



CRS PTA Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Attendees: Kathy Leiz, Lisa Massaro, Emily Wilson, Kristalyn Cannavale, Gail Sprinkle, Jennie Ballas, Christine Gagliardo, Reshma Thomas, Irina Ruby, Monica Saracino, Lynn Barravecchio, Kristin McKee, Candice Lim, Alice Chu, Danielle Rosenberg, Melissa Grafman, Ann Kraemer, Laura Lombardi, Jamie Kovac, Melissa Miao, Maneet Kaur, Maryanne Mitarotonda, Gina Smedley, Mini Thomas Puthiyathu, Svetlana Santasiero, Marybeth Pisani, Rachael Lohman, Nicole Paladino, Alli DePiero

9:15 Pledge of Allegiance & Call to Order – Rachel Lohman

- President's Report: The start of the year is always a busy time. Thank you to all who have participated in events, come to PTA meetings – record attendance! Successful fundraising outcome so far this year to support PTA programming. Thank you for your generosity.
- 2019 Board Election: It was noted that the board will hold an election at the March meeting. Leading up to that, at the January meeting we will be creating a Nominating Committee (3 PTA members plus 1 alternate) to provide a recommended slate for our next board. Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact a current board member. Also, think about becoming a future board member!

9:20 Approval of September 13 Meeting Minutes: Approved by Candice Lim and Lynn Barravecchio

9:25 Treasurer's Report – Maneet Kaur: A Treasurer's Report was not available due to issues with reconciling associated with our new online payments platform; Maneet is working with MemberHub to resolve this. Maneet noted that the bank balance is high due to deposits from Apex and programs that have yet to be paid out.

9:30 Correspondence – Rachel Lohman for Chela Papaccioli: Please check out our wonderful thank you's on the PTA board in the front vestibule of school. The thank you's are so appreciated!

9:35 Superintendent's Report – Dr. Strauss: She was not able to be present. She is looking forward to the next meeting.

9:40 Principal's Report – Mrs. Gagliardo: Sends many thanks to PTA members, and volunteers who help with events. She noted a maternity leave replacement staff member at the administrative level, a new supervisor curriculum, Susanna Grecco. Looking forward to our first panda assembly of the year. Improvement with student tardiness. Discussed significant challenges with unsafe and illegal parking at school events. This impacts the safety of all the children. Reminder to have all items sent in with children at the start of the day to reduce item drop off and prevent disruptions to instructional time.

9:45 Board of Education Report – Ann Kraemer: She is on the finance and operations committee. Sends many thanks to the PTA and volunteers for fun events. Discussed capital reserve and projects coming up, and security donations from FLEF. 16 field trips were approved at the 1st Nov. meeting, of which seven were from CRS. Fact finding meeting between BoE and FLEF is December 13th. Finances are ok this year and planning on meeting for next year's budget in late January. Looking into Math curriculum, updates soon. Questions or

concerns are encouraged to call or email the board. Ann shared that the next board meeting was 11/27th. CRS PTA also noted the Candidate's Night planned by the 4 district PTAs, recognized all who ran, and congratulated the incumbent board members.

