



September General Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Attendees:

Erika Hellstrom	Melissa Pellechio	Cynthia Lauro
Julie Roth	Evamarie Augustine	Danielle Quigley
Ebelyss Kharod	Lauren Liberatore	Stacey Katz
Erika Sica	Rebecca Roberts	Maureen Finnegan
Carrie Benevento	Heather Grossman	Gina Adamshick
Susy Scharfenberg	Jennifer Winkelmann	Vanessa Basilio-Rahman
Crystal Kaplan	Marian Castner	Heather Powell
Elena Freedman	January Nicoletta	Michell Forero
Holly Rogers	Tami Blumenthal	Sharon Johnson
Mrs. Piltzer	Ms. Garibay	Dr. Beck
Mrs. Barr	Mrs. Jones	Mr. Osmond
Mr. Marasco	Mr. Petrillo	

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome Back

Superintendent - Ms. Garibay: Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! Open communication is very important to us. We try to go above and beyond, while at the same time, trying not to bombard you. We started a Facebook page for Colts Neck Schools. So far its been very successful! I was proud to announce, at our Board of Education meeting, the increase in our enrollment. We are booming! We have 35 additional students since we left in June. We have 981 students enrolled, which is 157 students over what was projected. We are bringing families back from the private schools. We even had to order some more materials at the last minute. Cedar has 15 more students, Primary has 114 new registrations (37 kindergarten, 61 in Preschool). Please notify the school district if any of your contact information changes, especially email addresses. Also, please let us know if you aren't receiving information via email. We are moving forward with our construction projects. We had a lot of frustration with our general contractor. Disappointment is an understatement. We are finally making process. We are acquiring a new contractor and it is encouraging that we are moving forward.

Ms. Garibay (continued):

I'd like to take an opportunity to make some introductions.

Communications Coordinator – Terry Pilitzer: It is wonderful to see the participation from the community. We've been working hard to improve our technology. We upgraded our phone system and our PA system. For the district chrome book initiative, grades 3-8 are now using chrome books. 6th grade now has interactive projectors. I'd like to introduce Dom Petrillo. He's our new network admin person and we are happy to have him on board.

Business Administrator, Board Secretary - Vincent Marasco: I am starting my 4th year. I love it here and I love the collaboration with the PTO. We are looking at substantial upgrades to the district (air conditioning, etc). It's a referendum for 2018. We are going to be developing an ad hoc committee and we would like the PTO to be involved. If you want to discuss finances/insurances please reach out to me. Thank you and have a great year.

Director of Special Services - Richard Beck: My office is next to the registrar and I have seen firsthand the influx of new parents registering their children. Mrs. Jones (the Director of Curriculum) are focusing on children who need additional assistance, but don't have an IEP. We want to make sure that they receive the appropriate support. Also, I want to let you know about a workshop being sponsored by the Friends of Different Learners Organization. On Thursday, October 14th, there will be Mindfulness Workshop right here at 10 am.

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Director of Curriculum - Melissa Jones: Some curriculum updates. Last year we implemented innovation labs and this year we are continuing implementation and working on expansion of innovation labs. Science has been redesigned at the Elementary School. Mrs. Plumfield and Mrs. Rogers will now teach all science classes. There is now a geometry class offered to 8th grade students. There is an accelerated math class for 6th grade students. We have created an assessment calendar to give you an overview of the different assessments being administered. NJ Ask is currently being redesigned for 4th and 8th Grade. Cedar had their MAP testing today, whereas, Elementary and Primary MAP testing will occur this week. I am in the office across from Dr. Beck if anyone has any questions.

CRPS Principal - Tricia Barr: So nice to see so many new faces in this room I am so glad our Colts Neck families are continuing to grow. It is great to see the wide eyed optimism of the primary students. We are off to a lovely start. The students are already forming friendships. There is 330 plus children at the Primary School. Back to School night is scheduled for Thursday evening 6-8 pm. Our district theme this year is making connections. Make sure you inform your child's teachers about your child's progress. Please make sure you find ways to find out what is going in your child's classroom. Picture day is coming up on the 28th. There is a brand new playground for Pre-K under construction as we speak and should be ready by the end of next week.

CRES Principal - James Osmond: Welcome back everyone. If you are new to the district, there are so many great experiences given to our children in this district. This is a fantastic group! Thank you to the board and the members of the PTO. Back to School Night is tonight. It will start at 6 pm. The schedule can be found on the website and the hard copy is going home tonight. School is off to a good start. There is nothing better than seeing the excitement of the children coming to school. Their enthusiastic smiles tell me we are off to a great school year. We look forward to seeing everyone at Back to School night and that's great that you are all involved in the PTO. Our facelift in the cafeteria was made possible through the support of the PTO.

