannot be a scrolling type sign, but the message could change every 8 seconds. The association will explore the possibility of such a purchase or if it is found to not be possible, then we will look into the purchase of one or two smaller types signs to be placed in the foyer for students to see upon their arrival in school daily.
 6. Central Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame: Membership present felt it was a good idea and the following members have formed a committee to look into how this would be done. Lyle E. Perra, Chairman, G. Gail Davis, Paul O'Brien, Steve Bianchi and Tony DiMizio.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 on a motion by Sal Masiello, seconded by Gene Richmond.