9:50 Committee Reports

- Membership & Fundraising – Rachel Lohman
 - ✓ Membership – Currently, the PTA has 191 members, including 30 faculty. It is possible to join at any time for \$15.
 - ✓ Pledge Drive: The pledge drive has raised \$3,335 to-date. A gaga pit purchased with the funds is to be relocated prior to use; the PTA has trained the lunch aides to play Gaga, and has also arranged for Gagasphere to hold assemblies to teach each class how to play. Recognition to all the families who donated.
 - ✓ New Spiritwear: Second order was being finalized; as much as possible, the PTA will not be carrying inventory (or only a small inventory); pre-orders are preferred moving forward. All old spirit wear styles are 50% off until sold out.
 - ✓ SupportACircle: Over \$2,000 raised on this great program. Thank you to Danielle Rosenberg and Candice Lim and the faculty for making this possible.
 - ✓ Joel's Cookies: At the time of the meeting, the fundraiser deadline had passed.
 - ✓ Yankee Candle: Still ongoing through the end of 2018. A great gift for the holidays.
 - ✓ Holiday Boutique: November 28-30. Parents were asked to please send a budget for kids. SignUpGenius open for volunteers to shop with the kids.
 - ✓ **Chairs Needed:** Publicity, Sponsorships, Raffle
- Student Enrichment – Rachel Lohman
 - ✓ Apex Fun Run: A very successful character education program, with a fundraising element to raise money to support PTA programs this year. Thank you to the class parents and all who donated.
 - ✓ Recess Investment: A Gaga pit, new balls and outdoor Connect 4 have been ordered, thanks to generous Panda Pledge Drive donations.
 - ✓ Library Investment: The PTA has invested \$2,500 in new books and magazine subscriptions for the school library.
 - ✓ Grants Program: We are working with Mrs. Gagliardo and the teachers to start this program in December or January this year to bring enhancements to our classrooms.
 - ✓ Visiting Author Program: Famous children's book author Dan Gutman will be visiting school on 1/30; there will be a pre-sale of autographed books in early January.
 - ✓ Education Day/International Dinner: This year's theme for our 3/27 Education Day is multicultural. Amy Soto and Paulette Laurenzi are leading the charge.
 - ✓ 5th Grade Activities – The 5th Grade Committee holds fundraisers to offset graduation costs. These include Wetzel's Pretzel's, Carousel Cakes and dining out nights at local restaurants.
 - ✓ Assembly Highlights – The PTA was proud to bring in parent Lauren Hersh, a national expert on online safety, for workshops with our 3-5th grades in September, along with a faculty meeting in November. Lead U assembly is being held 12/7.
- Teacher & Staff Development – Gina Smedley
 - ✓ Extra Mile Breakfast: 13 Dunkin' gift cards given to celebrate our transportation staff, including bus drivers and Mr. Vroom.
 - ✓ Coming Up: Teacher & Staff Holiday Lunch: 12/14 – catered event; SignUpGenius will go out for parents to send in beverages, appetizers and desserts.
- Fun at CRS – Rachel Lohman

- ✓ Lunch Program Update: The board encouraged parents to share feedback and suggestions to continuously improve our programs.
- ✓ Ladies Night, Skate Night & Halloween Bash: We had our first sold out Ladies Night! The Skate Night and Halloween Bash were very successful events.
- ✓ Decorating Committee: Volunteers will be needed to decorate for the 5th Grade Concert on 12/13. The Committee is working with the music teachers to determine needs.

10:10 Upcoming Events – Gina Smedley

- Picture Retakes 11/15 (today)
- Apex Fun Run (11/27-rescheduled to December)
- Frozen Yogurt 12/12
- Wetzel Pretzel 12/13
- Box Tops 12/14
- Teacher & Staff Holiday Luncheon 12/14
- Frozen Yogurt 1/9
- PTA Meeting 1/17

10:15 Thank You – Gina Smedley:

- Picture Day – Charlene Wingfield, Suzanne Kucharski
- Class Parent Breakfast – Rachel Lohman, Jane Santos
- Scholastic Book Fair – Danielle Hupart, Alli DePiero
- Ladies Night – Jamie Kovac, Lisa Cardella, Kathy Leiz, Danielle Rosenberg
- SupportACircle Coupon Book – Candice Lim, Danielle Rosenberg
- Skate Night – Lilia Jimenez, Maryanne Mitarotonda
- Box Tops – Maryanne Mitarotonda, Jamie Kovac
- Halloween Bash – Gina Smedley, Sharon Spieldenner, Svetlana Santasiero, Marybeth Pisani
- Extra Mile Breakfast – Gina Smedley
- Joel's Cookies – Gail Shifar, Jane Santos

10:20 FLEF Report – Kathy Leiz: Rectoberflef was a success. Kathy shared that the grants meeting took place on 11/14. We will find out grant approvals in one month. Next event is a Ladies Brunch on January 27th at Bottagra. May 3rd is the FLEF dinner dance. 50/50 tickets will be sold.

10:25 Caring Community

- Winter Coat Drive, Costume Drive, Toy Drive: due date will be extended, Thanksgiving Drive: please send in your donated items.

10:30 New Business

10:35 Adjournment