

PTO Meeting  
Zalinsky Cafe  
May 8, 2019  
6:30pm

## AGENDA

1. Approve April Meeting Minutes - Marcia called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Caroline Giamalva motioned and Heather Van Zant seconded to approve the minutes. All voted in favor.
2. Proposed Officers 2019-2020 (will vote at June meeting): Marcia introduced and thanked the proposed officers for next year. Each officer who was present briefly introduced themselves.
  - a. President Lindsay Stavrakas
  - b. VP Fundraising Erin Alvarez
  - c. VP Finance Heather VanZant
  - d. Secretary Katrina Ramos
  - e. Treasurer Caroline Giamalva
  - f. VP Regulation Deepak Babu
3. Budget Update - End of March we had \$251,600. End of April we had \$241,700. Major expenses were the aides. Paid for transportation for a field trip, bought a buddy bench and a lending library, and hosted pasta night (\$1300).
4. Buddy Bench - Was purchased and installed last month. Katrina said her daughter told her all about how it was to be used and Principal Munns reported that it has already been in use.
5. Lending Library - Marcia purchased the library. Chai will paint it before the end of the year. Angel will install it next to the cafeteria on top of fence (he will be pouring concrete, etc., over the summer).
6. Write Stuff (School Pak) Update - Online store open 5/17 - 6/7. Supplies will arrive by Organization Day (August 7th). More options for customization available through this new company.
7. STEAM Walk - June 7th - We are ordering T-shirts for all students this Friday. We are hoping each student will raise \$20 for this event. Pledge form due date has been extended to May 21st. Also putting out an FAQ to help educate families on what is taking place. Pledge forms are slowly coming in. We are

asking teachers to do a little more promotion of the event. The four teachers who get the most pledges will receive a google mini.

8. International Night - May 23rd - 5-7pm. Huge success last year. We have 18 countries represented this year. Cafeteria will close down when show is taking place in the gym so that all can see. Free evening. 7th graders sell water.
9. MySchoolAnywhere - Katrina reported that the app is merging with Membership Toolkit. The merge will give us additional features. Additional payment options on the finance side will be available through Pay Simple. Data has to be merged in May and then the site will be relaunched. We will be able to use surveys, change fields (we are adding language spoken at home as a new field), gather fun facts on teachers, etc. There is a newsletter feature that is on par with constant contact so we can eliminate that expense down the road. We will be able to email specific classrooms, host a message board for room parents. The store will have additional features and it will be easier to feature our sponsors. We need help getting parents signed up. Currently about half of the students are enrolled. Principal Munns and Marcia recommended that we have a table at Organization Day to enroll families.
10. Water Fountains - Filtered water fountains will be installed over the summer. Outside of Munns' office and upstairs. They will have bottle fillers too!
11. Teacher Appreciation Week - Thank you to Birdie and Malin for planning a wonderful week! Principal Munns said every day the teachers have been blown away. They are thankful, they love the doors, the cookies, etc.
12. Request from Principal Munns for Funds for Math Curriculum - McGraw publishes Glenco Math Accelerated and pre-Algebra 1 textbooks that we use in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The school hasn't had a new series in 16 or 17 years. She would like to purchase one set for each grade level (40 books per level). This purchase would include a six year online subscription so kids don't have to take the books home because they are so heavy. Munns is asking PTO for \$19,545.60 to pay for the materials we need for this curriculum. Having PTO purchase this curriculum will help keep student fees the same. Deepak asked if there will be additional funds needed next year to purchase additional materials and Principal Munns responded there will not because the kids use the same hard copy books from year to year. Kennedy, Munns, French, and Ciucci met with the sales rep and like the materials. Talia Pim made motion to approve this request and Deepak Bapu seconded. All voted in favor.
13. Open Forum
  - a. First day of school is the day after Labor Day. September 3rd

- b. Marcia shared that the PTI would like to use raised funds to add a Spanish teacher to our school. Principal Munns reported that she has feelers out for former teachers who can teach a foreign language (Spanish). They would be for 5-8th grade. The instructor would come in for a half hour or 40 minutes every day and the instruction would be part of the language arts curriculum.
- c. Marcia reported that she met with the ambassadors this morning on the subject of recycling supplies. Given all we have going on this year she asked that the ambassadors consider this as a project for next. Catherine Anderson, as part of her Green Team responsibilities, will still go ahead and recycle markers, etc., this year. The larger project will be tabled until next year.
- d. Marcia also reported that the ambassadors are producing a "What to Expect" video. They are interviewing teachers, students, and parents for all grades and will show it to incoming students for that grade level to help them prepare for the coming year.
- e. Katrina asked if the administration would consider the Leader and Me / 7 Habits Curriculum. Talia mentioned that her kids' school in San Antonio used it and it was an excellent curriculum. Marcia asked if Talia could speak about it at the next meeting. The curriculum teaches leadership, accountability, life skills for being successful. Katrina suggests paying for the curriculum and adopting it at all levels. Kennedy and Munns have been looking into it and if it is adopted the school would pay for it.
- f. Principal Munns provided a report on the ISBE Accelerated Placement Act passed by the state of Illinois last year. The act is for students who meet a certain criteria to enter kindergarten early, skip a grade, or advance a grade in math or reading. It is being implemented in stages over the next two school years. Three tiers:
  - i. Kindergarten - Students will be able to enroll as 4 year olds if they meet certain criteria. Testing to be done over the summer and implementation begins this fall.
  - ii. Skip a grade - Will begin for the 2020-21 school year. Students will have to take an additional test, achieve certain NWEA testing levels, and meet social and emotional criteria. Currently, just under 200 students across CPS meet this criteria.
  - iii. Grade Advancement - Will enable students to advance for math and/or reading but remain with their peers in all other subjects.

14. Next Meeting - June 12th at 6:30pm

15. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.