

**September 14, 2022**  
**Cornell Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions** - Liz Luyendyk Call to Order

- 2021/2022 PTO Officers (Election for 2021/2022 end of meeting)
  - Liz Luyendyk, President
  - Patti Bishop & Kavita Drolet, Vice Presidents
  - Corinne Dyksen, Treasurer
  - Joanna Purkiss, Secretary
    - Others in attendance tonight: Tracy Ojerio, Jamie Coy, Holly Higgins, Lauren McWain, Brittany Martinez, Chris and Kelly Silker, Lindsey Klug

**Principal's Report** - Mrs. Tracy Ojerio

- Please see the introduction letter she sent via email to learn more about her
- These past 2-3 weeks, Cornell students and staff have been focusing on learning about culturally responsive behaviors
- Niki Mahn – student support advisor – came to us from Bennett Woods
  - trying to show kids how to turn mistakes into learning opportunities
- Curriculum night presentations will be sent out Monday evening (9/19) via email
- School pictures are on September 21st – some elementary schools changed from Lifetouch to Canfield Jenkins. Parents should use the online order form, or reach out to photographer directly to ask about other ordering methods
- Teachers are doing some grant funded letters training (phonics, phonemic awareness, multi sensory approach to learning). They will be out of school for training during this time and guest teachers will fill in.
- Elementary mascot change – all elementary schools will be Wolves. We can keep our old Cougar paw, but will be Wolves from now on.
- Events to look for:
  - In person musical performances and informances for parents to enjoy with Ms. Chase (music teacher)
  - In person field trips and learning experiences throughout the year
- Conferences
  - New procedure: October 18th (PM) through October 28. Conferences will be virtual or by phone, but we can also accommodate in person meetings if teachers or parents request. PTO will cater food for teachers/staff on 10/18.
- Bond proposal – Please vote on November 8.
  - Looking for a representative to serve as a core team member (they will assist in both phases: Cornell at Chippewa and the new Cornell). Members will attend school visits, various meetings.
    - Chris Silker and Holly Higgins volunteered to do this
- Q&A: parent background checks (for volunteering) are taking longer to process, but please be patient.

**President's Report** - Liz Luyendyk

- Organizational overview
  - PTO is the fundraising arm of Cornell. Everything we raise, we give back to the school.
    - Cougar Run usually raises around \$19K
    - PTO's biggest expense is giving teachers gift cards at the beginning of the year (\$300/classroom teacher)

- District Parent Council Introduction
  - District Parent Council meetings are attended by the Superintendent, a rotating school board member, the principal of that month's hosting school, and parent representatives from each of the seven schools. District Parent Council meetings are open to the public, start at **12:00 PM** and everyone is welcome to attend.
- Meeting Dates/Times for PTO and DPC

| Cornell PTO  | Time    |  | District Parent Council | Location of DPC |
|--------------|---------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| September 14 | 6-7 pm  |  | September 19            | Admin           |
| October 19   | 9-10 am |  | October 17              | Admin           |
| November 16  | 6-7 pm  |  | November 21             | Chippewa 7-8    |
| December 14  | 9-10 am |  | December 12             | Bennett Woods   |
| January 18   | 6-7 pm  |  | January 23              | Cornell         |
| February 15  | 9-10 am |  | February 27             | OHS             |
| March 15     | 6-7 pm  |  | March 20                | OPM/Central     |
| April 19     | 9-10 am |  | April 17                | Hiawatha        |
| May 17       | 6-7 pm  |  | May 15                  | Kinawa 5-6      |

#### Treasurer's Report - Corinne Dyksen

- Financial standing end of 2021/2022 school year and beginning 2022/2023
- Transparency is a top priority - if you ever have questions, please email [treasurer@cornellpto.org](mailto:treasurer@cornellpto.org)
- Looking to form financial oversight committee
  - This committee will look at statements twice a year to approve for insurance purposes
    - Chris Silker volunteered his wife, Kelly Silker, who has a masters in accounting
- Our old bank (Citizens) closed and the closest one was Owosso, so we switched to MSUFCU
  - became a select employee group [www.msufcu.org/segs](http://www.msufcu.org/segs)
- Income:
  - carried over \$18,242.87 from last year
  - earned \$565.66 from Amazon Smile (\$83.03) and yearbook sales (\$482.29)
- Expenses:
  - \$10,312.33 spent
  - largest portions were staff start up (\$8106.04), sick bench (\$745), and last year's yearbook (spent \$671.76 but actual cost is \$190 after sales)
- Upcoming expenses:
  - portable PA sound system
    - Augie Martinez might be able to help with this
- Grant request from music teacher
  - Ms. Chase applied for an OEF grant for a set of ukuleles for music room
- Cougar of the Week – working with SSA to bring this back and make it more inclusive. Maybe one student from every classroom on a more regular basis. PTO will fund this.

## **Fundraising Efforts for the 2022/2023 School Year**

- Naming the Fun Run Event – October 7th (rain date October 10th)
  - Cornell Wolf Pack Run
    - We will be purchasing new shirts for all students – parents do not need to pay for this.
    - Joanna will ask Gabe about getting more shirts to sell to families (perhaps 15% of sales can go to PTO – OPM did this recently)
    - Corinne will set up Run Sign Up for fundraising
- Amazon Smile
  - SO easy! Mrs. Ojerio to send QR code to all families to sign up
- Restaurant Nights
  - Culver's fundraiser night
  - Henry Kwok from Henry's Place
  - Bread Bites helped in past with teacher catering
- Family Fun Night
  - Last night of Mileage Club
  - Food trucks, inflatables, raffle baskets
  - New this year – live music from Global Village? Contact Augie Martinez
- Scrip Program
  - Gift card program (% back goes to school)
  - We will offer this during Teacher Appreciation and Christmas (December and May)

## **PTO Sponsored Events**

- Global Cornell
  - students and families can share their cultures with the community.
  - stamp passports in each classroom
  - February 3, 2023?
- Read to Them - March 2023
  - Every kid gets a book to bring home. Whole school reads all together.
  - One Book One School (Mrs. Keller chooses book)
  - YouTube – different people reading different chapters so students can listen
  - Costs PTO \$3500
- Science Night
- Mileage Club
- Family Fun Night
- Field Day
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheons
- Parent Teacher Conference Luncheon
- Yearbook

## **Upcoming 2022 Bond, November 8th**

- 275 million bond, no increase in tax rate.
- <https://www.okemosbond.net/>
- Goal is “Don’t just pass the millage, we want to win the millage”
- Our district is 76 years old -- many buildings are original. This bond would allow new Cornell (built on the same property), new Chippewa and new Kinawa (with shared auditorium), and other improvements for the whole district.
- New Cornell building will have double the space, double the parking
- Please spread the word – this will really help our district if it passes!

### Volunteer Opportunities

- **Grade Level Parent Representative** - This individual would help keep the PTO up to date on each grade level and be a contact person for the teachers in that grade level.
  - Looking for someone who can talk to grade level teachers and can report at PTO meetings
  - Kavita can be report person for volunteers
- **Yearbook Chair** - Responsible for compiling and distributing the annual yearbook.
  - New photographer may do the yearbooks?
- **Restaurant Night Chair** - Organizing one to two restaurant nights that benefit Cornell.
- **Scrip Program** - Parent volunteer that helps organize and distribute the scrip program.  
[How Scrip Works](#) | [ShopWithScrip](#)

### Questions/Comments

**\*Thank you all for attending and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on 10/19 at 9am\***