



September General Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Attendees:

Lena Nicholson	Danielle Quigley	Stacey Katz	Dana Westby
Marian Castner	Sharon Johnson	Tara Buss	Carrie Benevento
Liz Bellonio	Maria Thompson	Erika Sica	Ebelyss Kharod
Stephanie Lukowitz	Colleen Panico	Janine Pinguelo	Jodi Gimbelman
Heather Grossman			

The meeting was called to order at 9:19.

1. Executive Board Reports

- a) Patricia Pecoraro / Danielle Gibson- Co-Presidents
- Patricia welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Patricia introduced the current PTO Executive Board members and their positions.
 - There is one chair position still open, Family Bingo Night. If anyone is interested in chairing this committee, please let the PTO know.
 - Danielle spoke about the fall social. Fall Parent Social is planned for November 18th at Battleground Country Club. It will be a casino night and table sponsors are needed. Please contact Colleen Panico if you are interested in volunteering for this fun event.
 - There are a variety of new fundraising opportunities, which Amy Dimes will describe shortly.
 - There is a new club, the Sunshine Club. Its purpose is to provide sunshine for school community members going through difficult times. The club has a budget to send families flowers/meal. There is an application on the PTO website.
 - If you haven't already registered for the PTO, registration is open until October 1st.
 - All parent volunteers will need to complete the volunteer training online before volunteering in the schools.
- b) Courtney McCormick - Vice President
- A limited supply of spirit wear is being sold at Back-to-School nights. It can also be purchased online until October 5th

- Family Movie Night is being held October 14th. The movie being shown is 'The Incredibles' and children are encouraged to dress as their favorite superheroes.
 - The PTO is selling SaveAround Coupon Books. In the past, the PTO has sold Kid Stuff books. The PTO has switched to the SaveAround books because coupons are more localized. Coupon books are going home October 5th with elementary and primary students. If you are interested in purchasing the books, please keep the book at home and send in a check with your child. If you don't want to purchase the book, please send the book back with your child. Coupon books will be available for Cedar Drive parents at Back-to-School Night.
 - Mini-Grants - Teachers and administrators, please complete mini-grant applications. Applications are due September 26th. The PTO has \$20,000 available to fund mini-grants this year. The mini-grant committee meets in October to consider the applications.
 - There will be a motion to approve the mini-grant for staff and student T-shirts for Cedar Drive's field day.
- c) Amy Dimes - Fundraising / Sponsorship
- This year there are going to be a variety of sponsorship opportunities for different events.
 - The Fall Social is going to have table sponsors.
 - The Gala is going to have silver, gold, and platinum sponsors, as well as one exclusive cocktail sponsor.
 - The 5K Run is going to have one exclusive t-shirt sponsor as well as website sponsors.
 - Other sponsorship opportunities include the following: PTO Directory App sponsors, PTO website sponsors, and PTO newsletter sponsors.
 - And you can also do all three (the app, website, and the newsletter) for the tech trifecta.
- d) Jennifer Winkelmann- Student Activities Director
- Jennifer is looking forward to the upcoming student activities and mentioned one upcoming event, Frosty's in December. More information to follow.
- e) Stephanie Collura- Communications Director
- PTO Registration is still open. There is a link to register on the PTO website and PTO newsletter. Make sure that you register by October 1st. If you are not registered, you will not be included in the Directory App.
 - There is now a Community Corner tab on the PTO website. Community events are going to appear on this tab on the website. For example, right now there is information about Girl Scouts registration.

f) January Nicoletta – Assistant Treasurer

- January introduced herself and at this time has no additional information to share.

g) Nancy Morin – Treasurer

- June Treasurer's Report

Book balances as of 6/30/16:

- Checking 49,457
- Savings 23,734
- Gaming 26,651

Notable income/expenses:

- 2,799 spent for the libraries from the book fair proceeds
- 1,600 income from kitchen tour
- 1,582 spent for the 5th grade moving up ceremony
- 4,241 spent for 8th grade dance
- 1,609 spent for teacher appreciation week

- July Treasure's Report

Book balances as of 7/31/16:

- Checking 48,531
- Savings 23,736
- Gaming 26,653

Notable income/expenses:

- 743 for the website and constant contact
- We accrued for the legacy gifts approved at the June general meeting
 - 6,500 for the tower gardens
 - 40,500 towards the innovation labs
 - 3,000 for student showcases in the admin bldg.
 - 15,000 for PE equipment (5,000 in each school)

- Amazon Smile - Instead of shopping on amazon.com, please shop on [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and 0.5% of your purchase goes to a charity of your choice. (Colts Neck PTO is a charity option.)

h) Marci Klein – Secretary

- The secretary moved to approve the following:
 - June Meeting Minutes (Carrie Benevento, Elizabeth Bellonio) all votes were in favor.
 - June Treasurer’s Report (Carrie Benevento, Jodi Gimbelman) all votes were in favor.
 - July Treasurer’s Report (Heather Grossman, Stephanie Lukowitz) all votes were in favor.
 - Mini-Grant for T-shirts for Cedar Drive students and staff (Jodi Gimbelman, Marian Castor) all votes were in favor.

