

December 14, 2023 CHES PTA Meeting

Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 14th

Time: 5:45-6:45 pm

Location: Virtual

Zoom link: <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/99521606748?pwd=WUtsQzFVclFwVSs5QlkranY1ZXZCUT09>

In attendance: Kim Anderson, Maureen Carroll, Lizzie Juaniza-Saso, Sam Conway, Christina Chaudhry, Jen Pearcy-Edwards, Sarah Wolfolds, Aileen Grainger, Amara Gerarden, Elizabeth Johnson

Call to order: 5:48

I. Welcome (5 min)

- Icebreaker activity – Name, role at CHES, if children which grade, and a thought around Engaging Every Family project (field trips, how to make these more inclusive) favorite field trip as a child or where to go
- Sam – field trips at a university
- Lizzie – field trip at waste refinery/garbage landfill in middle school, Harriet Tubman house in Auburn
- Sarah – field trip to the Supreme Court, touring the Vet school, Dairy bar
- Aileen – AME Zion church
- Jen – field trip to a bread making factory, access to live performing arts such as Cherry Arts
- Maureen - field trip to a simulated NASA control center
- Christina – field trip Gettysburg and Washington D.C.
- Amara – field trip to Williamsburg colonial
- Liz Johnson – field trip to the waste facility outside of D.C.
- Kim – field trip to walking across Newburgh-Beacon bridge

II. Program Discussion (30 min)

- Recap – recent programs
 - Roller skating night was a success 160 skaters, 5th graders raised close to \$215
 - CHES Loves snow sent bags home to 40 CHES students
 - Gimme Fundraiser, raised \$506, surpassed goal of \$400, Pick-ups will be this Saturday morning
- Upcoming Programs
 - Ski club paid off the bus, orientation is 1/17 at 7pm

- CHES basketball, games start on 1/13
- Electronic Toy drive, retrofitting toys to make them accessible, drop off at the main office any gently used toys
- School spirit week – next week! Whole school, solidify energy before winter break, nothing needs to be bought, this is low key
- No Mas Lagrimas food and toy drive – stay tuned for more information, food collected through 12/22, if interested in volunteering to pass out food or toys, be on the look out for more information
- Freedom Dreaming 1/18 and another date TBD, two community conversations, plus a survey, this was jump started by the work of Bettina Love at the beginning of the year. What do we want elementary school to look like moving forward?
- Story Fest 1/19, looking for many more volunteers, need people to read stories, anyone is welcome (children, grandparents, educators), looking for fun stories that are ideally 15 minutes, need volunteers to create cozy reading spaces, this can include oral story telling.
[Sign up to read a story](#)
[Sign up to help volunteer for the event](#)
- All school celebration is tomorrow! 8 – 8:30am, will be continuing these monthly into the new year.
- Coming soon!
 - Ice skating late January, School Dance and bake sale mid February, Leap Day Musical Feb 29th, Directory is almost ready!
- Community makeup- school composition looking at where CHES families live is 50/50. We are looking to create equitable events to be mindful of how we are engaging families that live outside of Cayuga Heights in planning events. Is there any data on how living outside of Cayuga Heights impacts after school participation activities? There is not currently hard numbers to look closely at this.
- Call to action – volunteers needed for programs
 - Sam putting in a plug for running the Enrichment Program, looking for volunteers to share the tasks with beginning this spring, he will be stepping away from this next school year
 - [Jamboard](#) for program coordination – please take a look and sign up, if you have any questions please reach out!
 - We need coordinators to lead, and others to help.
 - Yellow “post-its” on the jamboard indicate that a lot of volunteers are needed
 - Will need to recruit a V.P. and Treasurer for next year

III. PTA Board Updates (15 min)

- A. Principal's Report (Aileen Grainger)
- B. Secretary's Report (Lizzie Juaniza-Saso)
 - 1. Approval of [November 9, 2023 minutes](#)
 - Unanimous approval
- C. Treasurer's Report (Ryan Kehoe) – Maureen will report out in absence of Ryan
 - 1. [November report](#)
 - Expenditures were high this month due to some of the programs i.e., Ski club- part of this included paying for the bus invoice for last year and this year
- D. President's Report (Kim Anderson)
- E. Vice President's Report (Maureen Carroll)

IV. General Questions & Announcements (10 min)

Poll for next meeting, most voted to have at CHES cafeteria around the same time

Adjourned: 6:47pm