

**Costello PTO **\*\*TENTATIVE\*\*** Minutes**  
**Monday, April 8, 2024**

Attendance: Jennifer Ford, Chris Tallman, Katie Monhaut, Angie Cheek, Aimee SooSoo, Dr. DiPonio, Philippe Cicchini, Carolin Connelly, Allison Allen, Amanda Haverty-Harris, Kristen Northey, Michelle Tessoﬀ, Keri Elliott, Kali Schmitz

**Jen Ford called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM**

**District Central Office Spring 2024 Update: Kris Griffor**

Career Accelerator Program (CAP)- students involved in various companies across Troy

Spring updates: Charity week from both high schools, service projects giving back over \$300,000 to charities.

Bond: Smith Middle School will break ground in May, Series 1 will begin. Old Smith will stay open 6-7 years as a surge space. Troy High is also beginning renovations. Elementary buildings are focusing on innovative furniture and playground upgrades. Costello playground planning will begin April 15<sup>th</sup>. Athens renovations to begin in 2027.

Website: New websites will be out summer/fall timeframe. There will be a new app integrated with PowerSchool that will have a translation tool.

Budget: Allocations from state have not kept pace with inflation. We are \$4309 per pupil deficit for 2024-25. Sustaining paying teachers for recruiting and retention is a top priority.

Guiding Coalition: Ensuring learning for all students. Special Education subgroup has been a challenge, similar to across the state. Working on a solution (not short term), formed a guiding coalition to review student data to meet the needs of all students.

Early College: Partnership with Lawrence Tech University, about 25 students currently participating in this. Launches in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 5 year program

Math Update: Elementary has adopted a new math curriculum, which includes math coaching and interventionists.

One Troy Highlights: Congratulations to our Teachers of the Year. Middle School teacher got to experience being an astronaut. Baker Spelling Bee Champion, 56 students will compete at the DECA International Conference.

**Review and Approve minutes, Budget, Principal and Teachers Report**

Jen presented the minutes from the March meeting. Jamie Kaniarz motioned to approve the minutes and Carolin Connelly seconded.

**Treasurer Report**

Chris Tallman presented the treasurer's report. A lot of auction deposits since the last meeting. Two reissued checks from Athens bus and Auction venue. Chris presented the

proposed budget for 2024-25 school year. Chris explained the assumed income totals for next year. Proposed budget is \$55,840 for next year.

Some items were adjusted for next year: 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp transportation has been decreased, 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration decreased, art allocation would be same as other specials. Classroom experiences would be brought to \$10,000. PBIS/Assembly fund was increased. Celebrations is a new category for various holiday events and classroom allocations to be equitable. Auction decreased, Technology and base supplies eliminated. Looking at creative ways to spend less to make more. Discussion and questions on various line items and past purchases/projections.

Discussed the auction assumed income. Various considerations for low attendance. Brainstormed ideas to promote attendance. Increased communication, consider moving back to cash bar for decreasing ticket cost. Classroom tables, room parents organize a table?

Ball for All: discussed eliminating dinner or reducing price, change of location?

Suggestion for survey to families to share feedback for all events over the course of the year

Clarification on field trips and teacher allocations. PTO money is meant for transportation and anything left over can supplement the cost per student.

Carolin Connelly motioned to accept the budget and Jamie Kaniarz seconded. Motion passed.

### **President Report**

Reminder of open positions for 25/26 school year. Might be good idea to shadow next school year if you are interested. Board nominations for next year will close at the end of tonight's meeting.

Jen also shared that the book allocation of \$10,000 has been put on hold until further discussions are had. We have already ordered some and are waiting to see how much money is still available. We will pause the project until we have a better picture of the budget for next year.

### **Principal Report**

Make sure to read the weekly Cardinal Connection for Costello updates.

Shared pictures of the Eclipse events. M-step testing will begin soon.

Administrative Assistant Day is April 26<sup>th</sup> (many thanks to Jillian and Jenny in our office)

### **Teacher Representative Report**

Mrs. Tessoфф shared a thank you card from the staff to the auction members.

### **Celebrations**

Thank you for successful planning of Auction, Fair planning/preparations, Kindergarten Orientation!

Thanks to Jenny and Dr. DiPonio for their help in the budget planning, thank you to Chris Tallman for her hard work and efforts in preparing the budget proposals and time spent

**Green Schools-Suzy Powell**

Application was submitted and Evergreen status was achieved! Congrats Cardinals!

**Auction-Aimee SooSoo**

Discussions were held previously in meeting to brainstorm ideas to increase participation and proceeds. Will move forward with ideas after a parent survey provides more data

**Fair-Melanie Harper**

Volunteers are needed! Please check the sign up genius and sign up to volunteer if you are able to volunteer

**Additional Announcements**

Skate World is May 15<sup>th</sup>

Staff Appreciation Week will be May 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

**Old Business**

Class t-shirts...discussion will be continued. Idea posed that students order a shirt with class year so a new shirt is not needed every year.

Budget for 2024-25 school year will be voted on at the May meeting.

**New Business-none**

Jen Ford adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM