

October 8, 2015
CMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:03 PM

In attendance: Lisa Morgan, Heidi Short, Angie Sullivan, Nancy Chira Garcia, Raeval Evens, Murial Lin, Kath Uyeda, Victoria Beach, Lynn Cordell, Paul Behan, Ken Griest, Nakelle Fitzpatrick, Anna Dalton, Kristin Hunter, Stacy Meheen

Introductions: Scott Laurence ~ CUSD Superintendent: He has been observing the way the district operates. He was hired July 1 ~ Nov. 1 will mark 100 days in office and he will be observing during this time period. Background: Mr. Laurence attended Stanford after graduating from Gundersen HS. He was the Sup't of Palo Alto Union HSD and worked in the San Mateo Union HSD. But the commute was getting to him, as he lives in Gilroy. He loved his job but was spending too much time in his car. He resigned from his job in Nov. 2014; was offered Carmel job Spring 2015. Feels like he fell in to Disneyland, as this is such a great place to work. He comes from high performing school districts and because Carmel is also a very high performing school district, he doesn't anticipate a lot of change right away. He is looking at some "tweaks" here and there, but is looking to take our district to the next level very calmly and openly. There are some new schools of thought regarding academic achievement, and AP classes: The new rules encourage individuals to:

Follow your passions, not your peers

Go for balance and do what you love

Some colleges want the top performers; the elite of the elite

Other colleges want the next level of performers, etc, etc, and down the line

There are great schools out there for every kind of performer

Encourages parents not to go overboard with getting their kids in to college

Mike – new Chief Academic Officer:

Has a non-profit education leadership development background

Was with Pajaro Valley ~ Aptos Districts prior

Understands wrestling with resources. He is also taking his first 100 days to listen and learn and wants to really listen to parents and students input. At this point, he has been listening to principals and department heads in the district. Now he is getting together with teachers and CHS student leadership groups and is engaging with students and parents from these groups.

Andrea Lewis ~ AIM for Awareness Walk and Rally ~ Has been working with Susan Stilwell and the non-profit AIM for Mental Health. There is a Community Walk for Mental Health. A mailer has been going to every house in the CUSD. Trying to start a national discussion regarding Mental Health and the effect it has on children and families. She shared some stats:

- 20% of kids will be diagnosed with MH disorders (1/5 kids)
- Needs parents to mobilize/engage to raise money to help this issue
- It's a local event now; looking to make it a national event
- In 2014-15 just over \$1M has been raised to research Mental Health issues in kids; spent \$300K at UCLA the first year; granted \$250K to a Mental Health Rising Star researcher

They hold one fundraising event a year - a fundraising dinner,
They hold one awareness event a year ~ a walk at Lover's Point

They have engaged a Science Advisory Panel to help determine where the money raised should go. They are doing clinical research and supporting Support groups for patients. Andrea extended an invitation to our group to attend the walk

Chief Technology Officer – Colin:

He guides the District technological education

He is looking for parents to represent on how 'they' filter various websites/apps that their kids have access to ~ Some kids are playing too many games. District is trying to strike a balance with games and social media. Looking for CMS Parents to participate in a study group to develop/guide District guidelines and policy for filters/etc ~ parents voices are critical! Currently, the rules for CMS are different than CHS.

Treasurer's Report ~ Please see attached. We raised \$85K through the Serve-a-Thon this year! Minus prizes, this will still be a gangbuster year.

Serve-a-Thon Update

Mrs. Fowler Scholarship – Trying to raise money for a CMS Student to have full tuition paid for a summer camp this year. (\$2K-ish)

- Her Husband felt that at least for this year, the Scholarship should support a student who is going for a professional music career
- Should we try to get CMS/CHS Music Boosters working cross levels? (So they are all raising money for the same cause and not re-inventing the wheel all of the time?)
- Need to recruit someone who is interested in forming a sub-committee to discuss the options ~ Nancy Garcia will report at our next meeting on her progress on this.

Principal's Report ~ It's been a rough start, with Nancy Fowler's passing. A lot of staff has been affected, and they are just starting to come to after this awful event. They interviewed today for a replacement for Mrs. Fowler. Several really strong candidates; the timing is difficult because some of the teachers who interviewed are already in contract with other districts and they can't just break those contracts.

8th Grade Lava Beds Field Trip – Ken just returned from this; it was another great trip.

Chrome Books – It's been a great roll out – kids are engaged and adapting to this new technology beautifully.

Ways and Means ~

1. Mr. Steely:

- a. asking for bird seed for his bird feeder watch program. \$436 for bird seed which will last Oct – April. **ALL APPROVED**

2. 6th Grade CORE Classes:

Split the cost of Flow-Cabulary (A music based vocabulary lesson that kids LOVE)

(This is \$1600 total/ PTO would pay half (\$800) We may ask CUSD to pay for it, considering it is a student learning program. It is an experimental/innovative program that so far the kids are loving and is encouraging teachers to find new ways of teaching that are innovative and exciting for them to bring to the classroom. IF we realize that the kids are

performing better based on this program, we will embrace it and it will receive school district funding. **ALL APPROVED**

Etc: (Non Agenda items)

- Thinking of great spaces for kids to hang out in, at CMS; Ampitheater, (similar to CHS), or gazebo?
- Need a small group to team-design a project on campus, similar to the \$12K Wiffle Ball field

Meeting Adjourned: 1:55 PM