

CMS PTO Meeting
Friday, September 15, 2017
Meeting Notes

Call to Order - 12:05 pm

Board members in attendance were introduced by Kelly Hopper, President.

Approval of Agenda of current meeting – motion to approve by Andrea Miller, seconded by Katie Cole and approved by vote.

Board Members in Attendance:

President – Kelly Hopper, Vice President – Katie Cole, Treasurer – Kathleen Cooper, Secretary – Leslie Fuller, Volunteer Coordinator – Karin Sissel, Fundraising Chair – Amy Strezo

CMS Staff in Attendance:

Principal – Nate Swenson, Associate Principal – Rich Larson

Volunteer Requests

An e-mail listing volunteer opportunities was sent out to parents.

Board Updates

Treasurer – We provided \$240 for breakfast and lunch during workshop week, paid \$950 for t-shirts for all staff, and had \$130 in revenue from tumbler sales during the open houses. The t-shirts were very helpful the first day of school as they quickly identified staff for the students.

President – The major things the PTO funds are the 7th grade courage retreat, the 8th grade team building experience, the 8th grade party, staff luncheons (conferences and appreciation), and teacher and staff grants.

Fundraising Chair – We're using Cherrydale to fundraise again based on the great success we had with them last year, especially in the 7th grade. The kids are motivated by the prizes and we'll continue with that approach, including a limo ride with Nate. The kick-off will be the first Friday in October.

Principals' Updates

Nate played the district's mission video available at <https://www.edenpr.org/domain/78>.

Rich talked about PBIS – Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, a method of facilitating the growth of students. PBIS is used in five of the six elementary schools and CMS and the high school are in the first year of a four year process to adopt the method. Based on teaching positive behavior, PBIS acknowledges good choices to build intrinsic motivation to do what is right. Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Kind are school-wide expectations that are continuously reinforced with students. CMS PBIS statement – CMS is a community of learners where each student matters and every moment counts. The CMS Way is to Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Kind. #CMSway.

Nate provided an example of PBIS at work – he stopped a 7th grade student who came running out of the lunchroom and talked with him about being safe #CMSway is about who we are and how we do things at CMS.

Nate provided a Designing Pathways update – Designing Pathways is a process whereby community members are working together in design teams to chart the course for EP schools for the next ten years. The first year, the design team focused on academics and the second year a different team focused on facilities. Unlike other design team members, Nate was involved with both teams due to staffing circumstances at CMS. In the interest of time, his update to the PTO focused on design team findings as they relate to CMS. The academic design team concluded middle school students should have the opportunity for more class choices and the district should look at different types of scheduling as a means of achieving that (e.g., a block schedule). The facilities design team concluded middle school should be grades six through eight and that a new performing arts center was in order at the school. At this time, the Designing Pathways process has been slowed down to give the new district superintendent and school board time to review all recommendations. When asked about moving preschool students into the elementary schools, Nate confirmed there are 40 preschoolers at Cedar Ridge. Because the school had space available, the district was able to respond to demand beyond the capacity of the current preschool facility. This was not the beginning of implementation of design team recommendations involving moving the preschool students to the elementary schools.

Nate discussed CMS instructional excellence. This year the school is stressing critical reading strategies with students. The four Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking) are also a big focus this year and teachers will be assessing students over the course of the year, with eight to ten scores given to each student by the end of the year.

Questions from Parents

What about students' emotional health? Nate responded that the counselors have developed mindfulness lessons that will be given to students to help with their social/emotional health.

What about assigned seats in the lunchroom? Nate responded this was done in the 7th grade lunch so lunch monitors could learn students' names more quickly. Students were asked to pick a place and that would then become their assigned seat. It was not meant as a punishment of any kind and assigned seating will not be a permanent condition for the year.

General Reminders

Power Binders and Planners are encouraged as organization tools for all students but other tools (e.g., electronic planners) can also be used if students prefer them.

Conferences are October 12 and 17, 3:00-7:30. CMS uses an arena-style format for conferences, which is the best way to handle discussions with seven different teachers for each student. Several parents commented that it went well last year, with the exception of some teachers not being available when they attended.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Notes submitted by Leslie Fuller, CMS PTO Secretary