

Costello PTO Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2019

Attendance: Debbie Ballios, Jennifer Ford, Chris Tallman, Katie Monhaut, Tammy DiPonio, Allison Allen, Kristin Cermak, Kathy McNeilly, Janet Matichuk, Angela Cheek, Jamie Kaniarz, Ingrid Peeples, Aimee Soosoo, Keri Elliott, Lindsey Miller, Paul Tennies

Mrs. Ballios made introductions and called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Secretary Report

Mrs. Ballios presented the minutes from the September 23rd meeting. Mrs. Cermak made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Tennies seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report

Mrs. Tallman presented the bank reports and they were reviewed. Mrs. Tallman referenced the “classroom experience” category and noted that this pertains to field trip and classroom experiences that are both inside and outside of Costello. She also noted that “Supplemental Supplies” is generally Scholastic News. We have spent about \$10,000 of our budget so far this year. Kristin Cermak asked about a charge for the fair listed under the auction category (this was rectified upon review). Mrs. Tallman also handed out an income statement from the 2018-19 school year so all transactions are transparent. Mrs. Elliot made a motion to approve the reports and Mrs. Allen seconded. The reports were approved.

President Report

Mrs. Ballios reviewed the proposed changes in the by-laws. Each attendee was given a copy of the proposed changes to review (changes were discussed referencing Article IV and Section 2). A motion was made by Mrs. Matichuk to approve the changes and Mrs. Peeples seconded. The motion was approved.

We will be reviewing and voting to change additional by-laws at the November meeting. This will be an ongoing process to improve our processes and procedures. Next month we will discuss adding a protocol for the removal of an officer in the unforeseen chance this would be necessary. It was noted by Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Tallman that if this were to arise, the board would have a private conversation with the individual and not make it a public hearing. It is important to remember that these are volunteer positions and our goal is to maintain the integrity of the PTO and its members. Mrs. Ballios will bring verbiage to the next meeting to be discussed.

There was a discussion that meeting minutes will be made public in the days following the PTO meeting and marked as “proposed.” They will then be voted on and finalized at the next meeting.

Vice-President Report

Mrs. Ford reported she is currently working on the directory and it is almost complete. Thank you to Jenny Martus for all of her help in collecting the information and sheets. We are hoping to utilize Power School next year to help generate the directory.

Principal Report

Dr. DiPonio thanked the participants who attended the first book club meeting for *UnSelfie*. It was a great turn out with great conversations. Please remember to check Twitter and the school newsletter for updates and important dates. Conferences will be held next week on October 23th and 24th. She is looking forward to the Fun Run on Friday.

Teacher Representative Report

No report; teacher is at 5th Grade Camp

Room Parent Chair Report

Mrs. Monhaut reported that Halloween parties will take place on October 31st. Parties will be from 3:00-4:00 PM and classroom teachers will send out more detailed information with parade and classroom party details. Room parents and/or party hosts will be sending out a sign up for parents to contribute to the party.

Spirit Wear Report

Mrs. Allen reported that the 5th grade camp sweatshirts were made and delivered in time for the 5th graders to wear them to camp today. They are currently working on the class t-shirts for the students at Costello and those are in process.

Ways and Means

Mrs. Ford reported on Mrs. Roenicke's behalf. We made approximately \$240 from the Mod Pizza night. The Box Top competition will take place next week with the Michigan/MSU theme. The mascot inflatables are ready to go. Mrs. Ford asked for feedback on restaurant nights and it was agreed that once a month seems like a good number. The next restaurant night will take place on October 23rd at Smashburger. She is looking into a pizza night (partnering with Benitos) in December.

Fun Run Report

The Fun Run is this Friday, October 18th. Mr. Tennes reported that we are on track to reach our \$20,000 goal. As of today, we have \$15,000 total with cash donations (\$11,300 is online donations). Mr. Tennes has over 40 lawn signs sold and they are ready to distribute at the event. Students can take them home after the event. We are excited about this new addition (thanks to Kristin Cermak for the idea).

Stacy Miletti has committed to donating \$400 for the Family Fun Night as a sponsor for the event. Date TBD. TYSL is also a new sponsor this year. They have donated \$500 to use towards a DJ for the event. Mr. Tennes is in need of a DJ recommendation for the event. Mrs. Kaniarz offered to reach out to local radio DJ's. Another option is to locate audio equipment since our

school's does not have the capacity to reach the far side of the event (this was also noted as a possible idea for future leftover funds/project item).

Shout Out forms are due tomorrow, and class colors are as follows:

K (red), 1st (grey), 2nd (green), 3rd (yellow), 4th (blue), 5th (superhero theme)

Volunteers are needed/welcome at the event. We are also in need of a new mascot for next year. The limo lunch for the top earners and raffle winners will be announced at a later date.

Fair Report

The Costello Fair will now be on March 14, 2020.

Auction Report

Mrs. Monhaut reported that meetings are underway and the committee will be stuffing envelopes for business donations this week. Fliers and information will go home to parents in late November, after the Fun Run is over. If anyone knows any businesses that would like to sponsor or donate to the event, please let Mrs. Monhaut or any of the committee members know. We accept any and all donations and there are many levels of sponsors. More information coming next month.

Community Service Report

Mrs. Elliott reported that she and Angela Whitmore are working together to begin a few new projects. One they are thinking of doing is a pop tab program through the Ronald McDonald House. Students and families could save tabs from pop cans, soup cans, fruit cups, etc and put them in milk containers. The tabs are then given to the Ronald McDonald House who can sell the aluminum by weight and uses the proceeds for their organization. Mrs. Elliott would like to promote this through classroom competitions (popcorn and pajama party as an idea for a prize). Some attendees mentioned their personal connections to this cause, including the Allen family, whose daughter, Mia (4th grade) stayed at the Ronald McDonald house for two weeks this summer. Dr. DiPonio brainstormed the idea of using the 5th grade Broadcast Crew to promote this event and others, using our own students to share their stories. We would also like to explore the possibility of having students visit these places to have a better sense of the organization and their mission.

Another service project mentioned by Mrs. Elliott is collecting hats and gloves for the Detroit Rescue Mission. She will be working with Mrs. Whitmore to create a flier to go out.

Mrs. Ballios offered to contact high school students who are in need of volunteer events to help with various school events.

Green Schools Report

No report

Web Coordinator Report

Mrs. Cermak reported that all is well.

Publicity Report

Mrs. Cermak reported that all is well.

Old Business

Mrs. Tallman gave an update on International Night, which will be held on November 7th. There are currently 21 countries represented. Activities and performances include a selfie station, Bali wood performances, Indian dances, DJ, and other dance performances. A big turnout is expected and volunteers are needed. A sign up genius will be sent out for families to sign up. We will also be using this event as our community event to apply for Disney tickets for the auction. Reminders for the event will be sent the week of.

New Business

Mrs. Kaniarz shared about the nonprofit organization she works for, called Defeat the Label. This is an organization linked to the Upstander Program and they work with schools to educate and inform on the Bully Mindset Shift. They are holding a conference, The Community Conversation, at Oakland Schools on October 24th and Mrs. Kaniarz has 5 tickets available if any teachers or parents would like to attend. The conference has many recognized and impressive speakers and sessions. The event is from 9:00-3:00. Please contact Jamie Kaniarz if you are interested in attending.

The next PTO meeting will be held on November 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Kaniarz made a motion to end the meeting and Mrs. Allen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.