

## CFES PTO MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2025

### Quarterly Meeting – 6:30 PM at CFES

- **Welcome:** Call to order at 6:32 by Jessica Eldridge, PTO Co-President.
  
- **Slow/Tech UCF Presentation - Jen Panaro and Heather Coletti:**
  - Mission - How can we help students and parents manage phone use and technology inside and outside the classroom? The goal is to encourage intentional use so that devices are tools, not toys.
  - The group needs help spreading the word to the community—particularly reaching parents at CFES and Hillendale.
  - Wait Until 8<sup>th</sup> Pledge - <https://www.waituntil8th.org/take-the-pledge>. Families may sign the pledge at the provided website. The pledge supports *thoughtful* tech use—it does not mean *no* tech. Once at least 10 people from a grade level at the same school sign, the contact information is shared among those parents so they can connect.
  - They are seeking grade-level ambassadors to serve as points of contact. Ambassadors share updates and encourage conversation among parents in their grade.
  - This group meets once every couple of months and aims to partner with schools to promote appropriate tech use.
  - Unplugged Wednesday – The middle school participates in a no-tech day on the last Wednesday of each month; feedback has been very positive.
  - PA Unplugged Group – A larger slow-tech group that has been advocating in Harrisburg for state-mandated bell-to-bell phone bans in schools.
  
- **Principal's Report with Mrs. Clark:**
  - Tech Free indoor recess this year; students are more engaged during indoor recess.
  - Thank you to the community for Ready, Set, Charge Week, Halloween festivities, Buddy Breakfast, Enrichment Grants and so much more.

- Secret Snowflake – Collecting gift cards or monetary donations for CFES families in need. Donations may be given to the front office. If your family needs help, please reach out.
  - FID packets have gone home; families should store them in a safe place.
  - Powerschool – Families must indicate their early-dismissal plan if they have not already.
  - November 24 – Rita’s and karaoke party to celebrate Ready, Set, Charge Week. About 20/25 minutes per grade level.
  - Early Dismissal - 12:25 PM dismissal on November 24, 25, and 26.
  - On December 2, Will Shipley will visit for an Eagles assembly, thanks to Margaret Marinzoli.
  - Report Cards: Available on PowerSchool on December 12.
  - Winter Concerts:
    - K–3: December 16 at 1:30 PM
    - Grades 4–5: December 17 at 1:30 PM
  - Holiday Break: School will be closed beginning December 24 and will reopen January 5.
  - Staff Update: Mr. Craig is retiring on December 12. A staff breakfast will be held that morning from 8:00–8:45 AM.
  - The school is still seeking one grade-level para and one reading-support para.
  - Planning to hold next year’s Halloween Parade at 2:30 PM.
- **Treasurer’s Report with Sam Johannessen:**
    - \$13,391 raised during Ready, Set, Charge Week
    - Total income so far: \$22,000 on a budget of \$65,000
    - \$2000 allocated towards assemblies
    - Total expenses to date: \$52,000
    - \$7,200 spent on grants and teacher enrichments
    - 42,000 cash on hand; 20,000 of that is earmarked for the primary playground
- **Ready, Set, Charge! Week Recap:**
    - All the other elementary schools hold similar fundraisers; CFES had a very successful first year.

- \$1,000 was raised for both KCAS and Delaware County Food Bank.
- Special thanks to the front office staff and Mr. McGarvey for their support.
- Feedback may be emailed to [CFESPTO@ucfsd.net](mailto:CFESPTO@ucfsd.net).
  
- **Book Fair Recap:**
  - This was the most successful Book Fair to date. The school was able to purchase books for every classroom and the library.
  - The event earned \$1800 in Scholastic Dollars and \$2500 in cash.
  
- **Enrichment Grants Recap:**
  - Each teacher or professional staff member receives \$150 for classroom use and may also apply for enrichment grants.
  - This year, 9 out of 12 enrichment grant applications were funded.
  - Highlights include: Storyworks for 5th grade, new parachutes for Mr. Braim, ukuleles for Ms. Corbett, and Lego Spike Prime Robotics kits for Mr. McGarvey.
  
- **Preview of Upcoming Events:**
  - **Read-A-Thon**
    - Students met the goal of reading 36 minutes per day.
    - Theme: *The Wild Robot*.
    - Final event will be held this Friday.
  - **Winter Workshop**
    - December 12 in the science lab.
    - Planning has begun.
  - **Community Service / MLK Day**
    - 3rd grade collected items for Cradles to Crayons and assembled hygiene kits.
    - Planning for MLK Day is beginning; more information will be shared in December.
  - **Bingo Night & Experience Auction**
    - January 23.
    - Teacher experience auction concludes on Bingo Night.

- **Art Show**
  - March 14.
  - Artists may begin renting spaces on December 1.
- **Parents' Night Out**
  - April 11 at the Brandywine River Museum.
  - Planning to display student artwork and secure sponsors to reduce ticket prices.
- **Final Thoughts:**
  - Many opportunities are available to get involved in upcoming events.
  - Families are encouraged to share ideas and feedback.
- **Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 PM**

**Next Quarterly PTO Meeting will take place Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30  
in the CFES Library.**