

PTA Meeting Agenda

November 6, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance: Megan Thomas, Tami Coppler, Brian O'Malley-Gamrat, Sam Walsh, Lisa Trail, Amy Jenkins, Melisa Leventry, John J. Adamson, Michele Kish, Edith Adamson, Olesea Sizemore, Molly Dulaney

Online Attendees: Taryn Husman, Melissa Mentz

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by PTA President, Megan Thomas

PTA focus

Our focus is to encourage and support a positive school environment with our students, staff, families and community as we strive to advocate for programs and policies that nurture students and education. We do this by volunteering our time while sponsoring and funding programs that enhance the educational and social experiences of all Crafton students.

President's Report

- Vote to approve minutes from the October 2024 meeting
 - Melisa Leventry voted to approved
 - John Adamson seconded
- Updates on October events:
 - Spirit Wear Sale
 - Red Robin Fundraiser
 - Yoga at the school
 - Hoagie sale
 - Red Ribbon Week
 - Halloween Bingo
 - Halloween party for all students
 - Retirement gift for Ms. Kelly
- Accepting donations of decorations for Halloween next year and gift wrap, tissue paper/gift bags for Jingle Bell Junction
 - Need this by Tuesday December 3rd
 - Jingle Bell Junction is Dec 10-11
- The vote to allocate \$5400 to Project Playground passed with 95% in favor of this motion - will move forward with the purchase of two picnic tables for the large playground if the school board approves purchase on November 19. With taxes and shipping the total would be \$2795.55.
 - Remaining funds can be used to possibly fund the sunshade or anything else we want to include in Project Playground
- Share photos

VP Report - Discuss pros/cons of PTA vs PTO

- Do we want to separate ourselves from the PTA and become our own organization?
 - Mrs. Burleson submitted a bulleted list of why the Middle School moved to become a PTO:
 - **“Flexibility in Spending:** As you mentioned, national guidelines can sometimes limit flexibility in how funds are allocated. When we’re independent, we have the freedom to address immediate needs and student activities as they arise, rather than adhering to preset budgets.
 - **Reduced Costs:** The national PTA requires local units to pay dues and fees, and those funds don’t always come back directly to our school. Without those fees, we’re able to retain more local funds, using them specifically for our students.
 - **Increased Local Control:** Without national oversight, decision-making is entirely local, which means that our board and parents can vote on how best to use the funds based on our unique school community’s needs.”
 - What benefits do we have by being attached to the National PTA?
 - Tami: Currently uses the national PTA as a sounding board because with our paid dues we can use their services. Tami has benefitted from these services.
 - What about non-budgeted items, can PTA members be reimbursed for these things? Yes, anything up to \$75 can be reimbursed. If something is budgeted and we want to go over the budget, then how do we get that approved? We would have to have it approved by the PTA (this can be done in a PTA meeting or if urgent could be done via e-mail).
 - Comment: Being asked to donate gift cards for bingo event: some parents are questioning why we aren’t using the PTA’s budget before asking parents to donate.
 - PTA had estimated a cost of \$2550.00 for all three holiday parties:
 - \$650 for Halloween
 - \$800 for winter
 - \$1100 for valentines
 - If we are allocating a certain amount of money for parties, we should be spending that amount. If we need to overestimate the budget, we should. PTA members seem to agree that PTA board should not be asking parents for additional gift card donations when there are funds available in the PTA account.
 - Q: what is the goal for funds we want to have left over at the end of the year to ensure we have what we need for the following year?
 - A: When Tami started as Treasurer there was about \$2K in our account and “that was not nearly enough to cover the

beginning of year expenses". The amount of money that is in the bank account right now includes field trip costs, project playground money, and the transportation funding from the Carlynton foundation.

- A: We can vote on a dollar amount at the end of the year to roll over. We will do this in person in January.
- Q: But what do we do about funds needed to spend more on an event? Can we decide that we are allowed to request additional funds? This is allowed.
 - Bryan will put together a voting request for this that can be submitted out to all voting members of the PTA
- PTA member comment: sending the budget out in detail would be helpful.
 - Tami: All this information is public in the September meeting notes every year. I am open to presenting these things differently.
 - Q: Should we show the "unallocated budget" as opposed to the FULL bank balance? Tami will try to present this information differently

Treasurer's Report

PTA account balance as of 10/30/24: \$17,401.44

- The following checks have not yet been cashed:
 - \$290 for PA PTA Dues
 - \$153 for Halloween Party Snacks
 - \$610 for Kindergarten Field Trip
 - \$250 for Halloween Party DJ
 - \$3640.05 for Scholastic Book Fair
- \$5400 is allocated to Project Playground

