

PTO Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2016

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Principal's Report

Thank you for choosing Chelsea! Enrollment is up 7 children over projection. Our total is 471. District overall is down 350 children. Sixty-six children are completely new to grades 1 – 5 and 143 new students overall counting Kindergarten.

Class sizes are near limit of class size pursuant to the agreement.

- Kindergarten classroom enrollment size(25, 26, 26).
- 1st classroom enrollment size(24, 25, 27).
- 2nd classroom enrollment size(26, 26, 27).
- 3rd classroom enrollment size(26, 26, 27).
- 4th classroom enrollment size(28, 28, 27).
- 5th classroom enrollment size(24, 24, 29).

New staff this year = nurse 1 day, new ELL, new art, new music, new paraprofessional, new counselor.

Principal is now making “good news phone calls.” When she sees some act of kindness, some good behavior, etc. she is calling the parent to let them know about their child. Check it out on our Facebook page.

Results from last years MCA's High Stakes Testing

SCIP (School Continuous Improvement Program) goals – SY 16-17

- SCIP goals are to (1) increase math proficiency; (2) increase reading proficiency; and (3) close the achievement gap.
- More Cheetah Challenge
- Events that help kids feel connected and part of the community

Upcoming Events

- I-pad rollout / thank you to volunteers who got the I-pads ready
- Picture day is on Tuesday the 27th – thank you again to volunteers
- Bus evacuation drill scheduled for Tuesday the 27th
- 1st Awards Day will be Wednesday October 19th

School Supplies

- We had lots of donations this year – Como Park Lutheran Church, Salon 27, former board member Jean O’Connell, George Paitich family all donated a lot for the students this year.

Questions

- Physical Education teacher is on maternity leave. Teachers on Call could not secure a long-term licensed Phy Ed substitute teacher and so got the okay for full time music and art for 9 weeks. On November 7th the kids will then begin to have physical education again. So for the first three weeks they will have extra specialist time.
- Experience Corps is back – it’s part of AmeriCorps. They work to 10 – 15 hours a week and make maybe \$3,000 - \$3,500 a year. We have 9 of them this year that are working with K, 1, 2, and 3.

3. Northwest Como Recreational Center

Welcome back bonfire on September 30, 2016 – see rec center webpage for details. Still seeking more volunteers. Will now have a ga-ga pit afterschool for three weeks with a staff member to help them organize games. Flu shots will be available. Spiritware table will be there. Winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. giveaway in the cafeteria.

Basketball signup is ongoing.

If you have trouble with the website for activities, come to the rec center to sign up and it’s a lot easier.

Barb McIntosh is teaching an art class for adults with wine and cheese on December 5th at the Underground Music Café!

Archery coming up – starts next week on Monday.

Intro to Yoga ages 6 to 10 is also new and coming up.

Rec Check – busing is available from Chelsea to North Dale Rec Center and is simple to set up.

4. PTO Information (Who and what we are) www.chelseaheightspto.com

We are more than our fundraisers! We are continually trying to strengthen our ties among teachers, students, and families.

We provide stipends to each licensed staff person (\$250 - \$500), we fund programs such as Family Fitness Night, Literacy Night, Carnival, grants to teachers for larger projects (up to \$5,000 for the year). We work with parks and rec to make joint ventures a success.

One of the projects that was already approved is a Mosaic organized by an artist in residence that all children will be able to have a hand in this fall that was approved last year at the request of teacher Lisa Arcand.

5. Fundraisers

Some fundraisers are no work at all. Our no-work fundraiser generally involves shopping, dining, or having fun at a local business that you would go to anyway, but on the designated day/time a portion of the businesses proceeds will go to Chelsea Heights. New this year is Saints North Roller Skating. More SkyZone days this year. Connie's Creamy Cone this year has joined the no work fundraisers so look for fliers in your student's fundraisers.

Urban Growler fundraiser is this Sunday – see PTO website (www.chelseaheightspto.com) for details. Prices are \$12 and \$15 for nachos, carnitas, soda, or beer (combination varies depends upon the price).

Carnival is an activity and fundraiser.

Silent Auction and Club's Choice are the biggest by far. None of us like to have our kids sell things, but in addition to the money we raise (1/2 of our budget) they also support our school in other ways by donating the bouncy castle to our carnival, cookies for various events, and prizes for the Awards Assembly.

6. Events and Coordinators

- a. *Literacy Night* – Open Position
- b. *Family Fitness Night* – Alex Lodner
- c. *Carnival* – PTO Executive Committee
- d. *Running Club* – Jill Dent and Katie Keenan
- e. *Destination Imagination* – Sara Lovat
- f. *Cheetah Chatter* – Anita Dualeh
- g. *Box Tops* – Jessica Hilmanowski, Alex Lodner, and Ann Hoen

Look for beginning and ending dates of classroom competitions. Committee also has boxes to take to your workplace that say thank you for clipping box tops for Chelsea Heights. If you are interested, please contact the PTO or one of the coordinators.

The funds go to the PTO to support all of the things we do. For the contests itself, the classroom with the most boxtops gets a traveling trophy, the students get individual medals, the classroom gets the amount of money matching what is raised in their classroom, and the kids that won make the announcement on the PA.

There is a new app for box tops that the committee is testing out. If it works, they will announce it. It will help counting and collection.

One parent shared that her daughter decorates an envelope with a box top attached and a note asking the neighbor to collect box tops for her. Great idea!

h. *Spirit Wear* – Julie Small

School pride day is all Fridays during the school year. Wear your cheetah spirit wear.

i. *Landscape* – Carrie Taylor and Sarah Hobbie

j. *Baggie Books* – Jill DeGaetno

k. *Scholastic Books* – Lauren Mau

7. Budget (Julie Small)

Julie handed out latest budget. We are starting the year with just over \$29,000 in the bank. There is an additional \$5,000 in reserve to cover costs associated with the playground that didn't materialize, but we are holding it just in case. Contact the PTO for additional information if you are interested.

We have \$9,300 for grants above and beyond the individual teacher stipends this year. \$3,500 of that is already earmarked for Ms. Arcand's project described above.

We have budgeted for \$50,000 in expenses this year and about \$42,000 in income. This is on purpose as we are trying to spend the excess on grants for the teachers.

8. Closing Remarks and Questions

Next meeting is the annual Title I Meeting – October 18, 2016 from 6 – 7:30 p.m.