

## November 7, 2018 PTO MEETING AGENDA

---

- **Introductions**

In attendance: Michele Cote(Principal), Danielle Bevins (President), Karen Fetters (Vice President), Stephanie Fournier (Secretary), Allison Lafferty (Grants Coordinator), Amy Carnesale, Tabitha Escobedo, Mindy Demoe

- **Principals Update**

Michele has received positive feedback on this year's conferences. 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes did not have a scheduled time, 7-8<sup>th</sup> did have a scheduled time with the TA as an advocate for the student and teacher representative from the team. There was discussion amongst those in attendance at the PTO meeting since there still some questions about the format since there is a desire to have time directly with all the teachers. Ms. Cote did remind us that all the teachers are more than willing to have separate meetings with the parents at any time. The format of the conferences was done the way it is to foster and promote the students to be independent learners.

There was a bake sale at the conferences led by students to raise money to put garbage containers at Thayer beach. They raised \$250 and their goal was \$50. The rec department also matched their goal amount.

School board meeting next Thursday for update on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math program, referred to as every day math. This program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders has math on 3 days per week for 100 minutes and 20-30minutes on the other 2 days. This schedule also allows larger blocks on the alternating days for science class which works out well since many classes are hands-on lab experiments.

New this year will be a school-wide fundraiser with Cougar clothes/hats, information to be sent out this week. This is to raise money towards end of the year field trips. The items chosen were ones to keep price down so it would be affordable and most students could purchase. The school will profit ~\$5 for each item. Orders will be due Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. If it goes well it may also be offered again in the spring.

- **Financial Update-** submitted by Danielle Bevins

Danielle Bevins plan is to work with Gail Messier from the MBS PTO to establish the 501(c)3 status that is needed. There may be cost involved and lawyer fees we will have to account for. She will report more as she gets more into the process.

Current balance is \$5,979.82. Income this month included 2 deposits from bottle redemption, at \$300, \$150 for a total = \$450 (YTD=\$647.30). Expenses this month included (1) additional garden expenses submitted by Stephanie Fournier for the garden

at \$112.04; (2) "Ubuntu" high five cards for school town meeting day, \$415.50 (3) re-order new checks, \$14.91.

- **Bottle Hut Update-Andi Hige/Peter Walsh:** Nothing new to report, all is going well with the hut.

- **Box Top Update – Karen Feters**

- a. Karen did submit the Box tops this month, check to be received.
- b. Karen will work on getting a competition set-up between the classes. We discussed some options for prizes for the winning class which could include some of the following options on an early release day possibly in February: (1) Movie and popcorn, with maybe a few choices to break the classes into smaller groups and get movies that will appeal to most, (2) games

- **Old Business**

- a. PTO sponsored Dance – PTO has agreed to have a dance on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. The biggest challenge is getting parent chaperones so if we don't enough we will have to cancel. Danielle will submit sign-up genius based on last year right after Thanksgiving break.

- b. Odyssey of the Mind update – Stephanie Fournier

Stephanie reported that we have two teams at CMS this year. One team will be coached by the Lambert family, who coached last year and has a few members from last year returning along with some new team members. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team will be coached by Joni Pecor and this is a mix of CMS and MBS students since this team was from last year and now several are 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Stephanie requested a check to cover the \$135 membership which the PTO continues to support each year. The district has 8 teams this year so the program is very active in Colchester this year.

- c. Complete Election of Officers and Coordinators

-Vice President position was voted on and everyone unanimously voted to have Karen Feters as V.P. PTO now has a complete board.

- **Grants-** Allison Lafferty

- a. Executive board approved "Ubuntu" high five cards for school town meeting day, as reported in financial update since the request was made after the last meeting and needed before our current meeting.

b. Discuss Field Trip Busing Money – Michele Cote retracted this request since she thinks this will be covered by fundraising. We can revisit if needed later in the year to see if this is still a need. Busing for the fundraisers is very expensive no matter how far the field trip.

c. The new request made by Michele Cote was to help cover the cost of the speaker John Halligan coming in on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a speaker that will discuss cyber bullying with the students during the day and parents in the evening. John Halligan lost a child to cyber bullying. The PTO agreed to give \$1600 to pay half the cost of bringing this speaker to the school. Michele also shared that December's theme is "Kindness" month. PTO will provide water and cookies during assembly with parents.

d. Allison has drafted a letter to the teachers to remind them that the PTO has a grant mechanism to help support needs in their classrooms.

- **New Business**

a. Lake Monsters Fundraiser was discussed, date has not been determined yet. PTO is in favor of participating this year to be part of the district event even though they did not have many participants last year. There were discussions about how to promote the event and get more participation such as have chorus since National Anthem or baseball team or other groups stand on the field with players, or have the between-inning games be done by CMS students. We will need to discuss this further and get a person to chair this event since it will take more coordinating and agreement from teachers and Lake Monsters.

b. Date for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Dance – Dance has been set for Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>. PTO will help schedule a date in January to get a committee of parents to chair this dance. A request to Michele was made to see if teachers will agree to chaperone the dance instead of parents since this was done several years ago and students seem to prefer not to have parent chaperones. A dance on Saturday was not approved by the administration even if cost for custodians is covered. Fridays are a challenge since it does take most of the day to prepare for the dance and the cafeteria is not available until early afternoon. Michele Cote said there may be ways to make the space available earlier to help with set-up. This detail can be discussed further once a committee and chairpersons are established.

c. Update PTO website – Stephanie Fournier will work on getting PTO website updated with meeting minutes and new board member information.

**Reminder of Dates for 2018-2019 Meetings;** Wednesday November 7, Tuesday  
January 8, 2019, Wednesday March 13, 2019, Tuesday May 14, 2019