

COUNTRY PARKWAY GENERAL PTA MEETING 2024-2025

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025 6:30pm

Attendees				
Amanda Durkin	Jamie Baumgardt	Krystle Williams	Amanda Pugh	Kristen Squillace
Sarah Ferguson	Christina Dvorak	Robin Nusbaum	Allisa Murphy	Jacky Damon
Rona Kaufmann	Ashley Koelle	Jason Koelle	Rachel Hutchinson	Roy Baumgardt
Leigh Worral	Alyssa Strang	Danielle Hartman	Mrs. Hopkins	Staci Shick
Mrs. Skinner	Mr. Barnes	Kristin Guckian	Christina Bleckinger	Angela Perrine
Mrs. Hardbattle	Andrea Romanowski	Byangsoo Lee	Holly Majszak	Greta Jacobs
Zoom: Jillian Merriam Julie Keck Nilima Amin-Reddy Mina Khezri Catherine Glasgow				
Hagar Megan Angelo Rakeeba Katie Lutz Wesolowski Kapusczak Lutz Maryann Sobczk				
Scott Williams G. Perez M. Doyle Jacquie Poncz Liz Haepfel Bridget Hayes Molly Burns				
Maria Campos Laura Legarreta				
Total Attendees: 54				

Called Meeting to Order/Welcome/Happy New Year: Amanda Durkin

Principal's Report: Mr. Nathaniel Barnes

1) Updates:

- a. School Start Times
 - i. Official Vote takes place in February
 - ii. CP times would be 8:15am-2:30 pm
 - iii. Details in Eagle Eye this Friday, 1/17
 - iv. Videos pertaining to start times posted on District website
 - v. 800 survey responses already
 - vi. Voting will determine when information about time change will/can be shared
- b. Capital Project
 - i. Lights taken out were done quicker than expected, ahead of schedule
 - ii. Air quality tests done before students and teachers return after breaks/during work to ensure health and safety of the school
 - iii. Projected now to begin in April 2025, not February
- c. Field Trips are happening, 1st grade just went to the Planetarium
- d. UPK early dismissal tomorrow for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- e. Family Festival is coming up January 30th, 2025
 - i. See PTA and CP websites for more information
 - ii. 2nd hour is a talent show, students may sign up to share their talent
 - iii. Cultural night, families can share their cultures!
- f. **No School:** MLK, Jr. Day, Monday 1/20, Lunar New Year, Wednesday 1/29

Board of Education Report: Christina Bleckinger

- 1) See School Board Meeting Notes
- 2) Speaker Series continues:
 - a. 1/21 ELA Curriculum

COUNTRY PARKWAY GENERAL PTA MEETING 2024-2025

- b. 2/22 STEAM
 - c. 3/18 Math and Computer Science
 - d. Arts Curriculum date forthcoming
- 3) UPK
 - a. Lottery is no longer needed
 - b. All students will have a spot
 - c. Classrooms at ECC, Forest and Country Parkway
- 4) Family Support Center
 - a. Is now Open, information on the WCSD website
- 5) Budget and Cell Phone guidelines are on hold, waiting for NYS to provide information
- 6) December break- feedback needed about the 2 weeks:
 - a. Teachers loved it
 - b. One day taken away from Thanksgiving break- makes it hard for families who travel to see family, losing the extra day was not helpful.
 - c. Allowed teachers and families to travel abroad
- 7) Kindergarten registration is in March
- 8) Williamsville East and Transit Middle Schools will be visited by Board Members this month
- 9) School Start Times
 - a. Lots of feedback already
 - b. Comment section will be extended for full responses
 - c. Concerns about Elementary students having to wait for the bus in the dark
 - d. Shorter routes/streamline buses/times are being looked at
 - e. Transportation survey coming in April to find out details from families
 - f. **February is the Vote**, more details if approved
 - g. *Question: will free breakfast be provided now for kids who have to be at schools earlier?*
Answer: Free Breakfast is being voted on by NYS. Free Lunch was approved.
 - h. *Question: Can JFK accommodate the time changes and the potential need for more students needing that support?* Answer: Yes, they are willing to accommodate the time change.

