

Carlisle Parent Teacher Organization
October Meeting Minutes – Thursday, October 1, 2015
9:00 am – Spalding Conference Room

Attendees: Christine Lear, Emily Richardson, Amy Caggiano, Margo Parent, Nicole McGeough, Niressa Martin, Carrie Patel, Sandy Eisenbies, Lisa Chaffin, Amy Versaggi, Laura France, Alyson Becker, Cary Keller, Linda Vanaria, Dennet Sidell, Amy Smack, Eva Mostoufi

Call to order Christine Lear called the meeting to order at 9:02 am

Approve September Minutes

Christine Lear made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes.

Amy Caggiano seconded the motion.

Vote: Minutes Approved

Administration Updates – Christine Lear read Joan Wickman's update

- Dr. Wickman extends a heartfelt thank you to folks for their contributions to the staff luncheon. It was absolutely delicious, and the dining room was beautifully decorated! Overall September was a great month at CPS
- Starting a Safety Committee in October. This Committee is comprised of town safety officials, administrators, staff and parents. We are looking for two parent volunteers (one who has an elementary student and one who has a middle school student). This Committee will meet quarterly (Oct., Dec., March, and May) to discuss, review, revise, and/or create safety protocols for CPS. We are looking for a parent's perspective when we have these discussions. Our first meeting is set for Wednesday, October 21st, at 9:00.
- Administration would like to have some parent coffees. We'd love for the PTO to co-sponsor these morning sessions with us. We are hoping to schedule our first one in October with homework as our discussion topic.
- David Dockterman is willing to do a presentation for parents on helping students have a growth mindset. We can work together to set that program up. What are some dates that the PTO thinks might work? Our evening program last spring was very well attended. I think we should shoot for an evening rather than a Saturday morning.

Dennet Sidell – September has been busy, classroom climates & communities, thank you for the luncheon, great turnout for elementary parents' night. 39 kids were cared for by the CCHS cheerleaders – great service. Bus evacuation went smoothly followed by assembly; completed two lunch/recess trainings. Had about 18 or 19 people attend trainings. Kids can put trays down in lunch room. Have Leah, Lori and Patricia out at recess every day. Will continue 4th grade leadership so those kids will help with games on the playground. Hoping to open the Castle every day. Scott Triola is doing a great job recruiting parents. School pictures are tomorrow. On 10/18 some Elem. & Middle School teachers will have a tour of Conant Land conservation land to see what curriculum connections can be made. Lesley Yanka is giving a Title I presentation on 10/8, from 6-7 pm. School Garden was weeded by families over the summer. Three boys: John Troast, Kyle Bonenfant and Rowan O'Connor built a trellis and added 2 beds to garden and sold produce at farmers market. K, 1, 2 will do planting in spring. Added drip system. Parent survey – game night of math will allow parents to see how math is done. Homework review; some research has come out that there is not much academic benefit from homework in early elementary grades. Should be a review of skills and should not have high frustration.

Linda Vanaria – All teachers very grateful for luncheon provided each year. It's great to start meetings after a wonderful lunch. Started curriculum meetings, getting ideas to involve families in the evenings. There will be a games night (could collaborate with PTO)

Carrie Wilson – Middle school teams are looking at homework as well. Perhaps consider a time limit and looking at what is meaningful homework. MS is doing great. Advisory groups are up and running; includes community service and team building. Had a great parent night, received lots of feedback. Might help to have student guides to direct parents to classrooms. Now have a student council who could organize.

CSA Thank Yous!

- Niressa Martin for all of her work on Membership
- Caitlin O'Connor for coordinating the Newcomer's Coffee – was well-attended, about 30 people.
- Karina Coombs and Christine Spencer for a great Teacher Luncheon!
- Christopher Adamchek for providing music for the Teacher Luncheon
- Joanna and Kevin Quinlan for providing all of the flowers for the luncheon
- The many parents who donated dishes/helped setting and cleaning up the Teacher Luncheon
- Laura France for coordinating the many details of the PTO Fair
- Carrie Patel, Niressa Martin, Amy Caggiano and Eva Mostoufi for helping at the PTO Fair
- Eva Mostoufi for all she has put in to the Spirit Shirts

PTO Ongoing Business

Need to ask if STEAM offerings can come out earlier (discuss at SAC) Could have sign-ups at the parents' back to school nights. Need to make it more worthwhile for the vendors.

