

S.P.O.R.T.

Students and Parents Organizing Resources for Teams

A brief history of the organization

At the start of the 2007-2008 school year the Long Hill Township Board of Education instituted a program called "Pay to Play." This program dictates that parents will bear the complete financial responsibility for all of the interscholastic sports at Central Middle School. Several members of the school community met on September 24th, 2007 to discuss ways that the community could come together to help to fund the athletic program at Central School. One of the conclusions of that meeting was that a subsequent meeting would be called and that the possibility of the formation of a "sports booster club" would be explored.

On October 17th, 2007 a meeting of parents and other community members was held in the Central School Library. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of forming a sports booster club and to discuss ways of fund raising. At that meeting a list of fund raising ideas was made, a call for a few parents to form a "steering committee" went out, and a list of members was created. One idea that came from the meeting for fund raising was Pizza Wednesday. A steering committee consisting of essentially four members of the original group meet to work out the details of Pizza Wednesdays and the pizza began to be sold in the month of November.

Near the conclusion of the 2007-2008 school year the steering committee was asked, by the superintendent of schools acting on behalf of the Board of Education, to formalize the booster club. To that end, the superintendent asked for the steering committee to accept a board of education member as a liaison. The board liaison began meeting with the steering committee in the spring of 2008. During the summer between the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years the steering committee began to formalize the organization.

Working with the new superintendent of schools, Dr. Rene' Rovtar, the steering committee arrived at the name "Students and Parents Organizing Resources for Teams." By-Laws have been established, a separate bank account, under the auspices of the school business administrator, has been created and open public meetings will be held throughout the year, the first of which will be held on December 2nd, 2008.