

Carlisle Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 7, 2016
9:00 am – Spalding Conference Room

Attendees: Christine Lear, Amy Caggiano, Carrie Wilson, Dennet Sidell, Eva Mostoufi, Niressa Martin, Nicole McGeough, Margo Parent, Amy Smack, Emily Richardson, Carrie Patel, Laura France

Call to Order – Christine Lear called the meeting to order at 9:03 am and noted we did not have quorum.

Administration Updates

Dennet Sidell –

- The respiratory and gastro viruses that hit the school before break have now disappeared; all are having a good start back.
- In final stages of hiring for two maternity leaves.
- Reading tutor left just before winter break so hiring process has just begun.
- Four people went to a co-teaching conference in December. Co-teaching allows for more face time with teachers. CPS is looking to bringing in co-teaching as a regular practice.
- The school started out two years ago with 2 amplification systems and applied for and received a grant from CEF for additional systems. There are now 18 amplification systems; pre-k through grade 5. Also very happy to have student microphones.

Carrie Wilson –

- Working to get PE department a portable amplification system (could be taken outside). Conducting research to add a system in the auditorium as well.
- HS Class of 2020 (eighth grade) is doing amazing work with literature. Poetry book almost done (includes artwork). Researcher coming to talk to kids about how learning happens and what makes somebody a great writer and reader. (He came last year also).
- Contacted by Waltham Public Schools looking to do some co-teaching in Math (looking at Middle School math).
- Westford Public School looking at science; wanted to look at program we have.
- Thank you for conferences; they went well.
- High School scheduling starts in 3 weeks – all online. Will be connected to all information that Concord receives. Kids will do at school but online; lots of info going home to parents.
- Starting to print diplomas.
- Working on advisory program looking to bring in mindfulness.
- Graduation events: This class is a tight group and wanted to celebrate the time they have had together. 3 main events; Spirit of Boston dinner cruise – just middle school on the cruise. Dinner and dance. Will take buses. (Takes the place of the one overnight in the Berkshires.) Going to Rye, NH to Seacoast Science Center. A naturalist will take the kids to tidal pools and then picnic. Have matinee tickets to Blue Man Group following day. Creating a list of things that kids are putting together here. Project investigation – can do certain activities in one room (reading, robotics, etc.) Parents will take care of graduation ceremony. Students want to do a class song. Teachers will be staffing these events.

CSA Thank You!

- carlisleEcommunity meeting attendees for their ongoing work
- Chris Thomas and the Events Committee for a great Skating Party in December (made a profit)

- Eva Mostoufi, Amy Caggiano and friends for the Spirit Shirt sale, delivery in mid-December
- Amy Caggiano for organizing the Gift Card Sale

PTO Ongoing Business

- Membership – Niressa Martin – had seven membership signups since last meeting. There have been 1,952 parent logins since we've started. 30% of families still not confirmed. Of the 70% who confirmed, 80% are members. PTO has 220 memberships right now. Looking at process for what happens when we "graduate" families. We don't want families to have to opt-in each year. Niressa would like to continue on with membership next year. For parents to sign up at back to school night should we consider using square up for them to pay? Internet connectivity is poor. Could we have several computers for people to sign up?
- Room Parent Coordinator – Nicole McGeough – It has been a quiet period. Will include the room parents in nominating/volunteer recruitment process.
- Events - Movie Night on January 15 - kids can vote for the movie on PTO site; Minions is frontrunner now; next month is Joke Night – March 11 (week before 7th grade play).
- EVP – meetings to discuss infrastructure of Board. We've looked at re-shaping jobs and nominating committee. Changed the name to volunteer recruiting committee. Will go through the room parents to seek out new people for PTO positions. Bingo Night will have open positions described at a table. Look at proposed changes to organization. Would like to vote on this in February. We want to really open up the process. Meeting will be in March and all individuals who hold positions are asked to attend. We did eliminate the elementary VP; parent education will be piggy backed on other community activities. Make tighter connections with Concord and surrounding communities.
- Treasurer - major gift, PTO name change status – CML reported that name change has gone through. Everybody's budget is on target.
- Secretary – no report
- Curriculum Enrichment - Upcoming Programs – Amy Smack – budget is \$10,000 and there are always fluctuations. Is wondering about increasing the budget. Amy Smack asked to increase the CE budget by \$500 or \$1000. (If necessary we could do a virtual vote.) Have outstanding Shakespeare program. Should we pay for lunch for this group? They have asked for it so we have paid for it. Should develop a policy. We could go elsewhere for the lunch.

New Business

- Nominating outreach - info tables at February 26 Bingo Night - please represent your position if at all possible
- Superintendent Search - encourage parents and guardians to attend forums
- Back to School Night - HH no longer a big draw, do we enhance it? Move it earlier / later? Drop it? Make the MS night a better event. Would like to see the STEAM programs offered at Back to School night. (will discuss next month)
- Thinking about next year and the PTO, will you keep your position? Interested in another? Questions? Please contact Christine to let her know what your thoughts are about next year.
- Teacher Luncheons - two a year? (move to agenda for February)
- CarlisleEcommunity.com – we are proprietary owners of software and have one year of support. Website is online getting ready to release to public. Want sponsors to feel that they are getting value. We did not purchase the mobile app (\$1000.) Looks great on mobile devices. People can find restaurants in the area. People can sign up and give restaurant reviews. Also have Zagat and ratings guides included. Organizations can post their events. People search – we have the Carlisle census information. There are

classified ads; you can advertise without paying for the ad. Lots of town information available. Business listings will be growing. We have 4 levels of participation for an advertiser. Looking to find a balance between a service for the town and building ad revenue. Any upgrade is included in cost (for one year). If you are willing to help sell ads please tell Christine Lear or Eva Mostoufi. Could simply mention the Ecommunity to vendors as you receive services. Christine will send out the web address so people can look around. Meetings at 11am at Christine's house. We may be able to give up other fundraisers. One area that needs funding is sports. Families pay a fee for kids to participate and sports teams are running in the red.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am

Next meeting will be on Thursday, February 4 at 9:00 am in the Spalding conference room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Emily H. Richardson, PTO Secretary