

CES PTA Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm
CES Media Center

Attendees:

Board Members:

Micaela Crooks (President), Eileen Brewer (1st Vice President), Jennifer Sager (2nd Vice President), Rebecca Gorsuch (Secretary), Meghan Nickerson (Treasurer), Bridget Celedon (PTA Council of Howard County Delegate)

Members:

Karishma Chengappa, Sonja Tosh, Nicole Lower, Jen Livingston, Xin Beno, Joshua Sommers, Evelyn Sommers, Bokyoung Shim, Liz Eakle, Devi Weinkle Stephens, Amy Kim, Elizabeth Roseboro, Amy Wilkins, Tampara Dugue, Emily Kroiss, Christina Keller, Suzanne Hudak, Mikkola Gomes, Eileen Buckle, Phil Ruffin, Fasika Woreta, Wudneh Temessen, Onyehackin Ohere, Bud Ranasinghe, Padmini Ranasinghe, Casey Christensen, Meredith Sterrett, Deborah Bradshaw, Amie Leone, Shanni Omeally, Valerie Owen

CES Administration:

Michael Caldwell (Principal), Cherilyn Brown (Vice Principal), Molly Nguyen (1st grade teacher)

Called to order @ 7:03

1. **Welcome to Mr. Caldwell, new CES Principal**
2. **Principal / Assistant Principal's Items**
 - Welcome new families & exciting to focus on reconnecting post covid
 - Thanks to PTA for recent lunch, help with after school programs, art mural out front & cougar express for Back to School Night
 - CES is fully staffed for general education with 1 long term sub, a few special education positions available
 - New kindergarten class was added just before the start of the year
 - Finishing Kindergarten readiness assessments
 - Testing update
 - MAP testing will happen for Grades 1-5
 - 1st grade will take it in Fall, Winter, & Spring
 - Grades 2-5 Fall and Spring
 - Fall MAP will conclude in Oct
 - DIBELS testing (phonics skills; helps screen for dyslexia) is ongoing
 - Lunch
 - going well; helping kids with the pins
 - salad bar is back and a big hit
 - outdoor dining isn't happening yet; paras have been helping with special ed
 - Outdoor classroom

- Looks great!
- Request in to the county to help with a few maintenance things
- Staff is excited and will be informed when officially ready to use

3. President / Vice President Items

- Overview of CES PTA
 - CES PTA is an all-volunteer parent/teacher organization; goals are to build community at the school, support the school and staff, show appreciation to staff, liaisons between the school and parents with needs and volunteers, outreach across the county with other PTAs
 - Anyone can sign up for the newsletter on the website
 - Events include bingo nights, fun run, glow party, spring fling (outdoor carnival with inflatables and games), international night, family fit night, etc
- Approval of Minutes - May
 - <https://cespta.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CES-PTA-May-2022-minutes.pdf>
 - Casey Christensen asked for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Eileen Brewer seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Amazon Smile Update/IRS Status Update- MD wide PTA lost their charter and the IRS is behind on tax exception status. We are not in the amazon publication that amazon uses yet.
- Back to School BINGO - Thursday, September 29th 5:30-7pm outdoors, but no rain contingency, PTA will sell pizza and there will be prizes
- Bookfair Update - Spring Bookfair with Bookfair BINGO
- Cultural Arts Update- PTA will fund school wide assemblies again during the school day, the school plans the events as it fits into the curriculum.
- Open Committee Positions
 - International Night Chair
 - one of the largest attended events; held at the high school, families host a booth to showcase their culture often with food, showcase the school's diversity
 - responsibilities include all coordination- recruiting families to hosts, coordination of setup/cleanup, arrange performances
 - Restaurant Nights Chair (school has 3, PTA would like 3)- Becca Gorsuch
 - SECAC (special education citizens advisory community)
 - amazing resource to help families with IEPs and 504, monthly meetings, legislative advocacy
 - Need someone to attend the monthly meeting and give a short report or add to our newsletter
 - Bridget Celedon, Tamara Dugue, Sonya Tosh & Eileen Buckle volunteered; meeting info has been sent via email for 9/21 meeting
 - Reflections
 - Arts competition with many categories including visual arts, poetry, photography & dance, judged at the school, county, state and national level

- Howard County Chairperson needed- we have a rep at our school, but the county is looking for a county wide rep
- Casey Christenson may be interested and will reach out to PTACHC to find out more details
- Committee Chairs “How to” Reminders- please reach out to the following for updates
 - Newsletter: Mikkola Brooks mikkola.brooks@gmail.com
 - Website: Jen Livingston jen.finci@gmail.com
 - Reimbursements: Meghan Nickerson cesptamd.treasurer@gmail.com
 - Rooms reservations: Michaela Crooks cesptapresident@gmail.com

4. Membership Update

- 139 members this year; including county executive
- Cougar patrons \$3210
- Can join via website (cespta.net), paper form in the office, \$15 individual/ \$25 family membership
- Everyone is welcome to participate at all events

5. Treasurer Report

- Budget summary discussion
- Casey Christensen asked for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Budget. Eileen Brewer seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.

6. PTACHC Report-

- Last meeting Aug 29th
- Superintendent attended the meeting and spoke about staffing, aggressive teacher recruitment and retention, Covid mitigation strategies still in place, student enrollment growing, school security and learning regressing
- Legislative report included discussion of school overcrowding and redistricting on the eastern side of the county for HS 13

7. Committee Reports

- Grounds Beautification - Outdoor Classroom and Monarch Garden Update
 - Thanks to Lauryn’s Garden Service and MPEA for donations of plans
 - Outdoor classroom- Behind the baseball fields, request for the county to fix up, position ivy needs to be cleaned up
 - Need a regular PTA cleanup crew and possibly ask for high schoolers to assist for volunteer hours
 - Plot map of what’s planted with be shared
- Fun Run- OCT 16th 3-5pm!
 - Sign up genius coming out requesting help for volunteering and acquiring raffle prizes
 - Fundraising will start 2 weeks prior to the event
- Yearbook- need help connecting with past Chair, Eileen Brewer to assist
- 5th Grade Committee-
 - All events included in 5th grade dues, which can be paid on the website
 - Getting shirts ordered

- TLV pumpkin patch Cct 21- not school or PTA sponsored
- Other events include cultural arts, dance, lunch for grassroots, staff breakfast, moving on ceremony, picnic at the end of the year
- Fundraising- RaiseRight 800+ merchants can be used anywhere, buy a gift card through the app and the school gets a percentage; please look for signup info
- Hospitality/Staff Appreciation- Next event is being worked stay turned for signup genius
- Spirit Wear- gear has been ordered, will sell at bingo and fun run
- Website- need updated sponsorships and up to date calendar
- After School Programs- 1st session up and running
- Kindergarten Connection- complete
- International Night- no report
- Reflections- no report
- Spring Fling- April 22, 2023

8. Q & A

- Request for possible hybrid format for PTA meetings
- How much is coming in from RaiseRight and Amazon Smile? Consider adding a goal and keep the website up to date with progress
- Suggestion for membership/PTA table at events that also sells spirit wear
- Questions about the reasons behind the new walker policies

9. Adjournment @ 8:44pm

Upcoming Dates:

- September 29th - Back to School BINGO
- October 16th - Fun Run
- October 18th - PTA Meeting
- April 22nd- Spring Fling