

CSH PTG Sept. 15, 2020
Via Zoom

Meeting held remotely. Start time 9:35.

In Attendance: Approximately 50 people, no formal sign in sheet due to meeting being remote.

Lynette Simmons, PTG President
President's Report:

Thank you for attending. Please join the PTG! We're still in the process of planning the Literary Luncheon and hoping to have it this year, but it's far from definite. If all families join the PTG we can support our programs and clubs without having to hold the Literary Luncheon, or any fundraiser, as everything would be funded.

Please look at the link I posted which has all our documents plus a Zoom tutorial.

We are a new board. I'm the PTG president, was the PTA president at my former school in California, have one son in the school. Introduces Dianne.

Dianne Breitstone: Have a graduate and a ninth grader, heading up membership. 100% of PTG membership from approximately 600 families would fund us for the year if we can't do the Literary Luncheon. We have 870 students approximately. Now we have 170 member families who have already joined which is great considering it's only the first week of school. Thank all of you who already joined. There will be no in school back to school nights, which is when we procure the majority of memberships. We're doing our appeal via email this year. PayPal is the e-method of payment.

I'm putting together the online directory, not on paper this year. Please advise me of all changes from last year as to addresses, phone numbers, etc. Thank you for your support.

Tara Vaccaro: I am Chair of Committees again this year. I was a kindergarten/first grade teacher at Goosehill School, then moved here. I have a recently graduated daughter, a 9th grade son, and a 7th grade son.

Tami Stark: I'm thrilled to see so many familiar faces I haven't seen in months! I have two ninth grade girls and a 7th grade son. I'm thrilled to be participating in the PTG, which is made possible in part due to remote meetings. My contact info is in the directory if you have any questions or concerns.

Irena Dabakarov: Good to see everyone. I have 9th, 7th and 1st grader, who is most difficult with remote learning. The board is amazing, we do a lot for the school. Hoping to see more memberships this year. I handle Communications.

Genevieve Massa and Carol Kessler are also on the board, but couldn't be here today. Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. We have a great group of parents spanning a wide range of ages making us a strong board.

Who can approve the minutes? Edina Bobelian, Tara Vaccaro seconds. Thank you. The minutes from the last meeting are posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report:

In Gen's absence, Tami is giving the report. The current PTG balance is \$31,062. The only activity for Sept we've had is the membership drive, and we hope to keep the momentum going. No problem maintaining this year's budget if all families join.

Membership Report:

We have 170 members as of the first week of school, a fantastic response. We appreciate all the support. Given the absence of our largest fundraiser last year and possibly this year, funding all our programs is in question for the upcoming year. Please let me know of any changes. We will begin sending the Weekly Notes only to members beginning at the end of September, on Sunday nights. The paper school calendar isn't current so is unreliable. Thank you for your support.

President: I welcome all suggestions/ideas/changes from the PTG membership as to what to include or not on the Weekly Notes sent Sunday evenings. We did try sending the PTG communications to everyone in an effort to increase membership but membership declined. The first week of October it will go out to only members.

Committee Report:

Committees are up and running. Most events are later in the year so may look different this year but will try to hold everything. Looking for chairs for Staff Appreciation luncheon and Beautification. First event is usually the Welcome Back Breakfast for the teachers, this year will be having Bagel Works dropping off individually wrapped items, to let them know they're appreciated.

President: What the school sends out supersedes what we're sending. You are able to subscribe to the school calendar electronically.

Will post the PayPal link to pay for PTG membership.

Introduces parent groups.

SEPTO:

Suzanne DiNozzi: Sept 2 we had a Zoom call with Denise Campbell to alleviate people's fears and anxieties about school beginning again. It was very productive. First big meeting is Tuesday, Sept 22. It will be on Zoom. Hoped to do in person socially distanced but not likely. She will send out information with Zoom link. Currently undergoing their membership drive, have PayPal, will e-mail link. Please email her directly with any questions or concerns.

FOCUS:

Suzanne Adelhardt: Welcome back. This summer had programs through the Pandemic Podcast. Now taking it slow in the beginning of the school year, waiting for people to settle in, will then start again partnering with Denise Campbell and SEPTO, when appropriate, to begin some programs in a supporting role. Planning on sending out a survey in the next few weeks to determine how best to serve our members.

Mr. Monastero, Executive Director, Instructional and Administrative Technology

The online lunch ordering system is new to our district and to the company that provides it, so we are both working on bug fixes.

