

Colonial Park PTO Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

7 PM, CP Library

to join virtually: <https://meet.google.com/chq-fcuy-mwd>

The mission of the PTO shall be to promote communication and cooperation between parents and teachers; and to work for the constant betterment of the school community and the harmony of its members through enrichment opportunities and educational support for students and teachers.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves for the first meeting

2. Principal Report

- Fabulous first week back, fully staffed. Tier 1 literacy program starting this year - uses evidence-based approach, the Science of reading - Fishtank Plus. Text-based. 0.5 Katie Balliro has been added as an additional special education literacy expert.
- Morning arrival very smooth. Please no dogs.
- Back to School night Thursday Sept 19 6.15-7.30. Mrs Flynn will talk about the school, ALICE response training, SRO Emily Dello Russo will attend.
- Need a GiGi mascot volunteer for ST Math kickoff Friday morning Sept 13
- Sue Palmacci has joined the redistricting committee because of Weiss Farm and other new developments

3. Teachers Report

- Responsive classroom training during the summer - safe, enjoyable environment and community e.g morning meeting, approaches, hopes and dreams - create classroom rules together to promote ownership, clear expectations)

4. Treasurer Report

- Started with \$25,000, received \$300 in Goldie sales from Kindergarten Playdate, one employee match came in from FunRun (\$125)
- Expenses: PTO website, \$179 for Smores

5. Budget Approval for 2024-2025

- Sue outlined this year's projected budget
- Smaller items - Events like Halloween Party, Family Pasta Night, Ice Cream Social, Kindergarten Playdate, recess toys, room parent reimbursements (\$50/class), Winter Concert
- Large items - \$3000 classroom enrichment (\$500/grade), field trips (\$5000 for bus, \$5900 for field trips at \$1000/grade, \$500/RISE, Pre-K extra bonus), teacher support stipends \$4000, teacher appreciation \$3500, 4th Grade year-end \$4000 (but Katie Dishnica said yearbooks cost \$2700 last year - revisit budget? Add committee formation to November agenda)

- New item - Preschool support - \$600 from CP and slightly larger amount from other two elementary schools to support startup of Preschool PTO at high school
- Biggest fundraisers - Fun Run, book fairs, Calareso's
- Abby moved to approved budget, Christina seconded
- No questions, Approved.

6. Approval of May minutes

- Ryan moved to approve, Tiffany seconded. Approved.

7. Goldie's Group and Room Parents

- We will send out a signup this week.
- Grace Vaughan noted that RISE classes need more support to support teachers because there are less students and not all families have capacity to help. Abby hopes extra volunteers above 2-3 volunteers in other classrooms can be used to support RISE and ensure teachers get enough help.
- Linsey George asked if it is a requirement for room parents to join the PTO meetings, is worried people won't sign up for room parent
- Linsey would love to continue being room parent coordinator.

8. Back to School Picnic - Friday, Sept 13th

9. Pumpkin Patch - Thursday, October 24th

- Great opportunity to volunteer and help out with your child's classroom. Need sponsors!

10. Halloween Trunk or Treat- Saturday, October 26th 10am-12pm

- Need donations of trinkets, candy. Need people to decorate trucks. Need raffle items!
- Halloween Committee starting now!

11. Open Opportunities

- Room Parent Coordinator - Linsey George, with support from Grave Vaughan to help with the RISE component
- Field Trip Coordinator - Jess Zeigler
- Enrichments Coordinator - Jenn Khodush
- Grant Writer - Grace Vaughan
- Halloween Committee Lead
 - 1. Used costume sale Katie Dishnica
- Sunshine Committee
 - 1. Tiffany Dennen will be shadowed by Alyssa Franford
- Book Fair
 - 1. Karine Dalton will train people to take over: Karen Mole, Caitlin Marquedant?, Linsey George
- Half Day/Restaurant Night Coordinator
 - 1. Katie Dishnica can help
- Fourth Committee Committee
 - 1. Ryan Tollefson, Katie Hahesy, Tiffany Dennen

12. Upcoming fundraisers

- Calareso's - Sept 28-Oct 18, will receive gift cards mid-October
- Colonial Park Spirit Wear (Fall)
 - 1. Christina looked into Sarkasian Apparel, online ordering. Could maybe choose between delivery or bulk to school. Ryan suggested Winter Concert for pickup timing.
- Book Fair (December 2024, March 2025)
 - 1. We sell books provided by Fantastic Book Fairs (Book Oasis) in the school library or lobby, online also. More you sell, greater percentage back.
- Box Tops
 - 1. So easy to scan receipts, watch bonuses. We already earned \$150 since July.
- Bay State Textile Bins
 - 1. Each school splits the proceeds from the weights dropped off at the various locations. Even takes shoes and stuffed animals.

13. Questions/Comments

- Next month we will have our meeting at Evviva Trattoria with appetizers. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 7 pm at Evviva Trattoria

In-Person: Abby Shaw, Christina Tuolski, Katie Dishnica, Caitlin Marquedant, Jenn Khodush, Tiffany Dennen, Jill Napoleon, Bridget Masley, Grace Vaughan, Liz Benbow, Ryan Tollefson, Karine Dalton, Rachael O'Brien, Stephanie Grainger, Alyssa Franford, Kristine Donovan, Rosa Flynn, Sue Palmacci

Online: Kerianne Pelissier, Linsey George, Mark E, Samantha Bull, Jess Gerke, Denise Savino, Linah, Diana Mirabello, Jenna McLoughlin, Heather Morin, Chris Tuon, Aydin Ugur,