

January 18, 2023
Cornell Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions - Liz Luyendyk

- Call to Order
- Attendance: Liz, Corinne, Joanna, Kavitha, Kristin, Jessica, Chris, Lauren, Holly, Tracy

Principal's Report - Mrs. Tracy Ojerio

- Bond and design team updates:
 - The team has been having monthly team meetings to discuss new secure vestibules across the district. Unfortunately Cornell does not have the room required to cut another door in the office, so our vestibule will look slightly different. We also want to be fiscally responsible and not put a ton of money in, when the building will be replaced a few years later. We will continue with the buzzer system, but there will be another set of doors before you can enter the school. Students will be taught: if there's an adult waiting to come in, they must wait to enter the office.
 - Elementary visits will begin in the fall (looking at other designs to get ideas for the new Cornell)
- It's been a quiet comeback from break. Students are following expectations (hooray!) and seem to be happy and healthy!
- Playground has been a challenge – staff has had to remind kids to keep hands to themselves. This weather has made it tricky with it being cold, muddy, and having no snow to play in.
 - Staff will take inventory to see if PTO needs to purchase recess equipment (i.e. balls for the blacktop, jump ropes, etc.)
- We hired a new Kindergarten aide: Ms. V is helping Mrs. Shoen.
- Lost and found is getting quite large. Perhaps we need to organize an after school browsing time for parents to look for missing items?
- Conferences will be on Zoom again, unless parents request in person meetings
- **Wishlist items – we need pants to have on hand in case of mud/accidents (we have leggings, but need more boys pants) Cornell families could donate gently used elementary sized items?**
- Ongoing things: we are in the assessment window for winter. Approximately 16 students have to schedule make ups, but most testing will be completed by Friday. Teachers will be working with support staff to form best fit groups.
- Report cards will be sent home Jan. 27
- Question from the group – to better support non-English speaking students, could we purchase a digital translator? There are some decent looking ones for about \$100. The school is currently using Google translator.
- Woof Pack update:
 - 2 elementary schools will get therapy dogs next year; the other 2 should get them the following year
 - Melissa will reach out to PTO to work on fundraising ideas and phrasing

Treasurer's Report - Corinne Dyksen

- Financial standing
 - It's been a quiet month after the gift card sale
 - Spent \$15.89 (for Zoom) since December meeting
 - Earned \$90.80 from BoxTops for Education and a donation from Jackson
- Student Directory can be sent out in a week or two

- Still valuable? Yes. Can we start with class lists? No.
- In the past, we typically have had about 175 families submit information (very few kids per class). Hoping to get more this year if possible to make it worthwhile.
- We can send home a half sheet with a QR code for the google form in Friday folders
- Rev Track – can we use this for PTO funds? Principal Ojerio will look into this.

President's Report - Liz Luyendyk

- We will add more 4 square boxes on the magic square. Liz can do this when weather permits.

Grade Level Reports

- Kindergarten - Alison Hoepfner
 - NWEA assessments seemed to go well
- First Grade - Lauren Mcwain
 - NWEA going well
 - working on how to be a good citizen
 - students are bringing in their favorite books to read aloud to the class
- Second Grade - Kristin Hundt
 - working on borrowing in math (from 100)
 - students enjoyed writing letters to each other using mailboxes
- Third Grade - Courtney Rodziewicz
 - info was sent home about a 2 day field trip to Potter Park Zoo (February)
 - reminder to parents to send kids with boots if they want to be on the playground... without boots, they can only play on the magic square
- Fourth Grade - Kristin Ritter
 - learning about non-fiction text and graphic features
 - the emails sent home to parents are math heavy, but don't include many updates about reading/writing updates

Fundraising Efforts for the 2022/2023 School Year

- Amazon Smile (will be discontinued in February)
- Restaurant Nights
 - March 20 at Culvers (which also science fair night)
 - We have an option for a May date as well
- Family Fun Night
 - May 19, 2023
- Scrip Program:
 - We will sell gift cards for Teacher Appreciation in May

PTO Sponsored Events

- Global Cornell: **April 2023 (April 28?)**
 - Committee chairs: Kristin Ritter and Liz Luyendyk
 - Looking for another person to help on this committee
 - What is Global Cornell? People of the same culture get together and sponsor a room to teach others about their culture (i.e. dances, food, clothing, etc.)
 - Liz will put information in Friday Folders and a slide on our website to teach people what this event is and start asking for families to sponsor rooms
 - Going forward, we can start planning this event in the fall. MSU international night is in December – committee chairs could attend to get ideas for our event

- School Wide Reading Program: **March 2023**
 - Laurie Keller - Author Visit
 - K-2: Stella Diaz has Something to Say by Angela Dominguez
 - 3-4: Save me a Seat by Sarah Week and Gita Varadarajan
 - Total cost should be under \$3000 for everything
 - Need a volunteer to chair this event who can work with Mrs. Keller (i.e. making bookmarks to help kids keep track of what pages to read on what day, etc.)

- Science Night: **March 20, 2023 – 6:30-8pm**
 - Grant from OEF has been approved \$350.00
 - Nature Discovery is confirmed
 - full exhibit (\$415) has 42 foot table full of animals
 - other option is a partial exhibit (\$325) 16 feet table, but we'd like to go with the full this year
 - Looking for 3-4 other presentations (does anyone have connections?)
 - Only 4th grade is presenting (it is optional, not required) but anyone can attend
 - Boards have already been purchased and PTO will sell them for \$3 (no profit) – we will distribute them in carline so they don't get bent

- Mileage Club: **Start the week after spring break?**
 - Purchase Fitness Finders
 - cost = \$200 for cards; toe tokens an additional \$200; software is an additional \$200 (annually). We can choose how much we want to spend.
 - Need someone to chair this
 - We need to get a release form for parents to fill out – perhaps a district wide form?
 - Can we combine this waiver with our directory form?

- Family Fun Night: **May 19, 2023**
- Field Day: **June 6, 2023** with a rain date of June 7th
- Teacher Appreciation Week: **May 7th-13th**
- Parent Teacher Conference Luncheon: **March 14, 2023**
 - sign up genius will go out for a potluck in the lounge

Questions/Comments

- Yearbooks will be done by Canfield Jenkins. We do not know how/when we can pre purchase them, but Liz is trying to find out
- “What makes you proud of yourself?” is the question we'll be asking 4th graders to go with their baby pictures for the yearbook
- Will we get composite class photos from Canfield Jenkins?
- Can we have OHS seniors return to their elementary schools at the beginning of the year to discuss school rules/expectations? They could also come back in their cap and gown to say bye to teachers around graduation?
- Are we doing the sunflower sale (artwork sale) this year? Could we use this to raise funds for a therapy dog?

The next DPC meeting is from 12-2:30 on Monday, January 23 at Cornell in the library – all are welcome.