

Cedar Island Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 2, 2017

6:30 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Brandy Gerth

Attendance: 12 parents, 4 staff (Dan Wald, Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Bourbeau)

Old Business

Holiday Boutique – discussion about 2017

Lisa Skov & group

Lisa shared feedback from her experience coordinating the holiday boutique this year. Explained that it's a lot of work, a lot of hours. Is there a way to make it simpler for next year's coordinator? Hardest part is gathering everything up to prepare kits to make crafts and then splitting finished crafts up to last all days of the boutique and setting up. Can more parents help if set-up is done at night? Should there be a minimum set for a committee, perhaps 5? It was very helpful to have the high school students wrapping gifts (as long as you teach them how to wrap). 5th graders enjoyed helping the younger students shop. Suggestions: have the shop during conference times so it doesn't take kids out of class, make a craft at school to donate to charity, make a craft at school to give to a loved one, provide 'I love you' bags for students who don't celebrate Christmas (bags stamped with hearts to hold a gift just to say I love you), Feed My Starving Children field trip for the older kids, hold the boutique on a Saturday. Question: Are we using parental resources for this boutique that could be better used for fundraising efforts? Should we retire the boutique? Is there a different way that students could do a project to provide to a charity as a lesson in citizenship & community service? Would need teacher input if this takes up class time. Dan will talk with the staff.

Café Zupas on 1/31

Kari Jansen

Food was good. Made \$250. Suggestion for Solo's or other place where there are more gluten free options and kids can deliver food. Parents like the idea of setting this up once a month at different places.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Sara Hanzlik / Kari Jansen

Nothing new from last month. No activities in January that impacted the budget.

Principal's Report

Dan Wald

Exactly 1mo away from final parent-teacher conference. Big thing is the on-line conference scheduling. This will open up in 2 weeks. Parents who aren't getting emails need to make sure they have a working email. Last Monday was staff development day for teachers. Half day is planned by the district, a choice of workshops. The afternoon was spent investigating racial equity policy procedure. Read on a beach day is tomorrow planned by the Bobcat Council.

Volunteer Update

Brandy Gerth (on behalf of Barb Lindsay)

- Thank you to Aimee Norasingh for agreeing to head up the school tool box project. She has the supply lists and plans to get bids from a couple of companies.

Cedar Island Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 2, 2017

6:30 pm

- A huge thank you to the Art Adventures picture people who brought art to classrooms in January. Amy Rintamaki has done a wonderful job as coordinator for the past few years and will hand coordinating duties off to Taryn Kuebelbeck.
- Parent volunteers are coordinating Valentine's Day Parties for grades 1 – 5. K – 4 will party on February 14 and the 5th grade party is on the 16th. We will have close to 100 volunteers in the building in support of the various parties. Thanks to all who help make this happen!
- Plans for the Bobcat Bash are well underway. Look for additional communication from the committee – we'll need lots of volunteers to make this event a success.
- PTO will host a book fair again during conferences in March. Many thanks to Candee Ebeling for chairing this event for past 3 years. Jen Brink will work with her in March to take over coordination duties for the Book Fairs.

Teacher's Report

4th Grade Teachers

- Kindergarten – Excited for celebrations comping up ...100th day of school on 2/13 and Valentines day party on 2/14.
- 1st grade – Appreciative for art adventures, beginning to have butterflies and beetles from pupa stages, Looking forward to Valentines day parties and the bobcat bash
- 2nd grade – end of February bugs for breakfast and blankets, making landforms in social studies
- 3rd grade – unit on life structures, crayfish and beetles in classroom, new curriculum in math
- 4th grade – appreciative for art adventures, starting new math unit, will begin learning USA state regions and capitals
- 5th grade –Minneapolis Institute of Art 2/9 field trip, middle school counselors visiting on 2/10, Valentines day party on 2/16

New Business

Headphones + Planners for 2017-2018 school year

Brandy Gerth

PTO approved to fund these again next year. Will cost about \$1885. Need to remove these things from the supply list so parents aren't confused.

Twins Game – Tuesday, May 30th

Brandy Gerth (on behalf of Kim Landstad)

Day right after Memorial Day. Staff and teachers are also invited as well as all the student's families. PTO does make some money. 52 reserved seats already. 48 more to fill. Payment must be received when ordering the tickets. Trying to organize this so grades sit near each other.

Bobcat Bash – Friday, February 24th

Kari Jansen

"We're good."

Cedar Island Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 2, 2017

6:30 pm

2017-2018 Open PTO Board Positions

Brandy Gerth

Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer and Secretary are open. Nominations will be taken and then positions voted upon.

PTO Activities & Volunteer Leadership discussion

Taryn Kuebelbeck

Leadership positions are something PTO is struggling to fill. Few people fill many positions. Dan mentioned in the past usually the older kids' parents, those who've had experience in PTO for several years. How can we get parents to take interest? Suggestion: For some of the larger events should we elect a chair and a co-chair. Chair would head the event. Co-chair would be training to head the event next year. Would this help parents get over the hurdle of inexperience? It would help current volunteers that head events be at peace knowing someone will be there to take over the event the next year. It would also provide opportunities to coordinate so one parent isn't doing everything in a silo. Is there an opportunity to ask for volunteers later in the year, once parents get to know the school and activities better, since the beginning of the year is so hectic? Barb may have some valuable information that will help continue this conversation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Winter Book Fair – March 2-8

Conference Catering – March 2, 6, 8

Pastries with Parents – Wednesday, March 8th @ 7-9:15am

Ending Items

Last minute additions, comments – Parent mentioned concept of a 'buddy bench'. A child who doesn't have someone to play with during recess can sit on the bench to invite other children to ask them to play.

Adjournment – 8pm

Next PTO Meeting: Thursday, March 16th at 6:30 pm

Thank you for being a part of Cedar Island's PTO!

cedarlandpto@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/CedarIslandPTO>

2016-2017 PTO Officers
Brandy Gerth, President
Taryn Kuebelbeck, Vice President
Lara Gilbert, Secretary
Sara Hanzlik, Treasurer
Kari Jansen, Asst. Treasurer