

Cherry Tree PTO | General Board Meeting Minutes



DATE: January 24, 2022 | 10:45 - 11:45 am

LOCATION: Virtual, Zoom Conference Call

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:46am by Sara Glenn.

Attendees: Amy Johnston, Haley Filbert, Sara Glenn, Stephanie Abisi, Emily Maslanka, Rachel Bancroft, David Glenn, Julie Hollingsworth, Jen Conley, Lauren Carter, Jessica Craig, Ashley Millis, Frankie Williams, Peter English, Katie Husak, BethAnn Kelley, Brittany Campbell, Natalie Rothchild, Dana Gillie, Sarah Pindras, Teresa Hurm, Abbe Obszanski, Alicia Noneman, Jennifer Deckert, Mallory Elkins, Shannon Dowell, Shannon Cox, Susan Wojcicki

Vote at this meeting: Approval of Bylaw change - Rachel Bancroft motioned to approve the bylaw change, Natalie Rothchild seconded - bylaw approved.

Welcome!

- Include in chat the following: your name, your CTE student(s) and their grades
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A Message from the Principal

- A quick update on the start of the 2nd Semester
 - Happy 100th day of school!
 - Regarding in person events: The principals of CCS elementaries are constantly communicating (numbers, staffing, trends, response to events, etc.) - we are very consistent. Evening events have allowed for some differences, but most are on hold across district at this time.
 - It has been a very challenging 3-5 weeks. Kudos and thanks to support staff who have been willing to jump in! The ultimate goal is to keep staff and students healthy, and students learning in person. Parent volunteers are missed, and staff will be excited when the right time comes to welcome them back into the building.
 - Book Fair - address why we didn't have evening hours (feedback received comparing CTE to other schools): Every child had access throughout the book fair, so we didn't feel that we needed evening hours. We are grateful that we were able to have the book fair and in-person shopping for students..
 - Valentine's Party: Snack question - leaving decision up to PTO, but in looking at the perspective: there are food allergies, limitations, etc. Teacher, volunteers, and school nurse coordination can be very challenging. School Nurse, Ashley Pertile, has been very busy with Covid, caring for students on a daily basis, and adding this is an extra challenge and has requested we consider no snack at this time. Either way, the kids will have a great time!
 - Mr. English encouraged parents to reach out via email, call school with any questions/concerns: penglish@ccs.k12.in.us or school phone 317-846-3086.
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PTO General Updates

- Proposed Bylaw Change
 - Review reasoning and proposed verbiage change [here](#)

- After working through the process for budgeting, we realized we were out of sync with timeline. We were asking questions of committee chairs who were not in charge of the committee anymore. The goal is to put this process more in-sync with how we operate.
 - PTO had to approve spend before the budget was approved - Amended language adjusts so that the budget is approved in the Spring, effective July 1. The idea of the annual meeting will now be to culminate the year, celebrate all that has been done, and approve the budget for the following year.
 - Approval of Bylaw change - **Vote Required Rachel Bancroft motioned to approve the bylaw change, Natalie Rothchild seconded - bylaw approved.**
 - Questions - reach out to Sara Glenn at cherrytreepto@gmail.com.
- Science Fair - Deadline to register is February 4th! Register [here](#)
- Upcoming Events & Activities
 - Valentine's Day Parties - Feb. 10 (5th only) and Feb. 11
 - Virtual Lego Club starts February 13 - weekly challenges through March

Special Presentation on New Curriculum

- Jennifer Conley, Instructional Interventionist/Coach
 - 6th year as instructional coach, been teaching for 15 years
 - Mom of 4 little girls
 - Works with teachers on curriculum to provide support (co-teaching, small groups, leading a lesson, etc.) and goal is to support student achievement
 - 4 new programs that have been adopted this year
 - Foundations: grades K-3
 - Multi-sensory phonics approach
 - 30 min a day - phonics, writing
 - Approach is direct, explicit, systematic, structured, cumulative, multisensory, differentiated
 - Goal is for kids to be able to read to learn; they are fluent-good readers
 - Words their Way: grades 4-5
 - Responsive to where students are learning - assessed at beginning of year in spelling, shows where students are ready to learn. Students are grouped into small groups - learn spelling patterns with small groups. Kids are loving this!
 - Online activities to sort words, patterns.
 - Weekly assessments
 - Patterns of Power Plus: grades 1-5
 - Students study beautiful sentences, and are invited to notice things about it, and imitate creation of sentences like that, celebrate work.
 - These teachings go on an editing checklist, so their writing grows and matures.
 - Project lead the Way: grades K-5
 - New science curriculum
 - Each module/unit
 - 3 Concrete activities (introducing concept, vocabulary)
 - Project (a little more open ended, students work together)
 - Problem activities (apply real world questions, working together)
 - Use Vex IQ kits - very engaging

- Process taught: depending on grade
 - Ask > Explore > Model > Evaluate > Explain
 - Ask > Predict > Investigate > Observe > Explain
 - Questions - email Jen Conley at jconley@ccs.k12.in.us
 - FYI - There is one instructional coach in every CCS building
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Committee Updates

- Wellness Wednesdays: Amy Johnston
 - Kroger has been generous in donating fruit and vegetables to try - jicama, cotton candy grapes, tomatoes
 - Drawing of Smoothie King gift cards, for 4th & 5th graders
 - Random Acts of Kindness - supported custodial staff recently!
 - Lego club - Shannon Cox
 - Virtual challenges starting Feb. 13
 - Working on allowing access to legos for indoor recess
 - Fun Club - Megan Shortz/Shannon Dowell
 - Be on lookout for information, if we proceed
 - Nominating committee - beginning to meet February 3rd
 - [Interest form](#) is available OR tell anyone on exec board if you have interest
 - Amy Johnston is nominating secretary
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Wrap-Up/Adjournment

- Next General Membership Meeting:
 - ~new date from April to May ~ new date Monday, May 16 | 10:45am-11:45am, Zoom
 - 2022-2023 Budget Vote
 - 2022-2023 PTO Board Slate Vote

MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 11:31am. Sara Glenn motioned to adjourn, Rachel Bancroft seconded.

