

CMS PTO General Meeting
Thursday November 18, 2021, 9:00 am

Officers:

Co- Presidents: Mindy Kefer and Rebecca Hoyt
Vice President/ Events Chair: OPEN
Past President: Shauna Keene
Treasurer: Delphine Dell'Era
Secretary: OPEN
Fundraising Chairs: Mindy Kefer & Rebecca Hoyt

Notes taken by Rebecca Hoyt

Introductions and Welcome: Mindy 5 min - Jumped in with John due to time constraints.

Principal's Update/ Q & A: 15 minutes -

- Band Concert well attended and families happy to be back in the school.
- John thrilled with participation in the fundraiser. He and faculty will identify clear goals of how money will be spent by winter break.
- In discussions about the current bell schedules, faculty recognizes that teaching in the block period format is challenging. The momentum is to continue the format but support will be offered to those faculty members who are challenged by the long class periods.
- In considering how to spend the \$110K money provided through the district budget, John is assembling a faculty panel to look at initiatives to close the academic gap. A cohort of 120 kids who are not achieving to their best abilities will be studied to gather data on how to best support them.
- After the Thanksgiving break, all students will be back to lockers and phones must be put away for the day. The school is taking a philosophical stand on phones and saying that kids do not need them during the day. They will not be allowed to carry them around. In recent years, behavior issues has increased substantially due to the influence of social media like Tik Tok challenges that encourage school property destruction. Hopefully, the lack of phones to video and post such pranks will decrease such incidents. John recommended the PBS documentary Generation Like.
- Dan asked about ideas for the student council to propose to increase school spirit such as playing music between classes and having a PI Day Pie Throwing Contest.
- With regards to volunteers in the school, if people willing to mask, social distance, are vaccinated, AND there is a good reason to have them at school, we should start having parents in.

Updates/ Debriefs: 15 min

Mindy calls for motion to approve minutes. Olivia makes a motion to approve and Dan seconds. Motion passes and minutes are approved.

- Fundraising Update Mindy & Rebecca - Discussed during John's Update

- Treasurer Update: Delphine - Mindy for Delphine. We met our fundraising goal with an additional \$500. No upcoming expenses.
- SAC Update: John provided an update. The district gives a budget survey to schools to prioritize district level spending. The survey focused on the high points of the district strategic plan. CMS committee is looking at student data and prioritizing closing the achievement gap through things like parental involvement, and systems to catch kids who are falling between the cracks. A benefit of previous survey responses is increased teacher planning time.
- Book Club Updates: Nadia/Mindy - Based on parent involvement survey, parents are interested in coffee meet ups, book group, and hikes. Currently scheduled for Dec 2 is a coffee meetup Logan's. January will be a book club.

Guest Teacher Speaker: 10-15 minutes -

- Jon Georgitis-Librarian - enjoys art, music, and his cat Willow. He currently has a 6th grader at CMS and sophomore at BHS. Teaching for 19 years, including as an ESL teacher. His role involves managing CMS book collection, connecting kids with books. He urges kids to read physical books over online reading as it is a more immersive experience. He also manages the 1:Web program, teaches digital citizenship, handles laptop repairs. He particularly enjoys collaborating with teachers on project based learning that teaches research skills, teaching students how to do effective research for sources as well as how to navigate the library system and expand their interests. His goals for the library include increasing the diversity of books, purchasing books based on student interests, and broadening their reading horizons. He recently supplied academic labs with curated collections of books.
- Responses to Questions -
 - Common Sense Media reviews for appropriate reading materials
 - Kids can start reading books for Battle of the Books. Ask Mr. G for books as they are not in general circulation. Groups will start meeting in January.
 - Spelling Bee will be held February 13th
 - Book Fair - Mr. G is hoping to work at the Boulder Book Store. Currently they are not hosting in-school book fairs. Will wait until spring to see if that changes or host online.
 - If parents would like to donate books to the library for distribution to classrooms or academic labs, bring them to the front office. He tends to purchase books with library binding for the library.

General Meeting Topics: 10 min

- Winter Staff Appreciation: Darcie and Jayme - No winter party due to COVID restrictions. Teachers will do activities in their classes. PTO is supporting a Teacher Appreciation Cookies and Coffee. Asking for individual Target gift cards for every member of faculty as well as volunteers for cookies and coffee. Sign up will go out on Friday.
- Upcoming Events - Centennial will host two Open Enrollment in-person events on December 2nd and December 6th. Both events will be from 6-7 pm. These events will

include a student panel, a teacher panel, and a tour of the school. There will also be a virtual Q and A with administration on December 15th from 6-7 pm. This can be accessed via the following link: meet.google.com/ccd-fffp-wyt

- No Exec Committee Dec Meeting

The mission of the Centennial Middle School PTO is to:

- work together as a team with our teachers, administrators, parents, and students
- provide volunteer and financial support to further the mission of the school
- foster a welcoming and diverse school community

Centennial Middle School Collaborative Values Statement: We believe in a school that offers an engaging curriculum, high expectations and teachers who make meaningful connections with students.

Centennial Middle School R²ISE Values: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Safety, Empathy