Target fundraising program is coming to an end. We have received only several hundred dollars.

- EVP – School Advisory Council and teacher grant update – no updates, has not received any applications for grants. Deadline is the 15th. Meeting is on the 22nd. 8:30-12:30 Linda Vanaria will represent the elementary school and Cary is working on finding a MS rep.
- Treasurer – Alyson Becker gave a brief update on the budget; additional \$2173 for membership. T-shirts – we lose .60 per t-shirt to paypal for processing fee. Paid \$104 to paypal for the t-shirts. Last year we sold almost 95% of shirts, much less this year. We need to have a conversation as the PTO Board regarding the pricing of items. Eva Moustofi discussed t-shirt pricing with Dr. Sidell.
- Secretary – Emily Richardson – Please keep me updated if there are problems with the gmail accounts.
- Membership - Status Report (please join if you haven't already - thanks if you have!) Niressa Martin 390 households in the directory, approved faculty; 87 have access. Have 623 students which includes out of district. Need to increase membership. 150 families have not yet confirmed their information; they will be individually approached. Christine Lear has drafted a letter to talk to those people. Need to break apart confirming data from the membership. \$8840 has been raised through memberships. Could we find new ways to reach out to incoming kindergarten families and convey value of membership? Could there be a tag on the website and have a FAQ for new families. Create a checklist to send out in late August from the school. 240 households confirmed. Does not have emails for some families. We could snail mail to MS families a flyer or put in elementary backpacks. Put in an envelope addressed to parents.
- Fundraising - CarlisleEcommunity update, Spirit Shirt Sale results – Eva Mostoufi. Over 200 t-shirts sold. People may have found it easier to send in last year with the form. They will go home in 2 weeks in backpacks. T-shirts could also be purchased in November during the apparel sale. We're purchasing

19 t-shirts for faculty/staff this year. Apparel sale in November with delivery before 12/18. Sale up for 3 weeks before Thanksgiving break. Could we do a sign advertising the apparel sale at Spaghetti Supper?

- Carlisle Ecommunity.com name has been registered with godaddy.com. We will start putting it together. Lori Brown will create the turnkey kit. Town is working on a new website. Next meeting is next Wednesday at 9 am open to anyone who wants to come.
- Gift Cards – (Amy Caggiano) fundraising that we could do around the holidays. We could try this fall to see how it does. No e-cards available at this time. No cost to the PTO. Need to market it carefully. Cards would be mailed. Could be a great service.
- Curriculum Enrichment – Lisa Chaffin & Amy Smack, still in limbo phase have approached teachers and have heard back from some; working on putting together calendar. Usually 80% of programs are nailed down in the fall. Give event dates to Amy Caggiano so she can put on the calendar. Could possibly extend CE programs to the out of district kids? Could contact Michelle Coleman.
- Room Parent Coordinator – Nicole McGeough – things are going smoothly, hasn't heard any complaints. Had some email bounce backs; unable to bcc messages and people didn't want their email addresses shown. Need to do in smaller batches. Could possibly send email from Husky Directory.
- Publicity – PTO News – Margo Parent will send email for news.

New Business

- Nitwits, LLC – person to come help educate us with lice program. Will give her name to the nurse. Put in the directory
- Advertising; Husky Directory home page, Website, News; asking local businesses to be in Husky Directory. At bottom of every webpage there are 3 pictures we could sell \$1,000 per spot for advertising. Do we want to put ads in the PTO news? All of our revenue streams went down last year. Need to identify some solid revenue streams. Will not do in the news. Look at other PTO websites to see what others do for ads.
- Volunteers – we're having a hard time getting people to volunteer. Nancy West is looking for people for the library. We can't get 12 people to ride the kindergarten bus.

Adjourn

Margo Parent made a motion to adjourn.

Lisa Chaffin seconded the motion.

Vote : Approved, Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, November 6 at 9:00 am in the Spalding conference room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Emily H. Richardson, PTO Secretary