

Costello PTO **TENTATIVE Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2023**

Attendance: Jen Ford, Kristen Northey, Angie Cheek, Katie Monhaut, Suganya Gnanaminthy, Brittany Dwyer, Jamie Kaniarz, Jennifer Richeson, Matt Parks, Ingrid Peeples, Prajakta Shahir, Michelle Tessoﬀ, Ebony Foreman, Philippe Cicchini, Amanda Haverty-Harris, Laura Lorenz, Keri Elliott, Chris Tallman, Rose Cody, Erin Roenicke, Angela Whitmore, Suzy Powell, Krishna Mittapelli, Nesara Govinde Goulda, Ola Al-Jabory, Bahareh Raybar, Hoyyat Fathollahi, Anne Vrazo, Sayomi Inoue, Carolin Connoly, Aimee SooSoo

Jen Ford called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Secretary Report

Jen presented the minutes from the May 2023 meeting. Introductions were made and welcome to the new year! Jamie Kaniarz motioned to approve the minutes and Rose Cody seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer Report

Chris Tallman presented the treasurer's report from last year and funds in our account so far this year. The end of the fiscal year was July 31st.

We have a significant amount of funds left from last school year. Budget for this year was approved in May.

Income last fiscal year raised over 63,000 from various fundraising efforts.

Chris presented the transactions since our last meeting on May 22nd.

Checking and saving account are transparent with receipts, and bank statements are available if asked.

Costello PTO is starting out year with around \$28,000 (prior to July)

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ingrid Peeples. Keri Elliot seconded and treasurer report motion passed.

The PTO has a Costello parent who is a CPA complete an annual audit and filings are made to IRS annually.

Budget report was presented. Approved \$81,915 is approved for budget this school year. \$1,923.82 spent so far.

Current Savings Balance: \$23,951.92

Current Checking Balance: \$3775.60

Motion made by Amanda Haverty-Harris to pass budget report. Rose Cody seconded and motion was approved.

President Report

Jen Ford welcomed all and is thankful for each person present and what you bring to the community. The PTO enriches and provides multiple events and opportunities for students, school, and families. We are grateful for you! Glad you are here! New family night was great, accomplished goals of connecting for kids and parents and families.

Thank you to Angie and Dr. DiPonio for help with coordinating this event.

Meet the teacher night was also a success and thanks to Susie, Angie, and Chris for running the PTO table.

Dates for PTO events will be sent out for families soon.

Agenda will shift this year to allow for committee members to sign up for times to talk throughout the year.

All voices are valued, trying to honor time and keep meetings shorter this year.

Proposed meeting agenda as follows:

1. Review and Approve minutes, Budget, Principal and Teachers Report
2. Celebrations
3. Committee Chairs
4. Old Business/New Business

Possibility of hybrid meetings for future meetings. Carolin Connolly offered to help with this process.

Vice-President Report

Angie Cheek welcomed all and is so happy to see everyone here. If you want to get involved in a committee, please reach out and we would love to have you join us!

Principal Report

Dr. DiPonio thanked all for attending and and it is wonderful to see so many people. Her door is always open, please feel free to reach out. Everyone's opinions are valued and looking forward to a great year and getting to know you!

October 5th is Cardinal Nesting night, great start so far this year.

Noon Aides are in need. Great fun and opportunity to get paid while being at school for a few hours a week. Please contact the office if interested or if you would like to shadow to get more information.

Teacher Representative Report

Mrs. Tessoft welcomed everyone to Costello. Mrs. Tessoft is a 3rd grade Costello teacher and also a parent of a Costello Cardinal. We are excited for a great year!

Room Parent Chair

Jamie Kaniarz and Jenni Brozowski sent out an email for room parent and/or classroom volunteers for the school year. Prior to Covid, attendance at classroom

parties was very high. School security has become a higher priority which means we will need to limit attendance to school events. Volunteers coming into the classrooms will be limited to six adults per party. Safety is our priority. There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer. Please see the Sign Up Genius that was emailed. Halloween parade and party will be on October 31st (time to be sent out) Parade will be in the bus loop and parties will be inside. Room Parent meeting will be Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 PM If anyone has an idea for committees or events, please reach out to Dr. DiPonio

Spirit Wear Report

No report

Ways and Means Report

There will be a Photography Family Mini Session fundraiser Oct 14th and maybe 15th Price would be \$40 a session and includes 3-4 photos. This is a small fundraiser for our school.

Skateworld Night will be September 29th from 5:15-7:15 PM. We are excited that this will be free for all Costello families and paid for by the PTO (skate rental not included). Fliers went home with students today.

Fun Run Report

Ingrid Peebles is the chair of the Fun Run. This year it will be on Friday, October 13th. Kickoff will be this Friday (look for flier in red folder).

Students will run laps around the bus loop.

This is a donation based, students will collect donations and can set up online donation accounts (encouraged).

Every child participates, incentives for raising certain tiers of money.

School Goal is to raise \$30,000 (Approx \$75 per child)

Volunteers needed, sign up will come soon! We are excited for our annual event!

Fair Report

No report

Auction Report

Aimee Soo Soo, Angela Whitemore, and Katie Monhaut are the Auction co-chairs. Costello Adult Auction will be held on March 15th at the American Polish Cultural Center

The adult auction is held annually and one of our major fundraisers.

Our first meeting will be on Sept 25th at McVee's, always looking for new people to join committee. See Aimee if you would like to be involved or if you want more information on joining the committee or helping with the auction.

Final deposit for auction will be Jan/Feb timeframe.

Community Service Report

Keri Elliot shared a thank you note from Suitcase for Kids from Penny Wars, which raised over \$2500 last year. Penny Wars will be in January this year and we are excited to give back once again.

Keri is also organizing a food collection at Skateworld night.

Green Schools Report

Suzy Powell explained that this is a recognition of schools who participate in a variety of green school practices. We have always earned the Evergreen (highest) ranking and we are on track to continue.

Publicity/Web Coordinator Report

No report.

Costello Ball for All

Amanda Haverty Harris reported that this is set for Thursday, February 8th. This is a reimagined "Daddy Daughter Dance" and is an inclusive event for all students and will be held again at the San Marino Club. \$1000 deposit was made to secure the venue and date.

Trunk or Treat

Our second annual Trunk or Treat will be on Friday, October 20th

Old Business

No report

New Business

Bylaws were passed out to all members. Thanks to Ingrid and Amanda for helping with editing and formatting. Please read over and voting will take place in October.

5th grade bus transportation to 5th grade camp.

Charter buses have been paid for in the past. Price increased this year due to dates and gas prices.

Julie Eldridge and Dr. DiPonio have found a company with a quote of \$6720.00. This is an increase of \$2320 from our original budget.

The PTO members were asked to vote on the following options:

\$32 per student for family to pay (Cost is already \$215 per student so would raise student price to \$247, to be paid by families) OR

PTO pay for entire amount.

Members were in favor of PTO paying for the additional cost. Voting passed for PTO to pay for additional bus prices.

Ingrid Peeples spoke of the Robotics program that was at Costello in years past. School has equipment and if there are any parents who are interested in running the program, please contact Ingrid for more information. There was also a parent who inquired about Science Olympiad and the possibility of having that program at Costello.

Parent asked about interest on bank account. There is interest on our Savings Account, not on Checking account. Credit Union does pay interest and Chris is intentional about keeping the majority of our money in the Savings so it does accrue interest. Chris Tallman will look into this further.

Rose Cody asked about how we get lunch account balances back since all school lunches are now free. Dr. DiPonio will inquire.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM by Jen Ford.