

## PTA General Meeting Minutes October 22, 2020

Attendees:

Angela Messenger	Jennifer Dixon	Tracy McConachy
Anne Neumann	Jocelyn Balangue	Ashley Kudirka
Catherine Brown	Kim Painter	1 unknown
Danielle Ryan	Krissy Schmidt	
Katherine Seto	Kristie Ryan	
Elizabeth Busby	Laura Connelly	
Elizabeth Carroll	Leslie Lauth-Torres	
Enidza Segarra	Lisa Hammond	
Jennifer Hallman	Mark Bibbee	
Eric Hooks	Ms. Pam Wilson	
Jason McConachy	Stacie Rubino	
Jeannie Walters	Theresa Thomas	

Welcome – Jason opened the meeting.

### **Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Pam Wilson moved to approve the meeting minutes from our September meeting

Seconded by Jenn Dixon

The minutes were approved for September.

### **Principal's Update**

Mr. Bibbee – We've had a fantastic kickoff to the year. Staff is working very hard.

Two weeks ago, Dr. Brabrand announced concurrent education will be happening. This is different than what we've been planning for 6-8 weeks. So we're supposed to start concurrent learning with kids who are returning next week. We will gain clarity on what concurrent learning will look like in the upcoming weeks. If it is optional, then we will probably not participate, at least in the beginning. We might phase in concurrent learning as we get more comfortable. If it is required of all the schools (which is how it appears to be going), then the students who chose all virtual will continue as all virtual with their same classes. The in-person kids will do 2 days in school and 2 days out of school. Mondays are asynchronous for all students. Kids at home may be able to access an hour or two of live instruction from home.

Will share as more information becomes available. Mr. Bibbee is planning a town hall for next week. He would prefer to have it early in the week but will wait until Wednesday or Thursday since information is constantly changing. The cutoff to switch your choice of virtual or not is October 30. This will be flexible by a couple of days but after that, classes will be set.

In-person students will come in either Tues / Wed or Thurs / Fri. That is a big change from our plan. Kids who are at home will continue with a dedicated teacher. Kids in person will have more screen time on their asynchronous days than originally planned

(1- 2 hours). We'll have more information at the town hall, which will be no later than Thursday.

We've had preschool students in school every day this week since Tuesday. It's going well. Some preschoolers are virtual. The rest of the staff are at the school.

Some special needs students in Ms. Hunts class will return next week. She will be piloting the concurrent learning with the students who need the most individual attention.

Since there are kids in the building now, other kids cannot come to the school for the playground, ride bikes, etc. They also can not join kids for PE. Kim Painter sent a message about this to a local HOA.

Will send out info by Monday announcing town hall.

**Budget Update** (Available at: <https://cherryrunelementarypta.org/2020/10/19/pta-meeting-october-22/>)

Kim Painter – Currently we have 17 individual members, 17 staff and 37 2-member household memberships. We were anticipating 18 staff but hope that number will go up since there is a staff reimbursement. We're short by 127 memberships compared to what we had anticipated. We have not spent much money so far, but we need funds to keep our budget which was a good faith budget. We may not be able to do a lot of the stuff, but it's better to plan for these events in case we are able.

Spirit wear sales were great with about \$500 raised from that. We've also received some funds from yearbooks and school kits.

Jenn Dixon offered to post information about PTA membership to the staff's bulletin.

Jason: Last year we had 183 members. This year we have 55 full members (plus a few add-on members.) We based the decision to keep the \$75 membership on feedback from the community.

Top expenses are transportation for local field trips, money for the library and staff reimbursement for supplies and activities. We are working very hard to find ways to do some of the fun events that we're used to. We haven't been able to do some of the events that we usually do, but we did do a meet and greet ice cream social for kindergarteners with their teachers.

The most important thing to the PTA board is that we continue to be engaged as a community regardless of how many members we have.

Jennifer Hallman mentioned that she was surprised that numbers are so low except that she heard rumors that people have been complaining about the cost of membership and feel like the option to add a second member is a price increase...while we are having less activities. These rumors might be discouraging membership. Could we vote to drop the field trip and then lower the dues. Another factor may be that people couldn't just walk up to the booth and join. Could we use prepaid stamps or include a message with any messages the school sends to military families.

Jason mentioned that we considered the rate and made the recommendation not to lower it based on community input, which was voted on in the September membership meeting. People felt that we would not be able to raise the rate next year if we reduce it for this year. It would confuse people.

We were considering having a pumpkin patch in front of the school, but FCPS has not allowed for PTAs to hold activities and, as such, PTAs are not having events on site.

Question: Would people be able to donate some amount without doing the full membership?

Answer: Yes. We've moved to a new, online platform. There is an opportunity with the spirit wear website. Several people who bought spirit wear decided to throw in an extra \$10.

Several people commented in support of the idea to have an open donation option on member hub.

Jason moved to create an open donation option on member hub,

Elizabeth Carroll seconded this motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

We are planning to have our silent auction this year.

We have Overstock Spirit Wear still available.

<https://cherryrunpta.new.memberhub.store/store>

<https://forms.gle/QEx4zGaSRVXDq8cE7>

**National PTA School of Excellence Program** – We are participating this year. You can take the survey at <https://forms.gle/QEx4zGaSRVXDq8cE7> through the end of this week. We will pick a focus area where we could improve and then work on that.

### **Fall Festival**

Terri – Regarding the pumpkin patch, a lot of time and effort went into planning this however it became clear from listening to county PTA meetings that we are not allowed to hold events onsite, in person. So Terri began to think about ways to get kids outside.

1. Scavenger hunt – fun, interactive (3 types: simple, can be done at home, second is only at home, third is intended to get kids to either walk or run a mile.
2. Decorating pumpkin – still prefer not carved to be consistent. Send picture to PTA (look for email for where to send it). We will create a slide show of all the pumpkins.
3. Fall vignette at school. You can take a family photo. (Please don't sit on it.) Also, candy corn estimation contest. This info will be coming out in the Weekly Highlights and on the PTA Website.

PTA board is working very hard to preserve events that we would normally hold but by bringing them to the students.

Ex: Donuts with a loved one. We are working on sending home donuts so students can have a tea party at home. Ideas are welcome and can be sent to [Programs@cherryrunelementarypta.org](mailto:Programs@cherryrunelementarypta.org)

As soon as we can we will return to having events at the school.

\*Elizabeth Carroll: If anyone is willing to help Cindy with the silent auction, we could really use your help. We will need someone to distribute items, collect payment, etc.

### **Directory**

Please fill out your information for the directory using the google form <https://forms.gle/SJrgzqhTZvbUqpaa7>. This will help connect you with other parents and classmates. We have had 44 responses so far. Directories will be printed and all of the contents must come from you. School is not allowed to provide information.

PTA members will get a free copy. Non-members may purchase a copy for \$5.

### **Other Updates**

Elizabeth Carroll wanted to thank:

Rebecca Benner for yearbooks and distribution

Molly Quinones for welcoming new families.

Anne Neumann for school kits,

Lisa Baxter and Kara Goehring for staff relations, breakfast, signs, posters and the vignette out front

Claire McCartney – spirit wear

Liz Gibbons – Reflections contest, collecting artwork, finding judges

Joanna Sampson – webmaster, getting info out quickly to reach our community

There are many others who have helped and these are just a few who have helped.

### **Adjournment**

Jason moved to end meeting

No objections