

# PTA Community Meeting Minutes

11.14.2025

**Attendees:** Jen Bryan, Millie Smith, Sam Pugh, Lauren Hanson, Lindsey Sumida, Anne Badger, Liz Morrison, Yvonne Steinberg, Luisa Rosen, Alexa Cares, Jeff VanIwarden, Sara Remington, Chandra Velenza, Jeni Bullock

## 1. Welcome

## 2. Principal's report

- January 16 during the PTA Community meeting: Mr. O will model a lesson from Imagine Learning math so everyone can see what it looks like. We will try to film it so that people can watch it later.
- Today is VanI Dare You as part of the prizes from Jogathon, so every student will have the opportunity to throw a shaving cream pie at Mr. VanI. They will then get an ice cream sundae, which they can eat in the gym.
- Last week was Zoo at the School; it was a success, and the guinea fowl was one of the most entertaining animals.
- One parent asked if we get a new flag out front.
  - Sara will check with Brandon from the maintenance department to find out if we have other flags.
- Another parent asked where we can hang corporate sponsor banners in the future.
  - The wind has been disruptive for the banners on the fence, especially the large banners, and it would be helpful to move toward having smaller banners in the future. At LES, they hang them on a lower fence, and they are more protected from the wind. We will continue to discuss options for the future.
- There's another Choice Enrollment meeting on December 2 at 5:30 PM.
  - Families seemed to appreciate the tour from the first event.
  - We discussed whether we could we have some 5<sup>th</sup> graders attend and play with the younger students during the event.
    - Mr. VanI will see speak with the Climate and Culture Committee to see what they think.

## 3. Finance update

- Jogathon update: we surpassed our goal of \$38,000 (we raised \$47,813)!
  - Yvonne explained that we lowered our previous total goal so it would be more attainable for students.
  - We are trying to figure out the percentage of families who donate any amount during Jogathon. With declining enrollment, we may need to increase the ask per student; we are financing the same things regardless of enrollment (e.g., academic tutors, library needs, art room operating costs, etc). We could also turn it into a competition across grades in terms of percentage who donate. That said, it can be difficult to determine which child/grade a donation is associated with because

people have the option to donate anonymously and you don't have to associate a donation with a student or grade.

- PTA member vote update: The vote for the additional funding for the library passed.
- Account update:
  - We have \$43,978 in the checking account and \$33,207 in the three savings accounts (\$10,983, \$11,127, and \$11,097).
  - We created the budget for this year knowing we have a lot of money in the savings account
- Community Food Share and gift card drive
  - We have 40 families who receive free and reduced lunch. Ascent used to provide gift cards but are not doing that this year. Community Food Share brought non-perishable food boxes to CCE yesterday for those families to pick up if they want.
  - Moving forward, we are trying to identify ways to support these families. We will do a gift card drive for families in December. We will introduce the program before and after Thanksgiving.

#### **4. Family engagement**

- Some people have noticed a lack of engagement among parents in the lower grades, including fewer volunteers in classrooms, donations, etc. It may be because some families are used to Covid times, etc., or this is their first child at CCE, and they are still learning about opportunities to get involved.
- We could try to plan an event for preschool and Kindergarten families to get together that is organized by the school.
- One of the barriers may be the background checks. If we can make it easier, that could help people to sign up. Sara can look again to see if there's a way to bring a fingerprint company to the school to make it easier to access.

#### **5. Volunteer update**

- Thankful Pies: we need 16 more pies or contributions to purchase pies.
- Crossing guards: the first signup was only for the first half of the year, so Liz will reach out to ask people to sign-up for next semester. You can provide any feedback to Liz about becoming a crossing guard.

#### **6. Upcoming events**

- VanI Dare You and Sundae Funday (Nov 14)
- Parents Night Out - Mtn Kids (Nov 15) (full)
- Choice Enrollment Night (5:30 PM on Dec 2)
- Parade of Lights (Dec 5); CCE will not participate as a school, but the CCE choir performs
- PTA Community Meeting (Dec 19)
- Dining for Dollars: Snarfs (Dec 10)
- Dining for Dollars: Chuck E. Cheese (Jan 9)
- Math with Mr. O during the PTA Community Meeting (Jan 16)
- Skate City (Feb 10) – the PTA may do a Silent Auction that culminates at Skate City