

Costello PTO **TENTATIVE**** Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024**

Attendance: Jen Ford, Angie Cheek, Dr. DiPonio, Katie Monhaut, Michelle Tessoﬀ, Kristen Northey, Amanda Haverty Harris, Jamie Kaniarz, Kali Schmitz, Keri Elliott, Philippe Cicchini, Carolin Connely, Suzy Powell

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

Review and Approve minutes, Budget, Principal and Teachers Report

Jen presented the minutes from the November meeting. Jamie Kaniarz motioned to approve the minutes and Angie Cheek seconded.

Treasurer Report

Jen Ford presented the treasurer’s report (Chris Tallman absent) Bank transactions listed all activity since the last meeting. This year the class t-shirts were taken from the discretionary line item but that might change in the future. Activity starting for the auction. Schoolwide assembly coming up. Income report was also presented.

Budgeted amount shows \$40,943 so far has been spent. Jamie Kaniarz motioned to accept the report as written. Angie Cheek seconded and motion approved.

President Report

No report

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

Vice-President Report

No report

Principal Report

Dr. DiPonio gave shout out to Jamie and Jenny for successful holiday parties and Winter Wonderland. Thanks to Jen Ford and crew for being “elves” to spoil our teachers this time of year. Third grade concert and winter singalong with Mrs. Pasiak were both incredible.

Next Monday is MLK and there is a service day celebration at Athens starting at 9:00 AM. All are welcome. Penny Wars and Ball for All are coming up!

The year started with teachers thinking about what we want to “Lean Into.” Sense of belonging and learning have been a theme for the staff this year and Dr. DiPonio shared an update on how these powerful experiences are impacting our school community. Being present and there for all relationships has been a focus.

Teacher Representative Report

Mrs. Tessoth thanked all for the holiday parties and how smoothly they went. It was a great way to end the year with all of the celebrations. Wrapped up 2023 and teachers are diving into looking for classroom books to order and have in hand. Thank you for everything and we are excited for 2024!

Celebrations

Winter Wonderland! It was amazing and great way to end the year. Thanks to all who helped make it a success!

Committee Reports for January

Costello Ball for All- Amanda Haverty-Harris

Amanda reported that the date will be Feb 8th at the San Marino Club. It is intended for the full family to attend, not just “daddy/daughter, etc.” DJ and photo booth are in place, balloon twisting and centerpieces are in planning mode. Trying to stay within budget. Ticket sales are starting and due Jan 24th. 5:30-9:00 will be the event time. Looking for the possibility of having someone take photos at the staircase of families. No physical ticket, attendees will receive an email confirmation.

Community Service- Keri Elliott

Keri reported that Penny Wars is coming back and we are excited! It will take place the week of Jan 22nd and Friday the winner will be announced. The grade level that earns the most will earn a pizza party. Pennies and dollars are positive points and silver coins are negative points. Winning grade will vote on charity to donate the proceeds to. Ronald McDonald, Kaboom!, and Barbershop Books will be the three charities they will choose from. Fliers will go out soon and will be promoted on the Facebook page.

Auction- Aimee SooSoo/Katie Monhaut

Katie reported that the auction planning is in full force. Ticket sales will begin mid January. We are excited for a great event for Costello parents!

Green Schools-Suzy Powell

Suzy reported that the application is due in early March and is a fairly simple process. Suzy has gathered information on various criteria that is required for the recognition. Suzy is

looking to update ways to gather information that might be more teacher specific. Mrs. Tessoﬀ oﬀered to help with gathering this information from staﬀ members.

Class T-Shirt

Philippe reported that he has been researching shirt options for the 2024-25 school year. He received quotes from various places. Last year we paid \$11 a shirt which is high. These should cost about \$7-8 each based on his research. Once budget is figured out for next year, we can determine if this is an option the PTO wants to continue to purchase for next year.

Square One Art will be introduced to students this Friday. Shipping is only \$1.99 flat fee
Possible fair date is May 4th. Dr. DiPonio won't be able to attend. Another consideration is to check with Athens to make sure student volunteers are available. Alternate date is April 13th

Carolin Conelly asked on interest in doing the March book drive again. Was mentioned it might not be ideal with everything else going on. Might be better to do every other year.

Kristen Northey mentioned a pizza restaurant that is interested in doing a Restaurant Week for Costello, looking at week of January 22nd.

Old Business

New Business

Voting on Busses for 5th grade camp

Option 1: \$5740	Option 2: \$5350	Option 3: \$2050
2 56-passenger charter buses (what we have used for years)	1 56-passenger 1 34-passenger charter buses (Wattles did this for the 23-24 trip)	2 Servicar buses with luggage storage (We used to use this option, no issues)

Much discussion on pros and cons. Vote took place to determine if PTO would approve cost of Charter Bus or Servicar option. Majority voted for Servicar but with the discretion that if more busses are needed to accommodate two students to a seat (instead of three), we will pay for that cost.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM PM by Jen Ford.

