



November Executive Board Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Attendees:

Lena Nicholson	Crystal Kaplan	Danielle Gibson
Amy Dimes	Courtney McCormick	Marci Klein
Patricia Pecoraro	Kristie Tierney	Marian Castner
EvaMarie Augustine	Steve Gimbelman	Richard Beck
Melissa Jones	MaryJane Garibay	Tricia Barr
Colin Rigby	James Osmond	Alison DeNoia

The meeting was called to order at 9:43.

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Administrators' Reports

Tricia Barr

*Hope you are all getting excited for the Thanksgiving Recess! Tomorrow is our Veteran's Day Celebration. We are honoring 72 veterans. The veterans are family members or friends of Colts Neck students. Not all will be in attendance tomorrow. 23 veterans are able to join us at the event and there will be pictures shown of the veterans not able to join.

*Kindergarteners are currently on stage practicing for their Thanksgiving plays.

*We are working through growing pains with the new math program. The content is really rich and because of the increase in the level of rigor teachers are supplementing the curriculum to help students. Teachers are working collaboratively and reaching out to other districts to assist with this process. They are turning a corner and seeing lovely results.

*The I-ready on line curriculum is currently being used as a targeted intervention. Children are engaged for the 45 minutes of online instruction and it's going to be exciting to see the data.

*Report cards coming soon for first and second grade students. Report cards are standards based and the goal is for children to achieve the standard by the end of the year. Please don't be alarmed if your child has a 2 because the goal is for them to meet the standards by the end of the year. It's important to have conversations with classroom teachers regarding your child's progress.

*We are looking forward to hearing about the PTO mini-grants.

Colin Rigby

*I was happy to be contacted by Stephanie Mondella, a former Cedar Drive student, who wants to help honor veterans and support our troops. She has started a club at the high school to support our troops and will be a part of tomorrow's school wide meetings.

*We are continuing to improve upon personalized learning. One resource we are using is Summit Learning, an 8th grade pilot program. We have held 2 parent meetings, in which 26 parents attended, to talk about what we are doing with Summit Learning. We have also asked for the students' perspective to help improve the implementation. The goal for personalized learning is to create opportunities for kids. We don't want to put a ceiling on their learning. Summit learning is a tool and it offers students options. There are growing pains and we are working to make it better. We are using Summit Learning as a resource and as a way to engage our students. With Summit Learning, students have more freedom and that's scary for some kids. However, the freedom should help get the students ready for the challenges and independence in high school.

* On Oct 31st and Nov 1st students and 4 educators from Taiwan came to Cedar Drive. We designated mentors and ambassadors from 8th grade to help with the visit. The children recognized differences and similarities amongst each other. Our kids did a fantastic job and represented us in a positive light. A big thank you to MaryJane for orchestrating this visit. Now we have a partnership across the world.

Melissa Jones

*As discussed, Summit Learning is a personalized learning resource that's providing different options for our students. We know there are some issues and we are looking forward to our mentor's visit on Thursday.

*Personalized learning is a good thing because it provides students with targeted instruction. TIP classes, in all 3 buildings, are using I-ready to personalize instruction.

Richard Beck

*I-ready provides teachers with students' areas of strength and their gaps.

*We have been collecting parent feedback and it's indicated that parents want to get more involved. As a result, on Dec 5, from 6:30-8:00, there will be a parent night meet and greet. There will be activities for the kids and during this time parents will have opportunities to share their experiences with each other and staff members. This may be a good time for the PTO to encourage parents to get involved.

James Osmond

*Tomorrow is the veteran school wide meeting. Mrs. Rauso and Mrs. Conforti have been working hard to prepare for tomorrow. They set up a nice area for the veterans. We are excited for students to have the chance to recognize those that have sacrificed for their country and to see what has laid the groundwork for the experiences that they are able to have in their own lives today.

*Marking period 1 is almost over and report cards will be coming out soon enough.

*As always, thank you all for your commitment and service to the students. *It's an exciting time at CRES. Clubs are actively underway. All 5 clubs from the fall session were filled to capacity. Hoping to be the same for winter and spring.

