

September General Meeting

Friends of Catalpa ECC

Meeting Date: 9/9/24

Meeting Location: Catalpa ECC & Virtual

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00 pm

- a. **Present:** Lynn Sevandal, Louie Sevandal, Katie Krance Schreck, Stu Robinson, Kristine Harth, Dana Galati, Liza Reed, Christina Mayer, Lainey McFarlane, Sara Soriano, Brianne Duncan Fiore Virtual:pending

2. **Reports**

- a. **President:** Welcome, please join us at events! Became President in February, has a full-day student at Catalpa.
- b. **Treasurer:** Began as Treasurer in April, had a 4 year old who graduated last year, currently has a half day student.
 - i. ~\$10,000 raised at Friends & Family Day last May
 - ii. Purchased translation headsets and Pocket Talks on behalf of BAC
 - iii. Surpassed Learning Garden goal, raised \$5K; spent \$4K thus far
 - iv. OST shortfall of \$10K, Friends of Catalpa is able fund half from leftover funds; will focus on fundraising \$4,600
- c. **Secretary:** Welcome! Became Secretary in February, has a full-day student. Soliciting team members with marketing/communications background, or help with creating google forms, updating website, social media scheduling, etc. Looking for about an hour a week upfront, hopefully to taper off.
- d. **Learning Garden:** Current chair is looking to be 'de-throned'. Original Learning Garden plans fell through when Catalpa ECC was built. The current committee is creating a scaled-down version of the original. Upcoming events to be scheduled:
 - i. Clean up/weed pulling day
 - ii. Install walking paths
- e. **Room Parent:** Coordinator sent email of welcome to all Room Parents today. Began as Coordinator in June, had a 4 year old who graduated last year, currently has a full-day student. Collected parent contact info to give to Room Parents who will reach out to classroom parents this week. Position promotes classroom community and communications by supporting room parents.
- f. **Fundraising:** Began by working the silent auction of Friends & Family Day last year; work consisted of partnering with local businesses. Goal is to help raise funds for identified initiatives with external fundraisers, internal fundraisers, and Change4Change.
 - i. **Seeking a co-chair to help coordinate internal events and Change4Change.** Plan and staff events, often there is a lot of crossover with other committees.

- ii. **Tuesday, Sept. 24th, 5-8 pm at Culver's 6Corners. Come meet Cuppie! 15% of sales are returned from in-store and drive thru.**
 - g. **Friends & Family Day:** Event was half party, half fundraiser with silent auction, held in May. It was held in conjunction with an all-day school event with 4 different stations to which classes rotated.
 - i. **Requesting volunteers now** for soliciting donations from larger businesses that require 6 months+ notice. **Sign up on website.**
 - h. **Community:** Friends of Catalpa tries to host one free community event per month in the school year:
 - i. Picnic Friday after school
 - ii. Peace Parade
 - iii. Fall Festival
 - iv. Movie Night
 - i. **Grant:** Organize grants, communicate needs to teachers and committees, ensuring timely application.
 - i. **Seeking Grant Coordinator to lead group**
 - j. **Yearbook:** Last year the school yearbook was outsourced; Friends of Catalpa would like to produce the yearbook in house which requires getting names of each class, taking photos at events, and creating the layout accurately and inclusive of all OST activities.
 - i. **Seeking Yearbook Coordinator to lead group**
3. **Principal's Report:** Met with the Executive Board to discuss upcoming school needs.
- a. Vice Principal provided an update: appealed OST funding, received and increase of \$7K, now have \$12K for OST funding.
 - b. Teachers are interested in running a second Soccer program from UI in the Spring. Soccer is offered in fall and spring, unlike other OST activities that operate every 8 weeks. Will confirm UI Soccer price increase for Spring.
 - c. OST Chime Buddy Band: Trained music therapists work with students of all abilities to offer inclusive music instruction. Staff member/Level II Volunteer will help support up to 20 students. Offered every 8 weeks. Chime has given a 50% discount.
4. **New Business**
- a. **Vote to fund OST Chime Buddy Band 8 week program for Fall, Winter, and Spring:** Brianne Duncan Fiore moved to approve funding, seconded, approved unanimously by those present.
 - b. **Vote to approve September '24-'25 Calendar:** Katie Krance Schreck moved to approve, seconded, approved unanimously by those present
 - c. **Volunteer Needs:**
 - i. **CPS Level II volunteer application** - visit friendsofcatalpa.org, Get Involved.
 - ii. **Change4Change** - distribute baggies
 - iii. **Join a Committee**

- iv. **Peace Parade**
 - v. **Culver's 6 Corners Fundraise**
 - vi. **Picture Days Sept 24, 25th.** Volunteers needed to help walk kids to/from classes, helping fix hair/outfits.
 - vii. **T-Shirt Fundraiser Distribution**
 - viii. **Parent/Teacher Conference Lunch**
 - ix. **Movie Night**
 - x. **Plant Sale Fundraiser**
 - d. **Bylaw updates**
 - i. **Amend bylaws to April voting for the Executive Board.** Christina Mayer moved to amend bylaws, seconded, approved unanimously by those present.
- 5. **Announcements** None at this time.
- 6. **Adjournment** 7:10pm