May re-send the instructions. It is key to select your child's lunch period correctly. Lunch is being served in the gym for proper social distancing. Some students have different lunch periods depending on the day. Please reach out so we can walk you through the system if problems. We'll always have lunch for your child even if there's a problem with the order. Approximately 200 orders per day are being filled.

President: Link to lunch ordering is on the Weekly Notes.

If your child doesn't have a lunch period need to ask a teacher if they can eat during one of their classes. E-mail Dr. Bolen or Lauren Grasso and she'll keep the lunch in cafeteria A for quick pick up.

Colleen Haskell: How do I cancel a lunch order?

Dr Monastero: I didn't see a cancel button, will suggest it to the company. He will ask Gerri Tiger how that's done.

Nicole Boustis: there was a piece of plastic in my son's chicken at lunch. He wanted something else, but was only offered a salad by the lunch attendants. As a result, he had no lunch that day. Geri Tiger has been notified.

Dr. Monastero is only on the technology end, but will make sure Gerri is aware to offer a fresh lunch on occasion as the situation arises.

Dr. Bolen will make sure extra sandwiches are available.

Question in the chat: Dianne B. Why are lunch choice columns “grayed out” and unable to be selected?

Dr Monastero: The system does not know the students attendance days. It’s possible the system was set up to begin on Thursday, the first full day.

Dr. Bolen: Perhaps this occurred due to the half days.

President: Weekly notes have links to the various sign ups, etc. that are new this year.

Stephanie DiNozzi: If SATs are not being submitted to colleges, and colleges ask for supplemental information in the form of a graded teachers essay with comments from previous years, how can previous year’s essays, not just not the current year, be found?

Dr. Monastero: This should be in canvas, all the years and their work should be in the “All Courses” tab.

President introduces Dr. Bolen.

Dr. Bolen:

Welcome back, nice to see everyone. Thank you for everyone’s cooperation, the school’s opening went relatively smoothly. Kids have been very co-operative in mask wearing, and are thrilled to be back in the building. Will field questions.

Are buses being disinfected prior to picking kids up? Yes.

How are clubs being handled with the split attendance? Clubs and activities late buses began yesterday. Meeting days will be rotated so A and B groups can meet, along with a Zoom option.

Classes held every other day are helped by the addition of the alternating Monday so students are able to see some teachers in person although there maybe times when it’s Zoom only for awhile.

Outside seating? We are adding outside tables, there are some by the senior commons which will be moved to a more centralized location. Due to bees, kids can eat inside, and then are encouraged to go outside when finished.

Can Zoom students be dropped off to attend club meetings after school? No, they should Zoom.

Are the directions for the hallways only for between class periods? Yes. Students can take shortest route when classes are in session, unidirectional doesn't apply then.

My 7th grade son is confused as to how they go outside during lunch. Go to the new gym (now the cafeteria), eat, then ask attendant teacher if they can go outside.

Will low risk sports go forward as club/intramural without using locker rooms, etc? Dr. Bolen will speak with Mr. Buongino. The fields are open, but nothing organized. Dianne Breitstone said Mr. Buongino is planning to speak with the district and the board this week to try to put something in place.

What is the best person to get in touch with during remote learning if there is difficulty technically? Call the attendance offices.

A lot of time wasted with teachers trying to help kids that are remote that day. Should the teachers just concentrate on the students in the classroom? Dr. Bolen said it's still early days, still under a learning curve, should improve. Mr. Monastero is looking into amplification system so students at home can hear better.

What should we do if our home internet goes down? Let us know. They're looking into establishing a helpline for parents. The student's teachers will be advised.

Can students switch to all remote? Hold off on going back and forth, need to choose one. Wait a few more weeks to see what develops in terms of how the students experience is progressing. The seat may not be saved for a child who goes fully remote to change their mind to be only part time remote.

Teachers are telling the kids that there's no snow or sick days, there's no excuse to not attend school any more as remote is available. Will teachers teach from home if there's snow? The state announced that there may be no snow days any more, but not definite, it is a district decision. Students and teachers should always be prepared to learn/teach from home. Bring everything home every day, keep everything charged just in case.

Lynette Simmons thanked Dr. Bolen and Mr. Monastero. Dr. Bolen asks for parental feedback to improve. Only thing that has remained the same this year is the daily bell schedule. Pick up line hasn't been long.

Next meeting is Oct 13, 2020 at 9:30 on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.