2. Superintendent and Administrative Updates

a) MaryJane Garibay - Superintendent

- Superintendent MaryJane Garibay welcomed everyone to the new school year and introduced her team.

b) Vincent Marasco - Business Administrator

- He is looking forward to the school year.

c) Richard Beck - the Director of Special Services

- Dr. Beck spoke about the upcoming meeting being held on October 20th at 10 am in the administration building. Representatives from the Monmouth County Vocational Schools will be there to discuss various high school options.

d) Melissa Jones - the Director of Curriculum and Instruction

- Ms. Jones thanked the PTO for the legacy gifts. The innovation labs are up and running, the tower gardens are amazing and are currently being implemented, and the students are enjoying the physical education equipment.

e) Terri Pulitzer - Technology Coordinator

- Ms. Pulitzer discussed the amazing things happening in technology. There’s a fleet of over 600 chrome books in the district. There’s a great new STEM coach. He’s a technology wizard and is going to work with the staff to assist with chrome book implementation.

- f) Tricia Barr - Primary School Principal
- Ms. Barr shared the theme of the primary school, Rock and Rule. She discussed the benefits of the Innovation Labs. They enable students to use their creativity and enhance their learning experiences through hands-on activities. She thanked the PTO, parents, and library volunteers for partnering with the primary school.
- g) Mr. Osmond - Elementary School Principal
- Mr Osmond spoke about the 5th graders making a nice transition to the middle school. He spoke about the ongoing peace day celebrations - the children wearing blue, working on their pinwheels, and discussing peace in the classroom as well as in the community and the world. Mr. Osmond shared good news - there are 15 new students this year. He added that education is a collaborative effort and thanked everyone for their support. He discussed the exciting things happening at the elementary school - Innovation labs are up and running and students are super excited about the innovation labs as well as the tower gardens. 4th and 5th graders all have chrome books. There's a new STEM coach that has provided lessons to all 4th and 5th grade teachers to help utilize chrome books. He thanked everyone again for their continued support.
- h) Mr. Rigby - Cedar Drive Middle School Principal
- Mr. Rigby said they are off to a great start and gave credit to the staff. He talked about how the building has come alive now that school is back in session. He talked about a phone call he received earlier this morning. He was asked to come to a 6th grade classroom in which he saw 6th graders using legos to build motorized helicopters. The children were very excited to see their creations moving around the room. Mr. Rigby also mentioned Freehold Regional Information night, which he attended the night before. Colts Neck alumni were there and he was very impressed to see their confidence and how well they were doing. Ms. Barr, who was also there with one of her own children, added on by saying the alumni were eloquent and poised. She was impressed with the incredible Colts Neck experiences they shared and how their experiences have shaped them.
- i) MaryJane Garibay - Superintendent
- She doesn't have a finer team to work with. She views them as a family and they collaborate as professionals and on a personal level as well.
 - She can't give enough praise to the PTO. The innovation labs and tower gardens are excellent tools for learning. There is nothing better than hands-on activities, student engagement, and problem-solving.
 - She thanked parents for taking the time to complete the parent survey.
 - Initiatives as a result of the survey:
 - Revision of K-5 report cards. There will be parent involvement/ input. It is going to be a process so changes will go into effect

2017-2018 school year. Report cards now are more of a tradition than an accurate reflection of your child's learning and progress.

- Going to take a close look at homework - time spent, evaluate content.
- District and parents just received PARC data. Ms. Jones will present the district assessment data to the Colts Neck Board of Education on October 5th.
- The district is also going to work with the PTO to present meaningful presentations at the PTO meetings.
- The district is working collaboratively with Freehold Regional to see what students are doing when they leave us.

Patricia concluded the meeting by thanking administrators, staff, and parents for coming to the meeting and for all that they do for the PTO. This upcoming year, every student is going to have their hands on something donated by the PTO.

Meeting was adjourned 10:01.