Oct 2024 PTA Expenses:

- PTA Meeting Babysitting: \$20
- Halloween Party: \$506.84 (drinks, snacks, DJ)
- Kindergarten Field Trip: \$610

Oct 2024 PTA Profits:

- Tote bags: \$210
- Peppi's Hoagies: \$943.50
- Halloween Bingo: \$930.01
- Nov Bday Shout Outs: \$30
- Guilt Free Donations: \$571
- PTA Dress Up Day: \$44.25
- Carlynton Foundation Donation: \$3500
 - This will be used to fund all field trip transportation

Other

- Library profited \$3425.26 from Scholastic Book Fair
 - This is NOT in our bank account, it stays in the Scholastic funds

6th Grade Account

- Balance as of 10/30/24: \$1280.45
- Oct 2024 Expenses:
 - Rocket Launch \$450
- Oct 2024 Profits:
 - Pep Rally \$597.25

Budget discussion - Is a vote needed to add more funds to student events?

- Budget for events for students
 - Family Reading Night Fall \$150
 - Family Reading Night Spring \$150
 - Fun Day \$1000
 - We did have a lot donated last year
 - Field Trips (K-6 and Special Ed) \$5,700
 - Transportation for Field Trips (K-6, Special Ed, and Symphony) \$1,000
 - Only \$1k because we received the \$3500 grant
 - Holiday Parties current budget is \$2550
 - Estimated \$650 Halloween
 - Estimated \$800 Winter
 - Estimated \$1100 Valentines
- Purchase Square 1 Art tiles for 6th grade to be displayed in 6th grade hallway
 - Vote to approve \$400 - estimated cost is \$358.20
 - Q: Do we profit off this?
 - A: We do not.
 - Q: Do you give the kids the tiles at the end of the year?
 - A: No, we would keep them displayed.
 - Q: Can we agree that every 6th grade class will be given the same amount per year to either go to purchase the tiles or something else of our choosing?
 - A: Yes
 - Vote to approve was unanimous
- Q: Do we need to vote on Jingle Bell junction budget?
- A: We have already started making purchases based on the approved budget (\$1900). We are trying to buy 8 items per student, but students are allowed to buy 10 per student.
 - Q: Should we be buying 10 items PER student instead to ensure every student has a similar experience (ie first class going in versus last)? Is this possible? Where would we store the left over? What about putting together inventory PER class?

- A: We already do an inventory approach. We can buy more. We could spread the shopping across multiple locations (ie. Library, gym, art room).
 - We need more items (we will shoot for 4K items) and we need to split them up in advance and need to figure out ahead of time what we do with the leftovers AFTER?
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Principal's Report - Ms. Parish

- Continue to keep talking to your kids about the boys' bathroom incident on the second floor

Committee Report

- 6th Grade - Jen Blevins
- Talent Show - Brian O'Malley, Edith Adamson and Molly Dulaney
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- Molly Dulaney: Approached by James Kovanis at the Neville House and he would love to do a field trip there (transportation would be only cost)

Coordinator Updates

- Family Reading Night - Melisa Levinty
- Scholastics - Cara Heisler
- Box Tops - John Adamson
 - At almost \$300 in for now, and our goal is \$500 for the school year
- Fun Day - John Adamson
- Walk-A-Thon - Sam Walsh and Ashley Schaffer
- Jingle Bell Junction - Megan Thomas
 - Looking for volunteers to help with shopping
- Holiday Parties - Winter (Dec 17), and Valentine's Day (2/14).
 - Member comment: Really like the PTA reminder emails. Can we send out another reminder a couple weeks before the event as well? Yes, we will do that.

Dates to Remember -

November 8 Square 1 Art Orders Due

November 13 3:00PM-8:00PM Dining with a Purpose - 10% of sales to the PTA
Bob's Diner 1815 McKees Rocks Rd McKees Rocks, PA 15136

November 19 December Birthday Shout Outs Due

November 19 - 7:00PM School Board Meeting Carlynton Jr Sr High School CCC

November 27 Make Up Picture Day

November 28 & 29 and December 2 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December 2 11AM-10PM Dining with a Purpose - 25% of sales to the PTA
Caliente Pizza 288 West Steuben Street Pittsburgh PA 15205

MUST show paper flier

Parent Feedback/ Open Discussion

- For December, we voted we will hold the monthly meeting AFTER Dr. Kreider's open forum, PTA meeting will start at 7:30 PM.
- Q: Has the flyer for the food distribution been distributed? Can it be a monthly reminder?
- A: Yes, it will be included on Cougar Connection per Miss Parish.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM