



September General Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday September 12, 2023

Start Time: 9:01

End Time: 10:38

Location: Admin Building

Administration

1. Dr. Garibay      2. Dr. Reynolds      3. Dr. Beck      4. Mr. Osmond      5. Phil Capasso  
6. Vincent Marasco      7. Mr. Rigby      8. Merri Milano      9. Mrs. Barr

PTO Executive Board

1. Kim Kaufman      2. Samantha Amato      3. Danielle Quigley  
4. Joanne Passalaqua      5. Rebecca Roach      6. Penelope El-Dalati  
7. Jennifer Mule      8. Samantha Amato      9. Monika Kozicz      10. January Nicoletta

Attendees

1. Tara Edgette      2. Marina Sciandra      3. Melissa Cohen      4. Devon Orzano  
5. Brittany Discepola      6. Allison DiSimone      7. Lena Nicholson      8. Jessica DeNotta  
9. Jodie Lupo      10. Ashley Stona      11. Jen Rundella      12. Jen Zimmerman      13. Kina Kraszewski      14. Mallory Reardon  
15. Nicole Iceland      16. Mariela Muscio      17. Erin Culotta      18. Katrin Zaridyansky  
19. Stephanie Collura

The meeting was called to order by our President, Kim Kaufman and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Dr. Garibay**

Thank you PTO for supporting our welcome back to school breakfast. It's the only time all the staff are together at the same time.. CRES back to school night was a success. Tonight is Primary. Report cards have changed to Trimester. PTO is our source when we do something new. They help to get the word out. We are doing massive implementation on energy conservation. We are adding air conditioning to rooms that do not have it. We tried doing this in 2019 then the pandemic hit. So I'm really excited about it happening now. We have an energy service plan. We have an energy consultant company helping us. We meet with them regularly. This is a plan that is not going to hurt taxpayers. Lots of regulations, probably so this is a 2 year plan. When it does take place it will be during the school year and summer session. It might interfere w/ summer program but it will all work out. PTO helps to bring your legacy to life -project. All from the fruits of your labor PTO.

Topics parents partnering with the community starting in October. Sending out that schedule soon. It will be 8 sessions. Mr. Capasso will explain how we are using our district technology. How kids are using it. This will show parents how their kids are using it. It can help parents see what their children are doing. One session will be 'what kids are doing on their phone'. We will have a panel of parents and veteran parents (might be helpful) that have or had children in the district already and a student panel. Full schedule and registration coming out soon. FLEX SEATING.. ROADADA BUMSPS in your budget. Sense of pride when someone on the outside says, it's a great place for kids. Ms. Milano served at the middle school but then as we saw students evolving, we created a shared position for her as vice principal for CRPS and CRES. It provides administrative support for 3rd graders adjusting to elementary school. To see a familiar face. FYI- We have a chain of communications. As parents we all have questions. We want to make sure that you speak to the right person. We want you to get the right resolution by the appropriate person.

### **Dr. Reynolds**

So excited to partner with the PTO. Thank you. Two dates for the new report card. K-5 video 8 minute video. September 27th a flyer will be going out. Also, a coffee is planned for October. So, if you can't make the video date. This will help to go over new report cards.

Letter NJS grade 3-8. Assessment calendar out dates are on the website.

Mr. Marasco

Very excited with all projects on the way. Thank you to PTO for all the new signs and legacy benefits. Great partnership

### **Mr. Osmond**

Kids back to school night is behind us. Well attended. The feedback from parents was great. Milan was a school counselor. Huge support for the 3rd grader because she is also in the primary. More than everything to the whole parent community, great partnership with the pto. PTO absolute supporters of our schools. Will get great feedback from us. Wonderful legacy to leave behind. Close to done with the courtyard project. Putting station is almost done. New phys ed teacher trying to utilize the new area. Flex seating in every classroom has 5 physical seats. Small groups when seating on the floor are great to have a back on the seat.

Milano- Privele to work w Barr and Osmond. Great partnership

### **Mrs. Barr**

So nice to see everyone. With the school year starting everything is starting especially sports. I see a great crowd today. We are in a good groove, students settled quickly. Back to school tonight. Children featured in a video. Showcase all we have done in pictures.

Pic day sept 27. Week of respect 1st week of October. Generosity of the PTO incredible donation. Swing sets. They are expensive. Entire legacy might be going to that.

Open door of communication.

### **Mr. Rigby**

Same sentiments as colleagues and friends. Thank you for the support. Blessed to have you guys your partnership and help. That amount of money you raise for us is appreciated. It takes a lot of work.. At

Cedar we tried something different, Professional development. How to succeed in the classroom. Social and emotional support.

Ms. Hubbs . Kids contribute outside the classroom, after school activities to do other things in the school. Back to school night Next Thursday. High school is tonight, that's why we postponed Cedar . October 6 th pic day. Jeremy Mercer, our new vice principal at Cedar.

Dr. Beck

Vincent Marasca

Phil Capasso

Grateful for all you do for us. I Run genesis and it has been revamp. Portal has new features. Parent app QR code. One stop shop, lunch menu etc.

Kim Kaufman-President

Membership tries to get more parents to join. You get to participate in PTO events. If you're not a member you cannot participate in out pto run events. We open up some events for only PTO members. Gala it's a sell out event. Volunteer or not , it's ok. You can still be a member and not volunteer. It benefits the schools to be members. We are in all 3 schools. PTO helps all 3 schools. Our school benefits by you joining and volunteering/

Pto is fortunate to have legacy gifts. WE raised \$124,000 this year. Funding Flex seating and more.

OCT 21 TRUNK OR TRaT BUCKS MILL. location change.. JOANNE is our EB contact.

