October 17, 2024 CHES PTA Meeting

Agenda

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024
Time: 5:45 – 6:45pm
Location: In-person LACS Library and via Zoom

[Meeting opens at 5:47 pm]

Attendees:

- *Board: Maureen Carroll, Sarah Wolfolds (Zoom), Christina Chaudry, Liz Johnson (Zoom)*
- *Staff/Admin: Aileen Grainger, Julie Uy, JoAnn Encarcion,*
- *Parents/Community: Eric Giffith (Paxton's dad), Jamol Pender*
- *On Zoom: Heather Beasley, Eva Zheng, Katie Fiorella, Jessica Eaglin, Christina Figueroa*

I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

II. Program Discussion (20 min)

- Recent/ongoing PTA event/program debriefs (5 min)
    - Picture Day, Sciencenter, Enrichment, Gimme!, Refrigerator, Annual Fund

Maureen updates:

- *Picture day was a success! On schedule (thanks to JoAnn!) and thanks to the volunteers who helped to make it all run smoothly*
- *Sciencenter Family night: 212 people attended; 100 adults and 112 kids. This was the largest group they've seen come in!*
- *Gimme Coffee sale: Katie Walsh is running it and is doing a great job! Over $1k raised. Sarah adds that Katie reported there was great documentation*
- *Refrigerator: it has been delivered and installed, thanks to the vote from last month. Ready to be filled with healthy snacks. Ms. Uy updates that her class families are taking advantage of it!*
- *Newsletter went out, and updated formatting. Feel free to share any suggestions, or if you want to add anything, let her know.*

Heather updates:

- *Fall enrichment: 12 different enrichment classes going every week; 90+ kids are participating (some of which are in more than 1 class)*

- *Appreciate all of the support of teachers and staff who help kids get where they need to be; and the folks who have volunteered to help (Jessica, Christina as point people)*

- Upcoming events/programs/fundraisers
    - Snack Cabinet, Essentials Closet, Elves/Angels
    - Roller Skating Night, CHES Loves Snow, Basketball, Ski Club
    - Fundraising and Bylaws committees, shared calendar
    - Halloween
    - Ways to get involved!
    - Brainstorming w/ CHES community expertise and connections

Maureen moves on to upcoming events:

- *Snack Cabinet: passes it over to JoAnn and Christina. Hoping to organize snacks in a cabinet that JoAnn is emptying out, so that anytime a teacher needs snacks, they can use it. They will set up an Amazon account and Instacart that JoAnn will organize so that you can order from there. Hoping that a parent might be willing to jump in and help to keep the wishlist up to date (and perhaps some periodic links).*
    - *Aileen mentions that the PTA opened up to have a budget line for the front office, and most of that goes to purchasing snacks.*
    - *Maureen mentions that there will be a google doc. And Christina adds there will also be a button to donate $ towards snacks.*
    - *Katie is excited about this! She's been working with the food service director - and wondering if there will be any cooperation with the food service teams.*
    - *Christina F asked in the chat about food allergy friendly options.*
    - *[Some more discussion about working with food services - making fruit available etc. State food aid is contingent on a full meal. Christina will follow up.]*
    - *Katie asks about breakfast in the classroom. And Aileen speaks to some of the challenges of this (timing, food quality, cleanup). Katie asks about pre-k and Aileen says they have a different model/funding.*
    - *Maureen wraps up that clearly nutrition/food is something people feel strongly about, and this will be a longer-term conversation. If people want a sub-committee, let her know!*
- *Essentials closet: we can start supplying that, Aileen has said there is room. We are looking into getting some donations (e.g. Mark Wells suggested contacting REI). So encourage everyone to think about who they know in the community who could help.*
    - *Toiletries (comb, toothbrush + toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary products)*
    - *Clothes (pants, shirts, socks, underwear)*
    - *Outerwear (gloves, hats, jackets, belts)*
    - *Jamol suggests this could be added to an Amazon wishlist.*

