

February PTO Minutes:
February 16, 2023 9 am

In attendance: Beth Wilberger, Stephanie Spier, Weston Steinberg, Liz Tucker, Delphine Dell'Era, Michelle Hessler, Georgia Babatsikos, Aki, Darcie Canales, Jayme Zerivitz, Mary McCafferty.

PTO minutes from January - approved.

1. Dance Update - ok on chaperones; Liz, Weston and Jose will be there, as well 20+ parents coming. Cut off for arrival is at 6:15; kids can't leave on their own. An email will go out to clarify expectations for students, including phone policy (allowed but need to be out of sight), only CMS students allowed, encouraged to not bring bags with them, cash only, etc. Student Council is taking the lead on set up and have ordered decor for lunch tables, fringe backdrop, balloon arch, etc. Additionally there will be uplighting on the sides of the gym, tables in the center (for hanging out only, not eating). No eating or drinking in the gym but there will be an area where food/drinks can be consumed. The DJ will provide lighting. Liz will open the gym during 8th period on Friday for Student Council to work on decorations. Pizza & plates ordered from Cosmo and will need to be picked up. Napkins were donated. Student pickup and drop off will be in the parking lot area by the gym. Liz and Weston will remain until all students are picked up at the end of the event. SC may need help with cleaning up/tearing down.
2. FET meeting updates - Georgia announced the dance at the most recent FET meeting and handed out fliers in Spanish. Topics of parent interest were gathered with the plan to work on covering these topics during meetings. Huge turnout, about 40 people come on average. Biggest FET meeting/attendance in district, per Liz. Latinos in Action Leadership class - CMS is the first middle school in the district to participate. Students who do so return to CrestView and do tutoring once/week. Various clubs were also mentioned.
3. PEN - rescheduling the Adolescent event is still the plan.
4. Treasurer update - Delphine reports \$16,000 in total, with a breakdown of \$3000 for savings, \$13,000 for business. Good donation campaign. In January, two donations were received, almost \$300 in total. Overall report is that the budget is in good shape, with more income than expected (\$2800 more). Spent only \$1100 of \$8000 at the end of January. There will be expenses due to the dance. Line for staff appreciation celebration maybe for the end of May - money is available. Aki asked if the budget carries over from year to year, and it does. Georgia wonders about creating a scholarship fund for summer camp, up to \$500 (rather than donating to an organization, for example). Delphine noted that \$500 would only cover the cost of 1 or 2 students for a one-week summer camp. Briefly discussed whether camps would donate spaces in camps to students in need.

5. Liz/Weston updates - CMAs will take place the week of April 10th, for 3 days only (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). All kids will take their tests with their grade level. Last year was the best participation rate in 10 years. All 8th graders also take Science CMAS, in regular science class. Kids with 504s and IEPs are given additional time. Additionally, there is plenty of time allotted for testing in general. There is a built-in snack period and Delphine has a \$450 budget line for CMAS snacks.

6. Liz/Weston update: Working on revamping Continuation for 8th grade. Last year's party at Elks wasn't ideal. Liz explained last year's schedule was: ceremony first, pictures, yearbook time, then walk to Elks. This year, 8th graders will fill out a survey to gather their ideas for the celebration, and there will be teacher and PTO input as well. The ceremony will still be in the gym. Getting volunteers on that day is very challenging (per Darcie), so advance notice is needed for that. There is also an awards ceremony by invite, RISE value winners too (8th graders primarily). Weston noted soccer is starting in March, the pop concert last night went well, and conferences are currently happening.
 - Liz noted that there was a Counselor Celebration week last week to celebrate/appreciate CMS counselors. Teacher Appreciation Week is May - 8-12th.

 - Liz noted that due to a big uptick in kids being rude to subs, she and Weston are finding creative ways to teach appropriate behavior and hold students accountable. She and Weston are also talking to each class when a teacher is out to prepare the class for expectations. There are some consequences for poor behavior.

 - There have been some complaints from neighbors regarding pick up/drop off, illegal u-turns, blocking driveways, etc. Parking enforcement originated from the City due to this. These issues are exacerbated by cold weather as this increases the number of kids being driven to school. Possibly looking at using the bus loop in future, but this is a district decision.

 - Liz notes enrollment is increasing.

7. PTO wrap up - still in desperate need of VP. Beth will not be continuing on next year. Darcie suggests the message reflected is that we need a PTO President for next year (versus needing a VP now), and then noting the responsibilities/time commitments, opportunity to shadow. Discussed specifically sending it to 6th grade parents, possibly to elementary schools.

8. John (Librarian) reports that reading is happening during Academic labs and there have been more checkouts. This is the first year CMS is partnering with The Boulder Bookstore, rather than Scholastic for the book fair. The fair continues running today and next week. Books can be purchased downtown or online; make sure to mention Centennial so the school receives the credit. John will use funds from Fuel the Cyclone fundraiser to buy some books from the fair for the library.