

Costello PTO ****TENTATIVE**** Minutes

Monday, September 20, 2021

Attendance: Jen Ford, Katie Monhaut, Chris Tallman, Debbie Ballios, Ingrid Peeples, Amy Miller, Kristin Cermak, Margie, Keri Elliott, Suzy Powell, Pramit Day, Maren Pulcini, Allison Allen, Lauren Brezenski, Kristen Northey, Saurabh Joshi, Sophie Fu, Han Le-Nguyen, Jamie Kaniarz, Angie Cheek, Michelle Tessoﬀ, Chris Chang, Erin Roenicke, Blane Hailemichael, Suneetha Malineni

Mrs. Ballios called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Introductions were made on Zoom by each participant. Welcome back to a new school year!

Secretary Report

Katie Monhaut presented the minutes from the June 14, 2021, meeting. Kristin Cermak made a motion to approve the minutes and Jamie Kaniarz seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report

Mrs. Tallman presented the Bank Transactions and Budget Report from last school year. She explained the new fiscal year began August 1, 2021. She explained different areas money is allocated (teacher allocations, field trips, etc) and has all past documentation and receipts on file. At the end of each school year, Chris meets with a CPA to review and audit. She is in the process of submitting required paperwork to file with the IRS as required since we are a 501C3 tax exempt organization. These documents will be filed in November.

Jen Ford made a motion to approve the reports and Keri Elliott seconded. The reports were approved.

Chris Tallman then presented the new proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year. She explained that this is on the conservative side given the last two years with Covid and still not sure on what types of activities/events will be held this year. Even without

our two large fundraisers from last year (Fun Run and Auction), we still raised \$6500 from various events.

There have been some minor adjustments in the number of teachers and support staff, website hosting, etc that need to be adjusted. Chris will make the appropriate adjustments and we will vote on the 2021-2022 Budget at our October meeting. We will recommend to keep a conservative budget in totality, knowing that we will make adjustments and vote as needed with any new opportunities that are presented. We will be good stewards of the money we raise this year.

President Report

Welcome to all! Great to see new faces. We have a lot of opportunities to be involved, and being a part of the PTO allows parents to be in the know and up to speed on school events and information. Mrs. Ballios referenced the link that was sent out to families that contained a lot of great information (PTO dates, Fun Run date, Spirit Wear link, Kroger and Amazon.Smile, PTO Facebook group, contact emails).

Vice-President Report

Mrs. Ford welcomed everyone and is excited for a great year. She will be working on the directory this year, which will be a great resource to have back. She also reported that we will not plan to use the First Day School Supplies as a partner moving forward. It seemed to create some issues and unnecessary stress this year.

Principal Report

No Report

Teacher Representative Report

Mrs. Tessoff was an attendee and noted the appreciation from all teachers to the PTO. We look forward to working and supporting all teachers this year.

Room Parent Chair

Mrs. Kaniarz reported she has sent out a sign up for room parents through Sign Up Genius for the school year. We will not be allowed to have parents attend the Fall party this year, but are hopeful to find other ways to support teachers with their classes. She is reaching out to teachers to get specific needs and ideas. It is still going to be an awesome year!

Spirit Wear Report

Mrs. Allen reported the spirit wear link is open and ready for business! Orders can be placed online with the option of delivery to the school or home. Orders take about a week on average.

Ways and Means Report

Mrs. Roenicke reported that we made \$120 from the Square Lake Nutrition fundraiser and they were excellent to work with. She is in the works of trying to set up fundraising nights with Mod Pizza and Hummus Palace for October and November. As always, she is open for suggestions if anyone knows of a restaurant that would be a possibility for a fundraising event.

Fun Run Report

Ingrid Peebles reported that she has been working to shadow Paul Tennes for the Fun Run. The Fun Run is set for Friday, October 15th. Information was sent home to students in their red folders. Families are encouraged to register online for collecting funds and to promote the event. The minimum suggested donation per student is \$55. To earn "Super Star" status, students would raise at least \$250. Various incentives for classes and individuals will be offered. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are excited to bring it back and have an excellent turnout. Parents will be allowed to be at the Fun Run. We will also offer shout outs and yard signs to purchase for students. There will also be a DJ at the event. More info on times and incentives to come.

Fair Report

At this time, we are not sure of the status of the fair. We do need someone to chair this event. They would have help from the previous chair. If interested, please let Debbie Ballios know.

Auction Report

Mrs. Monhaut reported that we will begin to plan a modified auction for this year. It will be held at a local restaurant to avoid having ticket sales to attend. We are currently brainstorming ways to make it accessible online, in person, or presale of auction tickets to raffle off items. There will be a meeting held in late October for any parents who are interested in being on this committee. More information to come!

Community Service Report

Mrs. Elliott reported she would like to consider being involved with Ellie's House. There are opportunities to donate items for outreach bags (toiletries, food, etc) and we could have students assemble. We could also have students write or create cards of encouragement. Students could gather to assemble outside (possibly in Mrs. Elliot's driveway). We will follow up with Dr. DiPonio to see if there are restrictions to our outreach.

Green Schools Report

Amy Miller reported that this will be her last year as Green Schools Chair since her youngest son is in 5th grade. She has found a willing replacement, Suzy Powell. Suzy Powell will be shadowing Mrs. Miller this year (thanks Suzy!!!). Mrs. Miller will be working with teachers this year to act as a liaison between Michigan and the school to promote and track programs and activities Costello is involved with concerning energy, environment, conservation, etc. She documents these activities and programs and submits them in March. We are currently working towards Evergreen Status, which is

the highest level. She is hopeful we can resume more activities this year to achieve this status.

Publicity/Web Coordinator Report

Kristin Cermak reported she is checking with Mrs. Williams to get our PTO webpage tied with the school website, especially since we recently learned the hosting fee increased. Mrs. Cermak will continue to post any school related events and information on the PTO Facebook page. She will also post a list of any open positions on the PTO board for the 2022-23 school year.

Old Business

None

New Business

Lindsey Miller spoke about the possibility of planning a Costello event at Blake's Orchard. She had heard of another school that held a nighttime event with a bonfire, Fun Yard area, and was around \$12 a person (compared to the \$24 per person price). She is willing to look into this as an option for the fall to have families come together.

Lindsey Miller mentioned the concern of the shortage of substitute teachers in our building and district. She wondered if there was a way we could promote or incentivize substitutes to choose Troy or our building. It was mentioned that subs are employed through EduStaff and the shortage is a problem all over the county. We are hopeful that many choose Troy as their work place of choice!

Kristin Cermak made the motion to end the meeting and Jamie Kaniarz seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

The next PTO meeting will be held on Monday, October 11th @ 7:00 PM via Zoom.

