Central Montessori PTSA Meeting Minutes

Thurs. Sept. 14th, 2017, 6:30-7:30

Attendees:

Angie Lundblad, Mel Olson, Shannon Pearson, Kim Robertson, Amber Palmer, Michelle Sparr, Hannah Haws, Angela Navarro, Kim & Gabe Schenz, Kelly Lafean, Jolene Boucher, Marissa Tembreull, Ruby Montgomery, Amy Tye

Introductions:

* Welcome Board and Participants
* What is a PTSA & Why not PTO?
  + PTSA = Parent Teacher Student Association – everyone in CME community is welcome
  + Parent organization has been a PTSA, but considered changing to a PTO last year
  + Planning PTSA moving forward – all documentation was still PTSA and want the support/structure of the MN PTA
  + Need to pay 2016-2017 back-dues, estimated 10 members
  + Please visit our PTSA website: from school website, go to Parents, then PTSA
* Organization’s status with IRS- Angie Lundblad
  + Need to file 2015, 2016 taxes – Form 990, should only take 10 minutes per year
  + Will use 41-1978959 EIN number moving forward and will ask IRS to consolidate info from other EIN number

Principal’s Report:

* Kelly Lafean
  + School year is well underway and students/staff are hitting their stride
  + The school is growing: 121 students now, K-3 filling up
  + Just relaunched PBIS (positive behavior in schools). New materials coming home on Friday.
  + Requesting PTSA help fund Picture-in-Writing (PIW) supplies
    - PIW is art and writing together
    - CME must meet the same standards, but delivery and instructional methods are different, so PIW fits well
    - Paints are $7 per student, not sure how many will be requested
    - Will need to fill in a grant request form for this
* First & day eclipse
  + PTSA sponsored viewing glasses
  + At least half the kids got to see the partial eclipse and all classrooms watched live feeds afterward so the kids could fully experience it

Treasurer’s Report: Melanie Olson

* Budget Report
  + Budget Presented – many items assumed from last year, not sure about total, but fundraising will be important part of what we need to do
* Finance Update – Starting Balances
  + Checking: $1158.95
  + Savings: $4007.59
* Grant Request Forms in PTSA mailbox – will be updated from PTO to PTSA

Book Fair: Tues. Sept 26th & Thurs. Sept. 28th 2:30-7pm

* Volunteers Needed for variety of shifts
* Contact Shannon Pearson, email [cme.ptsa@gmail.com](mailto:cme.ptsa@gmail.com) or sign up [here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545aaa72ca1fd0-fall)

Conference Teacher Meals:

* Requesting items to help feed staff during busy conference days
* Email [cme.ptsa@gmail.com](mailto:cme.ptsa@gmail.com) or sign up [here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545aaa72ca1fd0-meals)

Communication:

* Looking for communication lead
* FB page, Flyers, and Emails
* Contact - Angie Lundblad at [cme.ptsa@gmail.com](mailto:cme.ptsa@gmail.com)

Fundraisers (Planned Activities & New Ideas):

* Box Tops (Mel) - Drive from Sept-Oct winning class gets party, first submission date is Nov 1st
* Kwik Trip Milk Moolah
* Dough Raiser/Dominos
* Poinsettia Sales - November
* Walk A Thon
* Scholastic dollars
* Amazon Smile
* Kohl’s will donate $500
* Fiesta Cancun – Angela’s husband is the manager and may be able to set up a night where we can raise funds as a school
* Dairy Queen – Michelle will check in to this

Upcoming Events: Check Website, FB,

* Art Adventure Picture Training- contact Angie Lundblad
* Family Fun Night - Game Night- Thurs. Oct. 26th 6:30-8
* Volunteers needed

How Do I volunteer or share my ideas?

* Contact: [cme.ptsa@gmail.com](mailto:cme.ptsa@gmail.com)
* Let your child’s teacher know you are interested
* Use the signup genius links

Parent Questions and Concerns: Open forum

* Accountability and New Behavior Plan
  + People can bring individual concerns to Kelly
  + Have some ideas on behavior management in 4-5-6
  + Behavioral matrix and individualized programming
  + Focused on building relationships with kids – building up trust and safety net
  + May do a kindness retreat
  + Mike Meyer is helping with transitions
  + Tracking specific behaviors – where, who, what is the context; using data to drive behavior
  + Have “majors” and “minors” – 3 minors becomes a major, major is a referral
* Equity in the classroom
  + Have equity meetings regularly and view all classroom activities through equity lens
  + Some discussion of some kids feeling like kids with behavioral issues had opportunities to earn individual rewards that other kids could not, while classrooms are punished together for behavior of a few kids
  + Kelly thanked parents for raising perception concerns and plans to discuss with staff
* Open question about whether it makes sense to add curriculum support for parents / families during Family Fun Nights in response to some parents expressing concern over not understanding the work their kids are doing in class
  + Kelly said this may make sense, but that there really shouldn’t be homework or a need for parents to provide instruction – plenty of info on YouTube for parents
  + Stressing need for kids to read at home every night