



January General Meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Attendees:

Steven Gimbelman
Danielle Gibson
Stephanie Collura
January Nicoletta
Kristie Tierney

Patricia Pecoraro
Amy Dimes
Marci Klein
Nancy Morin
Richard Beck

MaryJane Garibay
Courtney McCormick
Jenn Winkelman
Rebecca Roberts
Melissa Jones

The meeting was called to order at 9:41.

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

1. Superintendent/Principal Reports

- a) Mrs. Garibay wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

A hot topic in the news is lead testing in schools. On July 13, 2016 a mandatory water testing was issued in all public school districts. Schools have 365 days to complete the mandate. Colts Neck is doing it all in house and tests will be complete by end of April/beginning of May. The public will be informed of results and, if needed, it can be treated and remediated.

In case you didn't hear, lice. The truth is Colts Neck had more students with stomach viruses than head lice. Colts Neck contracted outside nurses and conducted a whole school sweep. Only one additional case of lice was found in the sweep. The total number of confirmed cases was 16 cases out of over 600 students. The difference this year was the communication to the parents, although the school policy doesn't require this communication. We are trying to change the policy to require parent communication. Communication is key. Communication is part of prevention and treatment. Mrs. Garibay thanked everyone for their support and understanding. There was a recommendation from parents to start a lice screening once or twice a year. On the contrary, it gives a false sense of security. The plan for the future is for the district to do their best to communicate to parents to reduce the amount of future incidences. Stephanie Collura thanked the district for distributing lice letters. The letter saved her family from contracting lice.

Some fascinating things happening in the district. The climate survey has gone out. This year there were only 157 responders for the survey compared to last year which

had over 300 responders. Maybe surveys shouldn't be distributed yearly?

This spring we will be looking at homework. A 6th grade student emailed Mrs. Garibay with a better homework rubric. The district wants to make sure they are accomplishing their goals with homework. There may be a survey distributed to get some feedback. The district wants to make sure that homework is valuable. While some districts are eliminating homework, Colts Neck wants to find a nice balance.

There will also be a massive report card overhaul and we will need input from teachers and parents.

As of last week, the district needed to add a bus run. We can't have students on a bus for more than 50 minutes and there was one bus that traveled for 70 minutes. This additional bus run impacted three bus runs. The other 2 bus runs were almost at 50 minutes travel time.

- b) Dr. Beck, Director of Special Services, discussed the guest speaker that he brought to the district about a week and a half ago. The speaker discussed cyber bullying in the middle school. The kids found the presentation valuable. The turnout was okay, but after the presentation the buzz was so great that there were requests to bring him back. Dr. Beck encouraged parents and children to attend future presentations. Speakers come to the district at least 4 times per year.

Patricia Pecoraro asked if the presentations can be filmed or if the presenters can provide a power point, which we can include on the district website. Dr. Beck responded that it would depend upon the speaker.

Mrs. Jones spoke about another program the district is offering after school. Currently in 6th grade, there is speaker focusing on study skills, which includes planning and time management. The speaker will conduct a total of 3 sessions and has also met with the teachers to make it cohesive and more beneficial for the students. Thus far, the sessions have been valuable and we are planning on continuing for 6th grade next year. Dr. Beck added that it may be helpful to expose to 5th graders as well.

Colts Neck Green Team is working on becoming more sustainable. The district submitted grants to PSE&G. The grants include \$2000 for each building and \$10,000 for the district. The focus at primary school will be recycling, the elementary school will focus on mindfulness through a mindfulness garden, and the middle school will focus on alternate forms of energy (for example, a windmill, solar energy). The district will focus on going clean and may give the kids a water bottle to use daily instead of bottled waters. We should hear soon if we received the grants.

March is mental health month. PE teachers will incorporate mental health activities and there may be a mental health night. PE teachers are working on creating fun activities for the students for national yoga day.

It is great having a staff member trained in mindfulness. Both staff and students are benefiting from this training. Sometimes the staff meets with the mindfulness instructor prior to school to start their day on the right foot.

2. Executive Board Reports

a) Patricia Pecoraro/Danielle Gibson-Co-Presidents

Thank you to January Nicoletta: Goodbye to January, who has been with us for over 2 years as our assistant treasurer. She's an important part of our team and we are going to miss her. She will definitely be recruited to volunteer with the PTO! Thank you January Nicoletta for a great job.

Board Position: We should look for a fundraising assistant. In the past, there has been 2 board members in charge of fundraising. Please spread the word.

b) Courtney McCormick - Vice President

Cedar Drive Chorus Pasta Dinner - Register online by today
The event is Thursday night at the primary school. It \$10 a person and includes dinner, dessert, and a show. Please come show your support! The money raised provides funding for an overnight stay in NYC and School of Rock. You can register online up until tonight.

c) Amy Dimes - Fundraising/Sponsorship

Spring Gala: The Gala is moving along. Invitations will be mailed soon. We've been reaching out for donations and sponsorships, but need more donations and sponsorships.

Danielle explained that every year the PTO has a legacy gift. This year the PTO's gift goes to the Green Team. So please support the Gala and the green team!

d) Jennifer Winkelmann - Student Activities Director

7th Grade Kickerball will be in March. They will be going to a place that opened in Monmouth Mall. The kids will go into balls and try to bump each other. The event is going to take place on a half day and the children are going to go after school. The flyer will be going out in a couple of days.

e) Stephanie Collura- Communications Director

f) January Nicoletta - Assistant Treasurer

Box Tops are due February 17th. Flyers have been sent home. The class with the most box tops wins an ice cream party. In November, we got a check for \$419.90 and in June 2016 \$1018.60.

g) Nancy Morin- Treasurer

1) School Store

- o CRES - today and tomorrow - schedule is on our website
- o Cedar - will be 3/14 during lunch

2) December treasurer's report

Ending balances 12/31/16

- Checking \$14,311
- Gaming \$12,217
- Savings \$16,659

Notable income:

- \$4052 from Frosty's

Notable expenses:

- \$2550 paid for KidStuff books
- \$3947 for the Parent Social
- \$2600 to the auditor

3) Thank you January for doing a great job!

4) Welcome, Kristie Tierney! We look forward to working with you!

h) Marci Klein - Secretary

The secretary moved to approve the following:

December Treasurer's Report (Steven Gimbelman, Kristie Tierney) all were in favor.

November and January Meeting Minutes (Steven Gimbelman, Kristie Tierney) all were in favor.

Vote on New Board Member (Steven Gimbelman, Rebecca Roberts) all were in favor.

Book Swap: CRPS and CRES will conduct Book Swap February 28th. Please drop off gently used K-6 books in either the Cedar Drive main office, the Elementary School main office, or the Primary school lobby (until February 21st). All children will bring home books, with the amount depending on the total amount of books donated. Please contact me if you and your children are interested in helping with the Book Swap. I will need help sorting books, counting books, and setting up books.

Meeting was adjourned 10:17.