

Costello PTO Meeting Minutes September 10, 2018

Attendance: Chris Tallman, Gail Kobal, Debbie Ballios, Laura Saleski, Tammy DiPonio, Kristin Cermak, Allison Allen, Tom Matichuk, Kara Greenwalt, Ingrid Peeples, Wendimarie Abdel-Hameed, Lauren Brezenski, Erin Roenicke, Jennifer Ford, Aimee Soosoo, Julie Eldridge, Dawn Leonard, Wendy Malone, Val Thudium, Lisa Holz knecht, Kris Pala, Valter Barragan, Janet Popa, Dustin Popa, Aieden Baheena, Reham Bahena, Amy Miller, Katie Monhaut, Viji Siddaiah, and Jennifer Heywood.

Mrs. Ballios made introductions and called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Secretary Report

Mrs. Ballios presented the minutes of the June 11, 2018 meeting. Mrs. Cermak made a motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Allen seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report

Mrs. Tallman presented the Bank Transactions, Budget Report and Income Statements through September 10, 2018. A question was raised regarding the \$200 budget line item for 5th grade run donation. What does it go towards for the run in May? Mrs. Leonard made a motion to approve the reports and Mrs. Allen seconded. The reports were approved.

President Report

Mrs. Ballios explained she attends the monthly President's Council meeting. One thing they discussed is the TFEE donation. Teachers can apply for grants from the TFEE. They ask the PTOs to donate. We have a line item on our Budget for this donation and will contribute for last year and this year. She also asked for the teachers to please think about where we want to spend the money for next year's budget. We can use this as an advertisement tool for next year to help with donations for this year. We recently found out the Stage Curtain will not be covered by the District and ours is in poor shape. There are several schools in need of them. The new family pizza night was last week. We had a magician for the kids while we were talking to the parents. We had a ton of signups for committees and may have a new Web Coordinator.

Vice-President Report

Mrs. Kobal reported every year she puts together a paper student directory. She has to contact Kerry Birmingham to see if we have permission to do so again this year. Last year, we sold advertisements to offset cost and raise money for the Fun Run. We will be hosting an International Night on November 8 from 6:30-8:30. There will be a DJ, photo booth and tons of fun. We will be promoting it in different ways.

Principal Report

Dr. DiPonio thanked everyone for a well-organized pizza night; the team was energetic. Parents felt welcome and volunteered for a lot of committees. Shout out to Mr. Dunneback. He came in after lockers were installed and volunteered to make the steps. The preschoolers also use them for seats waiting for rest room

Upcoming Events:

- 5th grade camp meeting tomorrow
- 5th grade Rouge River field trip on Friday
- Start to Finish assembly on Friday
- 5th grade Safeties are being trained
- October 24 & 25 conferences, sign ups coming soon
- Sept 26 early release, no lunch will be served so please send an extra snack

Teacher Representative Reported

Mrs. Thudium thanked us for the wonderful luncheon. The 5th graders love the new lockers. They are respecting them and being very responsible. If you get a chance, please look at the new furniture for the 5th graders. It is nice to have extra space in the rooms. No more wet shoes and floors.

Room Parent Chair Report

Mrs. Monhaut discussed Curriculum Night is Thursday and volunteer sign up at Curriculum Night. She ran through the different opportunities for people to sign up such as, fair classroom baskets, teacher appreciation week, classroom parties – Halloween, Winter Sing Along on December 21, and the end of year ice cream social. We streamlined the parties a couple of years ago to have consistent treats and grade level crafts. This year, each party will have a host. The host, room parent (sign up genius) and teacher, will work together to set up and clean up. There will be a room parent meeting on September 27 at 7 PM in the media center. We will be asking for donations at beginning of year to go towards the fair classroom basket, teacher presents, and parties.

Spirit Wear Report

Mrs. Allen reported the website is up and operational. The link is on the Costello PTO website. She had a request for vests this year. 5th grade camp sweatshirts will go through the site. Parents have the options to have merchandise dropped off to classroom or picked up from the office. This is nice in case it will be a gift.

Ways and Means Report

Family and Restaurant Nights – Mrs. Leonard reported Zoyo will be Tuesday, September 25, Granite City will be Wednesday, October 17 and MOD pizza in November. To receive credit for Costello, families will need a flyer for Granite City and place the receipt in a special box at MOD. Skate World hopefully will be November 15 and February 7. We need more families to sign up with their Kroger card. We currently have 55 families. You need to go to Community Rewards.

Box Tops and Square 1 Art – Mrs. Ford reported our first Box Top drive will be for the U of M vs MSU game. She is looking for ideas to make it even more fun for the kids and the best way to get the information out to parents. We discussed Peachjar, flyers in the red folders or teachers positing it to the classroom sites.

Fun Run Report

No report

Fair Report

Mrs. Ballios reported there will be a sign up genius sent out for volunteers after the holidays.

Auction Report

Mrs. Cermak reported the Auction has changed venues this year from Petruzzello's to The San Marino Club. Ticket prices will be higher, no more drink tickets, a full sit down meal with salad, entree, dessert, and side pasta.

Community Service Report

No report

Green Schools Report

Mrs. Miller reported we are currently an Evergreen School. This is her 3rd year. Her job is to act as a liaison and continue the programs we have in place. DTE comes every year and does a 4th grade presentation on conserving energy.

Web Coordinator Report

Mrs. Cermak reported she is keeping the website up to date. She will post PTO minutes and budgets.

Publicity Report

Mrs. Cermak reported she has lots to post. She will email blast donation requests to parents.

Old Business

A parent stated some parents are unhappy about the purchase of the 5th grade lockers and lack of discussion about the purchase. They would rather spend the money on other items such as maintenance to the playground equipment, signage and/or fencing around the perimeter of the school or landscaping to the front of the school.

Regarding broken playground equipment, parents please take pictures, send them to Dr. DiPonio and she make work requests to the district. Regarding signage and fencing, this is a district initiative that is on the to-do list from the Sinking Fund. It may take a year or two to implement. Regarding the landscape, district said they may eventually get to this, but it's not a top priority. We as a PTO can pursue it, but realize we would need to pay for maintenance of it. (Many times asking for volunteers is unfruitful). It can definitely be on our list of major purchases.

New Business

Arrival and dismissal procedure reminder.

A.L.I.C.E. starting in November, starting to talk to students regarding safety procedures.

MSTEP results will be mailed out on September 20.

Magnets – next PTO meeting is Oct 8, & Nov is 12.

We are looking at painting rocks as a class project.

Mrs. Cermak made a motion to end the meeting and Mrs. Leonard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.