PTSA Representative: Danielle Hartman

- 1) Nominations for Service to Youth
 - a. For Staff/Volunteers/Support Staff who go above and beyond their job/volunteering
 - b. Have anyone in mind? Reach out to Danielle: CountryPkwyPTSARep@gmail.com
 - c. When application goes live, link will be sent out
- 2) Family Support Center
 - a. Not for our age group yet, geared towards 8-12th Graders right now
 - b. Allows students to have educational support during and after school
- 3) *Question: Are the PTSA responsible for anything with the Community Education?* Answer: No, it is a separate group within the WCSD

COUNTRY PARKWAY GENERAL PTA MEETING 2024-2025

SEPTSA Representative: Leigh Worrall

- 1) January meeting, 1/23, presentation about 2E students, Gifted and also Neurodivergent
- 2) 6pm District Office, 7pm presentation

President's Report: Amanda Durkin

- 1) Volunteers working hard- thank you!
- 2) Many positions for Chairpersons and events have been filled

Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Robe

- 1) Budget:
 - a. \$14,990+ raised so far this year
 - b. See PTA website for the breakdown
 - c. Interest for Playground on CD's opened: \$1429.00
- 2) Income:
 - a. Fall Fest: \$3301.00
- 3) Expenses:
 - a. \$7855 spent so far this year:
 - i. Classrooms: \$6,375.00
 - ii. Community Events: \$392.00 (popsicles on the playground, Boo-hoo/Yahoo breakfast, etcetera)
 - iii. Staff Support: \$555.00
 - iv. Administrative costs: \$533.00

Vice-President of Technology: Amanda Pugh

- 1) No new business

Vice-President of Volunteers: Kristen Squillace

- 1) Thank you to all who have given their time!
- 2) Upcoming Movie Night:
 - a. Still needs volunteers
- 3) Lunchroom: So far, so good. February sign-up coming soon
- 4) Future Volunteers needed for:
 - a. Art Fest 4/25/25
 - b. Bingo/Spring Book Fair, 3/21/25
 - c. Bike Rodeo
- 5) Committee members
 - a. Most events have a committee/chairpersons
 - b. STILL NEED: 4th Grade Moving-up Chair- asking to have 3rd grade parent(s) Chair this event

Corresponding Secretary: Julie Keck

- 1) YES Awards from December posted online and to our Socials

COUNTRY PARKWAY GENERAL PTA MEETING 2024-2025

- 2) Anyone can send a YES award- if there is someone you want to nominate, please do so on the CPPTA website: <https://www.countryparkwaypta.org/>

Recording Secretary: Jamie Baumgardt

- 1) Motion to pass November meeting notes
 - a. 1st: Danielle Hartman
 - b. 2nd: Rachel Hutchinson
 - c. Motion to Pass: Passed

PTA Happenings:

- 1) **Reflections:** All submissions were online, winner announced and posted on the website
 - a. 16 winners from CP, some are moving to Regional contest, announcement will be soon
 - b. Art Show is posted on our website for those who would like to see it
- 2) **Parents Night Out:** *Christina Dvorak, Chairperson*
 - a. Tickets went live today
 - b. Dress in your CP best (purple, fun things)
 - c. 40 people maximum
 - d. New York Beer Project, BINGO night
 - e. Ticket includes a meal and 1 non-alcoholic beverage
 - i. Please reach out if the food choices don't work for your dietary needs
 - ii. You can purchase other foods/beverages when there
 - f. 6:45pm arrival to get a seat and boards
 - g. Prizes from both NYBP and PTA
 - h. *Question: Does the PTA receive any money from this/is this a fundraiser?* Answer: once the food, drinks, tip are paid, anything outside of that comes back to the PTA
- 3) **CP Movie Night:** *Kristin Guckian, Kristen Squillace, Robin Nusbaum Co-chairs*
 - a. Trying to get popcorn donated by Dipson Theaters
 - b. Paper tickets given for concessions, \$10/ticket
 - c. Concessions will be right outside the doors of the movies (Gym and Commons)
 - d. Need 7 more parent volunteers please!
 - e. Blankets allowed, no stuffed animals/pillows
 - f. No outside food/beverages allowed
 - g. No refunds or waitlist to keep it simple for the event, no changing movies
 - h. This is a DROP-OFF event
 - i. High School student volunteers will be staying to clean after the event
 - j. Students will have wristbands and drop-off person will take a picture. Picture will be needed at pick-up.
 - k. *Question: Will siblings have different numbers on their wristbands?* Answer: Yes as some siblings may attend different movies.