Cedar Principal - Colin Rigby: There is tons of energy and enthusiasm in our community. We have a little over 350 students at our school. We are off to a great start. 7th grade is trying an overnight trip to Stokes (2 nights 3 days). It is considered rustic lodging, there are no bathrooms in the cabins and children will need to use communal bathrooms. The children will focus on life science while there. We hope everyone in the 7th grade can attend the trip. In 8th grade, we are trying a more personalized approach. Normally we have 6 homerooms and we now have 9 homerooms and this enables each homeroom teacher to be a mentor to 14 students. Once a week, each student will have a 5-10 minute meeting with their mentor to discuss their progress. I'd like to thank the PTO and parent community for their support. This support creates opportunities for the students and then we learn from these experiences. Thank you to the PTO for kids having school supplies on first day and for mini-grants.

Board of Education Liaison – Marian Castnor: On behalf of the Board of Education, welcome everyone. It's great to see new faces. Please be active in helping the PTO board. They need all the help they can get – there's a lot going on! It's a great thing to be involved in the PTO. There's a spring gala, which will come in March. Tara Buss does a phenomenal job with the gala! As far as the Board of Education, we are excited about the increase in enrollment. Also, we extended Mrs. Garibay's contract. The whole staff is phenomenal and there are a lot of exciting things happening in our schools the next few years.

Ms. Garibay: All of us are empathetic and understanding and we try to look through the lens of a parent. We try to see the perspective of the parent and what's best for the kids. Try to take any opportunities that you can to volunteer. Students love seeing their parents in the classrooms! You can always reach me by phone or email. My door is always open.

1. Executive Board Reports

a) Patricia Pecoraro / Danielle Gibson– Co-Presidents

Thank you everyone for coming to our meeting!

Saver Cards – We are doing a saver card this year. The following places on the Saver Card: Gianni's Folio Art Glass, Bagel Talk, Dunkin Donuts, lplay, Fireside, Elite Martial Arts, Bubbakoo's Burritos, and more. Cards will be \$15, however, they will be \$10 if you also purchase the Kid Stuff book.

Open Board Position – The open board position is Student Activities Director. Please let us know if you are interested. There are other chair positions available and they can be found on our website. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to chair a committee. We couldn't do any of this without your help!

Don't forget to register for the PTO and do the online volunteer training. It is a mandate from the Board of Education and has to be done every school year. It needs to be completed before you go into the schools!

b) Courtney McCormick - Vice President

Spiritwear- It will be available at all the Back to School nights. It is also available online for the next couple of weeks. There is free shipping if you ship to your child's classroom.

Movie Night – Save the date - October 13th Sing is the movie. It is a free event for families.

KidStuff Coupon Books – They are going home over the next few days. Cedar students will only receive the order forms (not the Kid Stuff book). Books cost \$25 and the PTO receives 50% of sales! If you don't want to purchase the book, please send it back.

c) Amy Dimes - Fundraising / Sponsorship

Fall Social Sponsorship Opportunities – There is a cocktail hour sponsorship available. We are taking the Fall Social back to Colts Neck this year (usually the fall social is end of October, beginning of November). The purpose of the social is to provide an opportunity for parents (men included) to get to know each other. It is definitely an adult social!

There are also exciting sponsorship opportunities on the directory app.

d) Stephanie Collura- Communications Director

New Directory App – The new directory app is working well so far!

PTO Registration- It is open. 183 families have registered so far. We also have 46 teachers and staff registered. Register by this Friday if you want to be a class parent for your child's class. Registration closes Oct 1.

e) Student Activities Director – WE NEED YOU!!

f) Kristie Tierney – Assistant Treasurer

g) Nancy Morin – Treasurer

Committee chairs - Kristie will have money if you need.

June Treasurer's Report:

- Book balances 6/30/17

Checking	\$19,881
Gaming	\$17,662
Savings	<u>\$16,663</u>

- Major Income:
 - \$1,570 Color Run
- Major Expenses:
 - \$5,309 8th grade dance
 - \$2,140 teacher appreciation week

July Treasurer's Report:

- Book balances 7/31/17

Checking	\$19,562
Gaming	\$17,664
Savings	\$16,664

- The only revenue this month – \$225 from the Spring Gala
- The only expense this month – \$546 for operating expenses

Amazon Smile – If you do a lot of shopping on Amazon shop at Amazon Smile. Select the Colts Neck PTO as your charity and a half of a percent of whatever you buy goes to the PTO.

h) Marci Klein – Secretary

Approve June Treasurer's Report (Jenn Winkelmann, Heather Grossman) all were in favor.

Approve July Treasurer's Report (January Nicoletta, Tara Buss) all were in favor.

Approve June Meeting Minutes (Rebecca Roberts, Carrie Benevento) all were in favor.

Keep in mind: Every penny we earn goes back to the schools and the students.