

Costello PTO Tentative Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2025

Attendance: Jen Ford, Brittany Dwyer, Keri Elliott, Brandy Cooper, Amanda Haverty-Harris, Carolin Connelly, Jamie Kaniartz, Ingrid Peebles, Kali Schmitz, Michelle Tesso, Tommy DiPonio, Katie Monhaut, Anushya Pachathu, Chris Tallman, Kristen Northey, Krystle Dennison

Call to Order – Jen Ford at 7:02pm

Approval of Minutes- Jen presented the minutes from November. Carolin Connelly motioned to approve, and Jamie Kaniartz seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Chris Tallman (Treasurer) – Chris presented the current budget report. The bank transactions showed a variety of activity. Deposits were made from the photography fundraiser, Fun Run money, Square One Art, and Skate World.

Money has been spent on International Night, Auction, reindeer from Winter Wonderland, and Ball for All expenses. Our current balance is \$30,933.45. The budget seems on track with what we anticipated so far this year. We have spent about \$20,800 so far.

The PTO Board approved \$220 to even out classroom allocations to level the funds for each class. Presidents fund was raised back to \$1000 from \$500 to be able to continue staff appreciation.

Carolin Connelly motioned to accept the treasurer report, and Jamie Kaniartz seconded.

President Report – Jen Ford – Square One Art might stop after this year due to low participation.

Angie Cheek is at the Presidents Board

Kindness week will be held from February 10th-February 14th

Principal Appreciation is February 14th, more information to come.

We are looking for volunteers to help to lead the school fair (April 26th) . If you are interested or know of anyone, please reach out to Jen Ford or a board member. Many positions are transitioning for next year, please consider volunteering or shadowing for future years.

Principal Report– Dr. Tammy DiPonio – Dr. DiPonio showcased her SLIME shirt from the Fun Run Reward party. It was a great experience and the kids seemed to really enjoy it. Thanks to Ingrid for all of her efforts to make the Fun Run such a huge success.

Teacher of the Year nominations due Jan 17th. Please consider nominating a teacher.

Reindeer and winter parties were successful and great event. Thanks to the hot cocoa helpers and everyone's help. So many things to celebrate.

Lots of questions about the attendance and boundaries, we are in Phase One. Four to five scenarios will be presented and community meetings will be held and provide an opportunity for

community input. Attendance is encouraged. Not a lot of information at this time. School Board workshop will be held tomorrow, Jan 14th to listen to the proposals.

5th grade Festival of Choirs will be this Thursday.

Cardinal Connection holds important information.

Teacher Representative – Michelle Tessoﬀ – Thank you for the soup and salad lunch, very appreciative of the gestures. Class parties were a success, Winter Wonderland and parties on two separate days worked well. Thank you for the success of Skate Night in November, great way to bring families together.

Cardinal Nesting focused on the Silent Fox to refocus and be consistent. Thank you for all of the support from the staff.

Celebrations:

International Night team, Kristin Northey for Square One Art, Dr. DiPonio for being slimed, Ingrid for the Escape Celebration. Thanksgiving and holiday treats for staff. Keri for Penny Wars and community service, Winter Wonderland, Jenni B and Jamie for room parents,

Troy Women’s Association donated \$300 towards updating the staff lounge. Cans are being collected to also help raise money for these efforts. Parents have also sent donations via Venmo.

Committee Reports for January

Fun Run-Ingrid Peebles – Ingrid shared a summary of the Fun Run results. Video was made by Costello alum at Larson to highlight the video. Thank you to Mr. Ford for taking photos and to Mason Brozowski for making the video. Looking for good deals on a new fridge and oven for the lounge.

\$32,684.75 total raised

Presented a breakdown of the expenses (Get Movin fee, deposit for next fall)

TYSL and Stacy Milette each donated \$500 for the event. Sings and shout outs raised over \$2000.

Displayed budget was under budget.

So many people to thank to make this event happen. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Maliapaard for connecting the Fire Truck to the event. Mike Fraser for his DJ services, Keith Harper for announcing, and so much more!

Please send any ideas for next year for a school wide incentive. We have the Glo lights we could reuse.

Maria Esteinou Coto will be shadowing in the fall and will be taking over as the Fun Run Fair Chair. Phillipe Cicchini will be the new DJ next year as well. Grateful for so many people are willing to help.

Ball for All- Amanda Haverty-Harris

Please buy tickets! Ticket prices were raised \$5 to \$30 each due to increase vendor costs. Mike Fraser is donating his services for the DJ, we will also have a photo booth. Last year we had 350 attend, hoping for similar turn out this year. Once final counts are in, Amanda will continue with planning. There will be a masquerade theme. No face painting this year but there will be a mask bar for kids to create masquerade masks. NHS members will help run this. Balloon twister will be there again, and magician might walk around during dinner for entertainment.

Asked if anyone had any connections with balloons. Or a helium tank/help blowing up balloons. Kroger was suggested.

Community Service – Keri Elliot

Penny Wars began today. Winner will be announced on Friday, January 17th. Grade with highest points will win pizza party.

Center for Success Network (Pontiac) is an after school program

Empowerment Plan-sleeping bag coats for homeless population, employ people who are experiencing homelessness

American Red Cross, Wildfire relief for California

Students will vote on charity to receive funds

Aimee SooSoo – Auction

Auction is rapidly approaching. Looking for more donations, if you own a business or know of any, email:

Costelloauctionchair@gmail.com

Looking for more committee members. Reach out to Aimee if you are interested. Invitations should be going out this week. Tickets are \$65 for the early bird through Feb 8th and then \$70. Table reservations are available as well. Please help promote to ensure attendance

Old Business -

New Business –

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Next PTO meeting will be on Monday, February 10th in the Costello Media Center. Hope to see you there!