



Jefferson PTA General Meeting Minutes October 11, 2022

Participants: Jen, Ioana Fernandez, Phil Fernandez, Carrie Fina, Amanda French, Kristen, Mary Beth, LHT, Maria Ruiz, Kyle Standridge, Chris Cusack, Lori Sweeney, Val King, Meredith Hardt, Cathy Dykes, Kara Johnson, Gina Lascody, Jill Bissell, Sara Roberts, Cynthia Mares

- **Welcome and Call To Order** – Meredith Hardt
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Reading and Adoption of [September Minutes](#)**, Cathy motioned to approved, Val seconded motion
- **Principal's Report** – Lori Sweeney
 - Playground is open - kids are loving it!
 - Received a \$9K grant from the D205 foundation for the purchase of additional recess equipment including: giant 4 square, balls, conflict resolution stencil, giant Jenga, storage shed for equipment outside
 - Bike Rack - was very full early in the month but isn't as full now. If more space is needed let Mrs. Sweeney know.
 - Gaga Pit - will be reinstalled soon
 - Library is put back together - thanks to Ms. Howe and parent volunteers
 - New classrooms got sliding doors
 - Institute Day - educators with similar roles were able to meet and collaborate across the district
 - End of Trimester 1 is coming soon - November 4th
 - Donna Poppet - is retiring as of this Friday. PTA has a fund for retiring teachers and will see if a gift card can be purchased for her.
- **Teacher Presentation**- Christine Cusack, Social Work
 - Ms. Cusack shared an overview of services she provides:
 - PBIS
 - School-wide behavior assistance
 - Leads activities for Bully Prevention Week/Kindness Week
 - Kids struggling with behavior or smaller issues where they need additional support
 - Parents can reach out to her for help with a variety of social emotional areas that might be a challenge for their kids. Some topics might be friendships, emotional regulation, confidence, social awareness, anxiety, understanding brain states, and/or coping with disappointments. Flyers that were shared at the PTA meeting included:
 - Navigating friendship challenges
 - Learning positive self-talk
 - Challenges with regulation - she shared languages we use around this - zones of regulation, flight/fight/freeze - nothing was predictable during the pandemic and kids are trying to figure this out
 - Perfectionism challenges

- o This information is on Ms. Cusack's website (on Jefferson website under Ms Cusacks name) <https://jefferson.elmhurst205.org/staff/directory-by-subject-specials/christine-cusack-lcsw>
- o Kids seem more regulated this year as compared to last year but there are some kids that are still struggling with unpredictability.
- o Follow Ms. Cusack on Instagram: @ms.cusack

- **PTA Board Reports**

- o VP of Membership – Gina Lascody
 - Membership revenue is coming in a little higher than budgeted
- o VP of Programs – Cynthia Mares
 - PTA Art Reflections is happening this year in the district but Jefferson does not have a chair for this. If someone is interested please reach out to Cynthia.
 - Mina McMahan will be the chair of the chess club; she is looking for another person to co-chair; Waiting to hear back if a York student(s) would be willing to come and help.
 - SERG meeting tomorrow night for the district
- o VP of Events - Jill Bissell
 - Color Run is this Friday. 380+ people signed up; volunteers are needed!
 - Science Olympiad is next week
 - Additional volunteers are needed
 - The chairs also needs large coffee or nut containers
- o VP of Fundraising – Cathy Dykes and Erica Philippi
 - Book Fair was a big success (approx \$3,000 of books purchased for students and teachers); Additional \$1,200 of revenue was generated to support PTA events
 - Trolley - big success
 - Trivia Night - registration will open up this Thursday. Tables of 8 people; 70's themed
 - Winter Carnival - February 11th if the preferred date.
 - Michelle will help us reserve rooms for Friday
 - Dad's Club Bike Tour was canceled due to weather, but dads were able to still get together to socialize and donations were received.
- o VP of Communications – Valerie King (no updates)
- o Recording Secretary – Sara Roberts (no updates)
- o Treasurer's Report – Kara Johnson (no updates)
- o President's Report & Correspondence – Meredith Hardt
 - Main PTA fundraising budget will go to special's teachers. PE and Library teachers provided wish lists but need to get from the other specials teachers.
 - PTA Council is asking for donations to support speakers for the district:
 - RUSH speaker - executive functioning, risk taking, etc. (This will take place in the Spring)
 - 6th grade + : Chris Herron, former NBA player will present on 11/9: joint collaboration between Elmhurst Collaborative and D205 Foundation; He will share his struggle with drug abuse and road to recovery
 - Minted fundraiser - % of proceeds go to Scholarship fund
 - Conversations with Superintendent are starting
- o Mrs. Sweeney let PTA know there is a bulletin board in the front hallway that we can use for PTA - seasonally related
- o Microwave was removed from the teachers lounge during the renovations - request if the PTA will fund a new one if the district won't.

- **New Business**

Plan for Specials in Budget

- **Next General PTA Meeting Date...** Wednesday, November 09, 2022 7:30p
- **Adjournment** - Kara motioned to adjourn, Carrie Fina seconded motion