MaryJane Garibay

*There are exciting things going on in Colts Neck. Last month we presented at the annual New Jersey convention. It gave us an opportunity to show other board members and administrators the great things we are doing in Colts Neck. We received approval for 2 presentations. The first presentation focused on changes, from menus to mindfulness. We talked about our health program. We have one health teacher, Pre-k to 5, making life experiences and life changes for the children. We discussed how we are facilitating the mindfulness program and how the children are benefitting from the program. The feedback from our own teachers and administrators is that they want to

expand the program and provide more opportunities for children to focus on mindfulness. The second presentation focused on innovation labs and project lead robotics. Many districts are reaching out to see how we implement this curriculum. I'd like to give credit to the support of the community in helping with this implementation. It's a great honor and opportunity to be able to work in this district and receive the community support.

*I've sent out a reminder for volunteer training! All school volunteers need to complete voluntary school training.

*Also, parent volunteers need to follow the district's social media guidelines. Some parents were taking pictures of kids at the classroom parties and posting the pictures on Facebook. This cannot happen. We need to be mindful of and considerate of the wishes of others.

*Big conversations are happening with the Board of Education. We need to invest in our schools now (electric doors, HVAC, parking lot reconfigurations, lighting, an auditorium that belongs to the district, etc.). We can receive 40 percent back from the state department for eligible projects. Stay tuned and let us know if you want to help out.

*Thank you for the Halloween celebrations. It is always a blast and you do so much for the schools.

* I'd like to congratulate Melissa Jones on her new position, Assistant Superintendent in Carteret. We will miss you, but we wish you nothing but the best.

*Melissa Jones expressed how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful team leading us. It's a great opportunity, but I am so sad to leave such a great place.

2. Executive Board Reports

a) Patricia Pecoraro/Danielle Gibson- Co-Presidents

Parking Spot Contest - The winners are:

Primary – Jennifer Hess

Elementary – Tara Brown

Cedar - Darlene Aufiero

Saver cards – If anyone is interested in purchasing-, \$15 or \$10 if you purchased a KidStuff book.

New board members – Welcome to our new Student Activities Director, Lena Nicholson. And later today we will be voting in Crystal Kaplan for Assistant Fundraising/Sponsorship.

b) Courtney McCormick – Vice President

Migrants - Migrants were approved by the committee yesterday.

Please see the list attached to the agenda. Migrants are broken down by school. The ones listed are already approved and we will be asking you to do the final approval at the end of the meeting. If you have any questions, I have all migrant applications here. \$13,773.38 is the total money approved for migrants.

New Spirit Wear will be available at Frosty's. It's a limited edition line.

I have a bunch here if you'd like to purchase today.

c) Amy Dimes – Fundraising/Sponsorship

d) Lena Nicholson- Student Activities Director

Holiday breakfast – It's December 22nd, at Cedar, from 9-11.

Frosty's – December 2nd, from 9-1 at the Primary School. You can bring

kids to shop in a safe environment with the help of elves (which are student volunteers, grades 6-12). We are still looking for vendors to sell crafts. There will also be kids' crafts for sale. There's a \$5 entry fee for kids' tables and kids can sell crafts/food. We still need adult volunteers to help sell inside at the Bazaar. If you are interested, please reach out to Stephanie Lukowitz. The annual book sale will be going on at the same time as Frosty's as well as Dec 4-8. The book fair will take place at the primary school and will also be open on December 5, from 6-8 pm.

e) Stephanie Collura – Communications Director

f) Kristie Tierney – Assistant Treasurer

g) Nancy Morin – Treasurer

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.

School store – It is December 6th and December 7th. Elementary school kids get to shop during their recess time.

h) Marci Klein – Secretary

New PTO Phone Number – The PTO now has a phone number, 732-858-1610. Please leave a message and we will get back to you via phone or email.

Approve November Meeting Minutes (EvaMarie Augustine, Alison DeNoia) all were in favor.

Approve Crystal Kaplan as new Board Member (EvaMarie Augustine, Alison DeNoia) all were in favor.

Approve Minigrants (EvaMarie Augustine, Alison DeNoia) all were in favor.