    - *Liz also mentions that PTAs can partner with Walmart to get these types of items.*
- *Elves/Angels: still hoping to get this to happen*
    - *[Sorry - limited notes as my kid was getting dropped off at this time!]*
- *Roller Skating night: need a volunteer!*
- *CHES Loves Snow:*
    - *Nora Burrows is running it again (she's on top of it! Flyers already went home)*
    - *But her youngest is in 5th grade - need a volunteer to shadow her so you can run it next year.*
- *Basketball*
    - *Drew Margolin has been running the CHES basketball program for the last few years*
    - *The forms - digital and paper - will be going out soon. The fees will be going up $5 due to youth bureau costs. But still a pay as you can model.*
    - *Looking for a 3rd grade boys coach.*
    - *Looking to start practice on November 18th.*
- *Ski Club:*
    - *Emails have started to go out. We have reserved the bus - it's happening!*
    - *It's on Wednesdays*
- *Talent Show:*
    - *Director/Producer is Ms. Uy this year!*
    - *Ms. Uy introduces herself: ran the drama program for middle school for a number of years. She's so excited to do it - but needs a team of other adults to support it.*
    - *We have a date set: LACS on May 2nd.*
    - *We will do in-school dress rehearsals. There are auditions but everyone gets in - just a chance to run it.*
    - *Volunteers will be needed in-school as well as after school.*
- *Fundraising Committee:*
    - *Eric has volunteered for that.*
- *Bylaws:*
    - *We will need to review and approve them soon.*
    - *Maureen turns it over to Sarah who did it in the past. It is a small commitment (a few hours) and important because it needs to be submitted to NYS to make us an official PTA.*
- *Halloween:*
    - *Perhaps a meet-up during the Commons event on Friday the 25th would be fun. Could meet at the library or elsewhere. Eric also suggests perhaps the alley by Cinemapolis.*

III. PTA Board Updates (5 min)

A. Secretary's Report (Sarah Wolfolds, for Lizzie Juaniza-Saso)
    1. Approval of September minutes
B. Treasurer's Report (Liz Johnson)
C. Vice President's Report (Christina Chaudhry)
D. President's Report (Maureen Carroll)

Secretary's report:

- *Missing some full names, Maureen adds that she has the sign-up sheet. So Sarah asks for a motion to approve the minutes with the full names filled in.*
- *Maureen motions, Christina seconds.*
- *Unanimous approval*

Treasurer's Report

- *Target is to hit $5k for annual fund.*
- *Thank you for the*
- *Liz Johnson put in a grant to the national PTA for opportunities around STEM and nutrition.*

Vice-President's Report

- *She knows of some folks who joined the PTA but are not getting emails.*

President's Report

- *Turned it over to Julie Uy who has a proposal from a 5th grader to have bus drivers included in the yearbook.*
- *Unanimous approval.*

IV. Featured Speaker (20 min)

- Principal Aileen Grainger
    - Mural project
    - Emergency Fund update

- *Working on drainage in the grounds in general*
- *School on the site for 100 years*
    - *Series of murals: history of the land, and people on the land*
    - *Murals of work from students currently in the building.*
    - *If you have ideas or connections, that would be great!*
- *Addressing the need for short-term significant, financial challenges for families in our school community*
    - *A lasting way to do this would be through an endowment*
    - *It would be through a 1 time capital campaign (that is separate from the PTA funding)*
    - *Again, those with expertise are welcome! Please reach out!*

V. Announcements & Discussion (10 min)

- *October all-school celebration is tomorrow morning (10/18 at 8 am)*
- *Halloween event will be 10/25 from 4-6 pm*
- *Gimme Coffee sale ends 10/28*
- *Next PTA meeting: does the third Thursday of the month work? Explore lunch or other times*?
- *Winter clothing swap - also could put out during conferences*
    - *Perhaps books as well?*
    - *Lost & Found - put it out during conferences*