

Congress Park PTO: Meeting Minutes - April 15, 2025

Recorded by Kelsey Mays, PTO secretary

Board Members present: Leandra Arbola, Tynesha Artis, Lani Larkin, Chris Martin, Kelsey Mays, Ivana Rosenblatt

Item	Description	Notes (SY = School Year)
Welcome + Intro (Lani)	Meeting called to order at 6:55PM	Lani called the meeting to order at 6:55PM.
	Dolphin Delights	Lani presented Dolphin Delights to Lucille & Rebecca Sharbaugh for Caring Kids Club
Records (Kelsey)	Approval of 3/18 minutes	Minutes recapped by Kelsey Mays, approved unanimously
	Correspondence	Kelsey shared an email from Gert August (staff) thanking PTO for break-room decorations.
CP Report (Katherine Rodriguez & staff)	Principal Grieve report	Transition to Principal Rodriguez, who will continue with the plans/vision that Principal Grieve has put in place. Other discussions taking place around 2025-26 school year and celebrating moments of joy in the current school year.
		Landscapers contracted to begin on April 16 to address bare patches on the soccer field. Estimated 2 weeks for completion.
	Michelle Holdman (art teacher) report	Just had 1st/3rd/5th grade spring concert, and kids' artwork is going up for CP open house. Hinsdale Humane Society is going to post some artwork they will sell on May 2 (Friday night). Artist in residence starting April 28-29, funded through cicada T-shirts and other merchandise. Natasha Lewis is going to be working with all students at CP. We need some parent volunteers (2-3 in the morning and afternoon for separate shifts on 4/28 and 1-2 on 4/29). Natasha has worked at Cossitt Elementary before as well. K-5th grade will create one large installation, while 6th grade will make a separate project. Both pieces will go in the office.
	Title 1 funds	CP receives Title 1 funds for free/reduced lunch program. Each year we need to reach different stakeholders on different services/ideas to support students. Some ways the funds have been used recently are Breakfast Club, Homework Club, additional student advocate to support kids. PTO shared ideas about a stipend for Title 1 kids to participate in the book fair, as well as matching/credit funds.
		We have not seen any change to Title 1 funds yet from the federal level, but we're feeling supported at this point.

Committee Reports	<p>CEMA, SNAP, PTAC</p> <p>Caring Kids Club</p>	<p>Parent-teacher advisory committee, discipline committee is finalizing a draft of the D102 handbook. CEMA has initiatives around creating spaces for dialogue.</p> <p>Rebecca Sharbaugh (CKC) rotates between themes/projects, from ornaments for Beds Plus to cookies for the Brookfield Fire Department. Each meeting is parent-funded, running \$4 per kid on average and 25-30 kids each time. This year the club spent \$900. CKC asked if they could acquire any funding to help. Runs on Mondays from 3:15 - 4:15 PM once a month, with kids automatically going from school to the club.</p> <p>Discussion covered whether D102 could cover part of the funding in conjunction with D102, or if we need a faculty sponsor. Amy to look into asking more about it and will discuss more with Lani.</p>
New Business (Lani)	<p>PTO Projects</p>	<p>Lani presented various projects that need funding, from soccer goals to assembly/author, weather-demonstration assembly, additional playground equipment. Ivana mentioned that we don't want to buy equipment (e.g., soccer nets) that are just exposed to future damage (e.g., swinging kids).</p> <p>Lani to keep pursuing pricing on such projects. Of note, these are all one-time projects that wouldn't represent additional commitments for future PTOs. Lani is soliciting additional ideas; anyone can reach out to her for future events.</p>
Announcements	<p>Upcoming events</p> <p>Open positions & volunteer opportunities</p> <p>Revenue + scholarships</p>	<p>Field Day is coming up on June 3. We have some funds and will build on what we did last year. Ehler Park is new, and we're going to have a DJ. Activities could include soccer, tug-of-war, potentially ping pong and basketball. We'll have a Sign-Up Genius for volunteers, but those planning to join should sign up. Last year we had some parents show up without signing up.</p> <p>Brian Ortega, a Kindergarten dad, will be our incoming VP of Communications this fall for the 2025-26 PTO. Tony Vargas had to step down due to other needs.</p> <p>We still have plenty of other open positions.</p> <p>Spring Carnival netted ~\$400 for PTO. There were four applicants for the LT scholarship. A handful of teacher/parent volunteers read their applications and selected a winner. CP alumnus was selected.</p>
Meeting Adjournment	<p>Meeting adjourned at 8:00</p>	<p>Next PTO meeting is on May 20.</p>