

CES PTA Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Virtual

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Attendees:

Board Members:

Eileen Brewer (President), Cassandra Christensen (1st Vice President), Carmen Cheng (Secretary), Meghan Nickerson (Treasurer), Evelyn Sommers (PTACHC delegate)

Members:

Bokyung Shim, Bridget Celedon, Elizabeth Aragona Eakle, Emily Kroiss, Eric Pang, Jay Owen, Valerie Owen, Micaela Crooks, Michelle Cazzola, Mikkola Gomes, Rula Sadik

- **Reading of Meeting Policies**
- **Guest - Mr. Farmer - Science Olympiad**
 - Presented by : Jay Farmer (Clarksville Middle School), Vivian Raj (student support from River Hill High School)
 - Last year was the first time having a team at CES, started in March with competition in April (plan to start earlier this year)
 - Grades 3-5, Thursdays and/or Fridays depending on schedule, approval from CES admin and message will be sent out soon
 - Competition at Clarksville Middle School on April 20, 2024. Five events are half-hour blocks.
 - Information:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IsAXSRgAq9orcMgffb7BYQyZQZPfr1UdQiNoBiOqCHo/edit>
 - Link to slides: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uWrE-XMD-Z5dn5s57tulg0-VBLkKSVPYjnvHQCIEluw/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Flier: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CqWpypUdw9-mzNkGzwdEHqh5POyhv-t-IRATi5_DWJ4/edit?usp=sharing
- **Principal / Assistant Principal's Items**
 - Behavior and Bullying Presentation - Tabled
- **President / Vice President Items**
 - Approval of Minutes - November
<https://cespta.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Draft-Minutes-CES-PTA-Meeting-November-14-2023.pdf>
 - Meghan Nickerson asked for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Cassandra Christensen seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
 - [Updated Calendar](#)
 - February 6 (tentative): Book Fair BINGO - need help
 - March: Dance-a-thon fundraiser - unable to fundraise, open to changing to another event
 - April 20: Spring Fling
 - May 23: Cultural Night
 - June 2: End of year picnic
 - Resignation of 2nd Vice President - 1 nomination received (Mikkola Gomes), still accepting nominations. Will vote in a special meeting or at the next PTA meeting. Stay tuned for further communication.
 - Teacher reimbursements: In accordance with HCPSS, PTACHC and FreeState policy, CES PTA proposes a change to our teacher reimbursement program. CES PTA's ad-hoc

committee's recommendation is to provide school staff with items that HCPSS does not supply to its staff through a grant program.

■ Proposal:

- Any CES administrator, teacher or staff member may apply for a grant up to \$350 for a specific purpose or item. Grant requests are due by the first of every month. Grant requests will be made through a Google Form and will include the amount requested, name of staff requesting, items requested, purpose of the request, and date(s) that the items are needed.
- Grants will be issued each month from October through May. All grants will be issued to CES for the sole purpose of the stated grant request. Any unused grant funds must be returned to the PTA. The school will give a complete accounting (receipt or invoice) of the expenditure of the grant funds to the PTA.
- Grants will be voted at each monthly PTA meeting and staff will be notified by the end of the month in which they applied (i.e. application received by March 1st will be voted on and grant monies issued by March 30th). Checks will be issued notified by the end of the month in which they applied.
- CES administrators, teachers or staff members may apply for multiple grants throughout the year but no grant may exceed \$350.
- A PTA Committee will be formed to manage grant requests, answer questions, and assist the Treasurer in the tracking of these grants.
- Suggestions: room parents as PTA liaisons, each grade level with a PTA liaison, room/parent liaison can advocate for classroom needs
- Micaela Crooks asked for a motion to approve the grant program as written. Cassandra Christensen seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Artist in Residence - Need to start planning for 2024-2025 - 4th grade parents need to apply for a grant for rising 5th graders - Ms. Riley is the connection for this (Ms. Riley has a list of approved artists). Grant is through Howard County Arts Council (showcase in February - in the past, PTA member and CES administrator (Assistant Principal) will attend and select artists). Co-volunteer needed.

● **Membership Update**

- Two (2) new members since the last meeting
- 176 members ytd
- \$2305 in membership payments collected
- \$3355 in Cougar Patron donations YTD

● **Treasurer Report**

- Budget update votes - none
- Budget vs. Actuals
- IRS Status Update - continuing to contact IRS

● **PTACHC Report**

- Dec 4, 2023 meeting - Safety Committee (formed from River Hill High School) made recommendations to BOE, budget process, budget deficit
- Jan 8, 2024 meeting - BOE term limit, staggering terms

● **Committee Reports**

- Cultural Arts - Improve Storytellers proposal rejected. Superstars Academy has been approved for March 11 (2 assemblies).
- Hospitality/Staff Appreciation - Thank you for all you have done so far this year. This committee can always use volunteers
- CES Cares - Mrs. Palich needs donations of snacks as she is running low. You can purchase snacks off this Amazon list and have them shipped directly to the school to her attention.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2TOB34DAK0RFF?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_NfvFwS8ynpIoa

- Spirit Wear - Volunteer resigned - we need a new volunteer
- Reflections
 - We have advanced 11 art submissions from CES to the county for this year's Reflection art contest. Congrats to all of our little artists, and we wish them the best at the county level and beyond!
 - Once the results are out from the county, we will be purchasing medals and awards for all of our participants. We can discuss how we can hand these out at our future meetings.
- Cultural Night
 - The committee is working on the flier to recruit families/groups to host tables and performances - this will be distributed once approved. Keep an eye out for it and start looking at how you want to participate - Thursday, May 23, 2024, in the evening!
- Yearbook - Don't forget to submit your photos <https://yearbooks.classic-photo.com/MD1702018/home3/PhotoPost.jsp?ID=7MGBW84ZHRF2>
- 5th Grade Committee - picnic on June 6 (separate day than moving on ceremony)
 - Grassroots event in December
 - Planning a school's out event (Feb 19, tentative)
- Website
- After-School Programs - Spring program fliers coming soon
- Kindergarten Connection - Emily Kroiss volunteered for 2024-2025
- Field Trips - Needs chair - have committee members
- Spring Fling - Needs co-chair and subcommittee chairs - [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4BA9AA23A6F94-46876956-volunteers#/
 ■ If we do not have volunteers, this event will not happen. I cannot do it alone and also preside over the PTA](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4BA9AA23A6F94-46876956-volunteers#/)
- End of Year - Needs chair
- Fundraising - Needs chair
- BINGO - Needs chair

- **Q & A**

- **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Upcoming Dates:

Scholastic Book Fair: Feb. 1-8, Book Fair BINGO Feb. 6 in the cafeteria (tentative)

February PTA Meeting: Feb. 20 at 7 pm