

September 14, 2023 CHES PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2023

Time: 5:45-6:45 pm

Location: CHES Cafeteria

Attendance: 34 including 3 PTA officers. 20+ children in childcare.

Call to order:

I. Welcome and Community Connection (35 min.)

- Welcome/Introduction
 - Pizza provided for PTA meeting and childcare
- Icebreaker activity
 - CHES parent bingo – a chance to meet new people and find out a little more about them. Great interaction and conversation.
- What's happening currently (please see slides for more details!)
 - The Many Ways to PTA – a “choose your own adventure”, both level and type of involvement up to you.
 - Annual PTA programs/types of events and opportunities
 - Social events
 - Ice cream social last week 300+ participants!
 - School-led
 - Supporting Open House/Rock painting
 - Chance to participate in convocation with Dr. Love
 - Fundraising
 - Mum Sale update from Heather B: Mum Sale is going amazing! Ahead of last year. Will need a volunteer to help with pick-up day.
 - CHES 5K update from Mark W: will be in beginning of May. Timed USTAF event. All ages, open to all in Ithaca. Option to do a virtual race too. Amara coordinated volunteers last year. How do we relate this to school and learning? Planetary run – “run to Neptune”. Would need artwork, marking the course, etc. Signup sheets already available. Kim was sponsorship person so that position is open now.
 - Box tops updates from Leah Y – Very easy to do – download Box Tops apps, scan receipt – earns money for CHES and another school in need

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- Recreational Sports
 - Ski club and Girls on the Run currently have parent leaders who are looking to coordinate hand off to new leaders this year.
- Educational Programs
 - Afterschool Enrichment, CHESNuts Literary Magazine also have parents leaders looking to coordinate hand off to new leaders.
 - LOTS of new suggestions from parents and kids!
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation
 - Back to School Breakfast a great success
 - PTA Meet Greet + Eat is tomorrow (9/15), limited space but sign up if interested. Hope to find out more about Classroom Caregiver needs at this event.
 - Teacher/staff discretionary funds available, but it's recommended that ICSD or IPEI grants/awards also pursued.
 - PTA to provide support for teacher/staff grant writing
- Community Building
 - Let's get our membership up! Ryan K points out we should remind people to reregister for next year in June.
 - Website updated, calendar too. Will try to be proactive with date planning as much as possible
 - Directory will be out soon!
 - CHES Loves Snow has a parent leader but needs a new one for handoff
- School Beautification
 - Partnering with School Beautification Team
- Liaison Roles
 - Classroom caregivers – request coming soon
 - Kim A and Maureen C have been liaising with Equity Team, and there are many opportunities (see slides!)
 - Lost and Found to be coordinated through Nurse's Office (unclaimed clothes ultimately will be used in office)
- Brainstorm future events and opportunities
 - Question: Last meeting of last year there was discussion of making sure some events are on West Hill. Where does that stand?
 - In progress, but on our minds. Had playground night there over summer. Kim and Aileen working with LACS to clear up

obstructions for having events there. New event at Museum of the Earth being planned with West Hill in mind.

- Comment: Concern about safety, walking kids to the back door. Cars come very close to the curb. Doors fly out toward sidewalk – cones needed to protect walkers. Kim: Advocacy – a new program area.
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Notes:

II. Approval of the [June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)

Notes: Minutes have been approved unanimously

III. PTA Board Updates (15 min.)

- A. Principal's Report (Aileen Grainger)
 - 1. Thank you everyone – this has been wonderful and joyful. Everyone working together to figure things out. Will send biweekly updates. Please feel free to reach out any time.
- B. Secretary's Report (Lizzie Juaniza-Saso)
- C. [Treasurer's Report](#) (Ryan Kehoe) - need to vote on Sign-ups
 - 1. Explanation of Sign-ups subscription. Vote required - Motion passed.
- D. President's Report (Kim Anderson)
- E. Vice President's Report (Maureen Carroll)
 - 1. Membership update – currently at 55+ including a dozen teachers/staff

Notes:

IV. General Discussion and Questions (10 minutes)

- Recap, whole group conversation

Notes:

Next PTA meeting will be October 12 – time and location TBD

Meeting adjourned