Restaurant of the Month (ROTM): Kristin Guckian

- 1) Andiamo raised \$350.00- thank you to the families who purchased food.

COUNTRY PARKWAY GENERAL PTA MEETING 2024-2025

2) Next month: **Mirchi**

Box Tops/Fundraising: Staci Shick

- 1) \$163.00 so far, \$218 according to the Box Tops app, better than the last 5 years!
- 2) Coder school raised \$120.00, kids who went loved it. Not well attended: may be due to date and younger grades not offered a spot?
- 3) Bottle and Can Centers: Direct Deposit set-up so money goes right to the PTA
- 4) Don't forget to upload your receipts for free money: Tops, Dash's, Office Depot

Guest Speaker: Mr. Barnes, New CP principal

- 1) **Question while set-up is happening:** *What is your favorite thing about CP so far?* Answer: the students!
- 2) PowerPoint presentation is posted online on the CP PTA Home page:
<https://www.countryparkwaypta.org/home> Click on Mr. Barnes introduction presentation
- 3) Specific details given based on the introduction presentation are below:
 - a. Who is He? Loves gummy candy, Pepsi and chocolate
 - b. Why? Wants to learn CP's ways and ask questions, he is here to support the school community as a whole, not just academics
 - c. What? Will learn CP "through and through", has been asking teachers: "We are CP!" What does that mean to them? Will attend CP functions, part of being a family.
 - d. When?
 - i. Wants to be sure practices align with approach to teaching at CP
 - ii. Data driven changes, if any, would be implemented in 2025-2026
 - iii. Will ask a lot of questions to get to the deeper meaning, follow-up lines of questioning
 - iv. Changes will not up-root systems in place at CP but potentially the approach of how to get there
 - e. Promise: Safety first, Learning, Communication, Collaborative environment
 - f. Soon to come: Facebook Reading Initiative, engage virtually, includes students as a collaborator in their school
 - g. Thank you, all stakeholders, for welcoming me!

4) **Questions posed from the PTA website** Abbreviated questions/answers below:

Question: *How will you ensure that all things CP are working well and remain so? Can you give us reassurance that strengths for our school/teachers will not be changed for the sake of change? Will stakeholders be given a chance to voice concerns if changes are coming?*

Answer: Principals job to introduce schedule, align all things within grade levels, CE, etcetera. Scaffolding will be put into place to ensure support for all areas and all students. Implement a way for feedback to be given.

COUNTRY PARKWAY GENERAL PTA MEETING 2024-2025

Question: *How will you ensure and foster that our teachers stay a tight-knit family and ensure a good working relationship with them?*

Answer: Ensure there are systems in place to continue collaboration which can foster familial relationships. Meet with teachers on Fridays to ask questions to learn how things are done. Setting up Norms/Expectations. Daily messages from me to the staff, not always strategic, can be personal. Show up at events, like family would. Will do shout-outs to teachers from other teachers. Ask myself: what should I not do to keep CP great?

Question: *What will you do to keep CP consistent in its culture, community involvement, and achievements?*

Answer: (repeat of some of the above). Plans to introduce celebratory items and achievements. Recognition of work done.

Question: *Top 3 Goals for Country Parkway?*

Answer:

1. To get to know students
2. Earn National Recognition (Blue Ribbon status?) based on the achievement already happening here, this leads to offering other resources for the school
3. My being here adds to the experience and community of CP

Question: *What are some things from your previous school you would like to implement here?*

Answer: Reading initiative (described above). Parent/student date night: dressed up affair, formal dinner, ballroom dancing lessons, dance party. It's a way to build community and character.

Open Forum/Questions:

- 1) Jeanette Robe: PTA Bowling/Raffle event coming up on March 2nd. Details coming soon.
 - a. *Question:* How do the baskets work? Room Parents received notice about them but as a kindergarten parent, I don't know what that means. *Answer:* A sign-up genius will be sent to Room Parents with ideas for baskets. You can choose. Room Parents can ask for donations from the classroom families or community.
 - b. *Question:* Would it be possible to clarify to families know that it's mostly the kids that bowl, not parents? *Answer:* Of course!
 - c. Silent Auction items needed as well- these raise quite a bit of money for the PTA. If you know a business that would like to donate something, please let us know.
- 2) Amanda Durkin: PTA purchased Kreutinger books for the classrooms

Meeting Adjourned