

April 19, 2023
Cornell Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions - Liz Luyendyk

- Call to Order, Introductions
- Attendance: Corinne Dyksen, Liz Luyendyk, Joanna Purkiss, Rita Sharma, Christina Carlson, Holly Higgins, Lauren McWain, Kristin Ritter, Kristin Hundt, Jenna Spratt, Tracy Ojerio, Kanishka de Silva on zoom

Principal's Report - Mrs. Tracy Ojerio

- Thank you to helpers for organizing Cornell Clean Up and volunteering to help with Kindergarten Round Up (it was very successful!)
- Will be reflecting on process for Kindergarten Round Up and would love any feedback
- Author visit was very well received – would love to have an additional visit (twice a year)
- 3rd and 4th grades are finishing up MSTEP testing; K-4 NWEA assessments will take place after that
- finishing up teacher walkthroughs and assessments – very proud of our Cornell staff and all the learning that takes place here!
- Kindergarten information will be sent out in June – thinking about doing a parent information meeting/playdate for students in August. Could perhaps tie this into a playground playdate (PTO sponsored)
- Would like PTO to choose dates for summer play dates soon so we can get information out to parents
- Teacher assignments for 2023-2024 will go out in August. Class lists will be on display at Open House, but will not be sent out in advance.
- August 17 is our tentative date for Open House in the evening (2 sessions separated by last letter of the name)
- 4th grade teachers meeting with Kinawa staff May 12. 4th grade students going to visit Kinawa May 23 (Tuesday)

Treasurer's Report - Corinne Dyksen

- Financial standing
 - Earned: \$89 from Science Fair Boards
 - Spent: \$466.95 on Nature Discovery & Zoom
 - Expecting to receive \$700 from Culvers – hoping to do another Culvers night in November and again in spring for Science Night again. When we do it in the future, we'll have more volunteers helping and will remind Culvers to have extra staff on hand for this popular event.
 - Need to send invoice to OEF for author visit
 - Consider: do we want to pay for CRM software to keep track of who we talk to and when (i.e. KEAP).
- [Student Directory](#)
 - only 87 responses, so let's scrap it for this year
 - Plan to build it in to paperwork at beginning of the year for the fall

President's Report - Liz Luyendyk

- Science night was a big success. Great turn out, and we also had volunteers sign up for upcoming PTO events
- Planning to revamp website to make it more user-friendly – Lauren McWain can help.
 - We also need to share information about our facebook page – many people don't know we have a group!
 - We can add a Technology or Social Media chair for PTO (Lauren McWain)
 - We can use Tracy's Canva newsletter template to create a PTO newsletter that can be sent out with her biweekly newsletter

- Board Elections will be held at our next meeting.
- Yearbook sales are closing on April 30th. We received a proof and are working to improve the layout
 - This year the yearbook is being done through Canfield Jenkins
- DPC
 - Meeting was at Hiawatha
 - March Reading Month: in December students wrote to whomever they wanted for a guest speaker (i.e. a kid wrote to Jake from State Farm and was sent swag in return), The letters sent out in February and responses came in during March.
 - Sensory Hallway (movement hallway). Sensory stickers, pathway on floor for kids who need a break. We have limited space here, but are hoping to have this in our new building.
 - Bond update: visit okemosbond.net for all current proposals
 - Asking for district standard in regards to playground accessibility
 - we want to make sure playgrounds are accessible to all students - should have equality and equity among schools
 - Lara Slee is looking into this for us
 - OEF Golf Fundraiser June 3rd
 - okemoswolves.org – Okemos athletics website
 - AD Tempie Brown (guest speaker): group asked how to increase elementary aged kids in HS sports.
 - Youth sports recognition at HS games
 - Red Cedar basketball teams got to play on HS court at halftime
 - There are currently 25 sports at the high school. Looking to add more. Lacrosse was just added (was formerly a club sport; now a school sponsored sport). Hoping to also add boys volleyball.
 - Swim Club Team will start summer swim lessons – see Mid-Michigan Aquatics for more information
- Beautification group will work today to clean up outdoor area at Cornell from 4:30 - 6:30

Fundraising Efforts for the 2022/2023 School Year

- Scrip Program:
 - Teacher Appreciation/end of the year teacher gift card order sheet will go home April 28
- Raffle Baskets for Family Fun Night (FFN) – Jenna Spratt is organizing teacher basket selections

PTO Sponsored Events

- Global Cornell: **April 28, 2023, 6:30-8pm**
 - Committee chairs: Kristin Ritter and Liz Luyendyk
 - 10 different cultures will be represented
 - We will be using the upper elementary rooms and the gym for the Scottish games
 - 15 ACTION volunteers from the high school will be helping
 - Kids will receive passports – self portraits will be on their lockers and can be attached the night of the event.
 - Parents in classrooms can use the screens to show presentations and music
 - Mr. Nagel will take photos
- Reading Together: cost of this was, keep program going?
 - Laurie Keller - Author visit was a huge success. The cost of the visit was \$310, this covered hotel and incidental expenses, OEF financed the bulk of the cost.
- Mileage Club:
 - Underway and great fun. Scanning devices are working well and volunteers have been outstanding. Big thanks to Corinne Dyksen and Margaret Cook.

- Family Fun Night: **May 19, 2023**
 - **6pm-8pm**
 - start to think about baskets for raffle (Jenna Spratt will choose themes)
 - we'll have a Venmo option for raffle tickets
- Field Day: **June 6, 2023** with a rain date of June 7th
 - we are in good shape with materials from last year
 - GFS has popsicles – need to be purchased sooner than later to have time to freeze them. Freezer in the teachers lounge is available.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: **May 7th-13th**
 - SCRIP fundraiser - Corinne will send info out on April 28 in folders
 - 6 cases of girl scout cookies will be donated (Holly Higgins)
 - Our budget is about \$750
 - How do we want this week to look?
 - Masseur, lunch, breakfast, snack day, special drink day etc...
 - Volunteers for organizing:
 - Rita Sharma, Amy Rombach, Christina Carlson, Kristin Hundt, Holly Higgins

Other ideas discussed today:

- PTO should have an event coordinator, volunteer coordinator and social media/website chairperson
- Would be nice to divide up events at beginning of the year so people know what needs to be done
- We can have each teacher have PTO sign up sheets in their rooms for open house, and have an intake form for parent emails (rather than having them write them down)
- August meeting for PTO and let's talk about fall events at the May meeting to get a head start on planning
- Trello - online service that can assign tasks for events – Lauren McWain can assist with this
- Christina suggested having kids take 10 CBGs Henry's Place for a free dessert starting next fall
- Corinne will add Holly, Jenna, Lauren, Kristin to the Google Drive for event information
- Lauren will contact Marcos to do a standing day for restaurant nights like East Lansing does
- K. DeSilva expressed concerns regarding new variants of Covid-19 and safety precautions
 - Highlighted the ever evolving symptoms (conjunctivitis)
 - Made group aware of his concern regarding the prevalence of gun violence, highlighting a story from Florida.