MARCH 21 IT'S OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY. 4 CO- CHAIRS NOT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, Amy Dimes, Joanne Passalaqua Lena Nicholson, and myself. Already planning and an email is going out in October for meetings . 187 Days to go

VINEYARD VINES. WHITE NAVY, MRS. MULE HANDLING'

BOX TOPS-USE TO CUT OUT COUPONS. Now its digital. You download the app, scan your receipt. Bjs and Costco doubling back what you give to the school. We are up to \$14. You pick Conover Road School but it's for all 3 schools.

Open board positions. Danielle Q is helping us while we find someone else. They will shadow her for 1 year. If you know anyone please let us know .

**Legacy Gift**

When the board turns over we give a gift for the schools to directly affect their days. 3 year gift. Gifting the district almost \$125,000. Please review it . Questions comments. We couldn't not have done it without our members. Our neighboring districts don't have and can't have what we do. We will keep membership in loop when it gets implemented.

## **Open board positions**

Assistant Treasurer

If anyone is interested or can recommend someone please reach out.

## **Write Stuff School Fundraiser**

Is live. Order school supplies get sent directly to school. It is a fundraiser. Donating to the PTO last year generated \$3,000.

## Samantha Amato- Vice President-

### **Mini Grants**

Increase our funding of mini grants because our fundraising has been more robust.

Mini Grants fulfilled \$24,711 out of \$25,500 budget

(\$2600 pending) for a CRES mini grant new date for David Adler author's visit due to schedule conflict for CRES field day rain date. Payment must be made by 6/30 or the teacher must reapply in September.

Funding areas:\ grant teachers apply for the program. Field trips. Classroom accessories. We have a large amt for teachers

Record \$30,00 pot of money they can use for the kids split between 3 schools

Teacher appreciation- Mariela Muscio and Ashley chaired last year. Chairs who do these events are appreciated.

300 sPTO members. Many 1st time parents in our school district. Volunteer course found on website. School requires you to do this course.. Pto is not allowing you not to volunteer, it's the school that requires it.

Course has to be taken every year. Save your certificate and send it to school. Instructions on website For teacher appreciation we are setting up a committee to run this. When you become a member please click for teacher appreciation bc its a large event and needs many parents. Many hands make light work

- Welcome new and veteran parents

Spiritwear is being finalized this week. Cedar generai design

Sweat pants, hoodies, t's. It will be open in 2 weeks. If you have questions about sizing, ask before you order because they are customized. Reach out to me or Jenn s\Sattel. Takes 3-4 weeks to process. \$ comes back to the schools. Multiple kids ordering in one family please have order go with the oldest.

## **Parent volunteer course**

Thank you for the volunteers. \$1,477 in profit. We will have more pink and purples next year..

## Rebecca Roach-Communication Director

Membership Drive

2nd year on the board but 1st year as communications director.

Member off to a great start

248 Parents and 138 teachers. Spread the word to join the PTO. It's only \$25 and it does not require volunteering. 1st time this year we have a giveaway 1 parent and 1 staff member will win a ticket to the gGala or top golf and spiritwear to add fun to the drive.

Penelope El-Dalati -Digital media digit social and media website.

Social media sites are for you, the parents. Trying to make it easy for the parents to be in the know.

Community Coroner is another thing happening in our community. Social media has gone up by:

Facebook 28

Instagram 45

Twitter 10

Social media is there for you.. Any questions please reach out.

We will never post grade wide events. It's for the safety of the kid.

Monika - Treasurer

Total \$84,000 dollars. Expense. Legacy 124,00 biggest expense in June.

July was slow \$100000 operational fee and purchased quick books online

August 2023 no income expenses \$1300.00 for subscriptions, pto flyer and other quick books items.

It's been slow because it's summer time.

**June, July and August2023 Treasurer's Report to be approved**

**Danielle Quigley-** . Looking for a new asst treasurer. Financial background is a plus. Please be on the lookout for a google survey. We'd like to hear from our membership to see what you are happy with and what you feel could be improved. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Write stuff, it's a fundraiser. Some background noise that the packages were pricey. We sold 342 kits and we made over \$3000. Thanks to the administration for getting us the supply list and parent volunteers who helped.

**Joanne Passalaqua**

Fundraising On the pto board for several years. I run Trunk or treat. If interested in decorating your car please email me

Parent social planning at top golf, working on this event to get it going. Working on the gala we need help. Parents' generosity does help us. Business, etc..

### **Amy Linquito- Sponsorship**

1st year on the board. Now that I have more time because my kids are in school full time. I wanted to help. Working close with Joanne

Saver cards. Will be distributed to the school. Can pu

### **Approval Reports**

Approve June 2023 Treasurer Reports (Stephanie Collura, Jenn Zimmerman)

Approve July 2023 Treasurer Reports (Mariela Muscio Jennifer Zimmerman)

Approve August 2023 Treasurer Reports (Mariella Muscio, Marina Sciandra)

Approve June Meeting Minutes ( Stephanie COLLura, Marina Sciandra)

Comments-excited for increase for mini grants- Teachers appreciation budget increase appreciated.

Dec 19 next general meeting. 3 or 4 months for meeting .March meeting at night.

Last meeting in June luncheon. To Show our appreciation for all the volunteers

Mariela Muscio, Jennifer Zimmerman, Yasmine and Penelope were volunteers of the year last year.

Question from audience- Not knowing about events but want to volunteer. How do we find out if we don't know about them? Board all events are listed on the website and email us with any questions

Audience question- Artwork note cards done many years ago. Can the PTO try to bring it back? Children pick out their favorite artwork and they can pick notecards, pads etc. PTO and look into it.

Do we need to redo the parent volunteer course again even though we did last year?

Yes, the volunteer course needs to be done every year and is required from the district.