



September General Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2018

January Nicoletta
Kirsten Connor
Courtney McCormick

Steve Gimbelman
Mary Jane Garibay
Jim Osmond

Erica Reynolds
Tricia Barr
Colin Rigby

Richard Beck
Terry Pilitzer

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Administration Reports

Superintendent, Ms. Garibay: We have a lot of great stuff going on, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tremendous outpouring of love and support in our community in this very trying time. I wanted to give my extended gratitude to the community that we serve. Yesterday, the entire staff of elementary school received gift bag of a candle, card, and candy for every staff member from Colts Neck Community Church. We had so much amazing support from professionals who are trained in tragic loss and crisis who were so helpful. We worked very closely with the very talented people from the Monmouth County Traumatic loss crisis team who come in and help our counselors with having conversations, starting conversations, validating feeling and also working with families directly with students we feel who need more support on a more personal and professional level. In our crisis plan, there is trauma, crisis, grief, and then stabilization which are the processes. But we have moved into a stabilization period. It's a credit to staff, the community and the kids. It's been a scary couple of weeks and balancing conversations of what children know and what they don't know. We want to share if there is anything as a community and if there are things that a child needs, please let us know and we can provide that support to that family.

One of the things that is being talked about is doing some kind of memorial, and that is a beautiful gesture. One of the things that we are also working with is we are following the guidance of the traumatic loss center, because for little ones, we want to balance something that is an active memory or something that is a constant reminder of that. So I shared that with our staff. There is talk, one of the charity in lieu of flowers, a reading charity read-a-thon where all proceeds going in that name of the charity. Another thing that is in conversation is, Sophia was a fan of the buddy bench concept. She and her friends, they read a non-fiction article in 2nd grade about that. Then, she and her friends made a sign and advocated and wrote a letter about that and to designate one of the benches as a buddy bench.

Mr. Osmond, Mrs. Barr and I had the pleasure of meeting with the Karidis family Thursday before the services. We were happy to represent the district, and present them with things that belong to the family. We had artwork, notebooks, and writers journals.

We rise by lifting others. That was something that was so very appreciated by the family, the grandmother, and sister.

CRES Principal, Mr. Osmond: The support of the whole community has been amazing. We are trying to do the best we can to support student and staff, to the best of our ability. We are recognizing while the immediacy has past, there is a long term effect.

Superintendent- Ms. Garibay: Just to show you how are much we are still being mindful, we made a curriculum change which deals with death and morality. We will come back to it, but not just now. One of things was most beneficial and that we learned through this process, remember self-care and to breath and value of drinking water and giving each other grace. Moving forward, we will find a way to move forward and find a way to have all the great things that are happening in our district.

December is a fun time in elementary school. They started a door decorating contest at the elementary school. Life is what we celebrate and all those accomplishments. Be on the lookout for those celebrations.

Business- This year the school district is going through the QSAC process where every 3-4 years the state department of education comes in and evaluates. State monitors will be here in February. They work with us up until their site visit, add to school curriculum and a piece of policy here and there. The code of conduct was revised and updated to a chart form. Attendance- State gives us our numbers of how we score ourselves, our attendance at Primary and Elementary is below the state average. You'll see an attendance letter from me coming soon as just a reminder of what the policy is. There is only 4-5 reasons that the states counts as an excused absence. A doctor's notes is not one of the excused reasons. When we record them as absent, it still goes in as unexcused, that's how it's recorded with the state. For K-8, there is no mandatory attendance regulation of the amount of days a child has to be present; there is no statutory regulation. That's only at the high school level.

Through the QSAC process, we are making some tweaks. We worked through the summer with Mrs. Reynolds and staff to update some curriculum at the state's recommendation. They are all in Rubicon.

In the bigger picture, after New Year's, internally, we are going to be creating an intensive report card committee. To have them be a valuable piece of communication about children. We have so many points of data and what it means when we convert it to a report card. And how we can make it better. We will start that work internally. But we will be soliciting parent and student feedback.

Communications Coordinator, Ms. Piltzer: We are going to be launching a new product. Why are we changing and I wanted to share? We were with Schoolwires for over 9 years and it was acquired. Once Blackboard purchased Schoolwires, the Schoolwires was just a small piece of their package. They were not supporting it and we were having a lot of difficulty. So this year we have decided to move forward in replacing it. Another thing is there is a federal regulation that school district and websites need to be ADA compliant. Someone who is color blind or visually impaired, they need to have same experience as someone else would. Another nice thing is that there is no more user name and passwords for parents. Go onto site, in staff directory and there is a drop down, and you see every staff member in that building. If you want to subscribe to page,

you enter verification information. That request will automatically appear in the staff member's contact tab. Another nice thing is having one point of access at all schools rather than going to each website. Things like classroom events, we felt it would be too overwhelming so it is not going to be published on district-wide calendar. When we go live, you will be able to subscribe, if you have google calendar or outlook, it will automatically sync to your calendar. I will be sending out instructions on how to do these things. One other thing is there is not an integration piece available for google classroom, but we are looking into that. Watch out for my emails. Any questions?

Ms. Kristie Tierney-

When you are saying we subscribe to a teacher, does that replace the current e-blast where you have to go in and sign up for all the different e-blast.

Piltzer- No that will still exist. The teacher will be able update their webpage, every time they update the page, they can use it as a communication tool as well.

Communication Coordinator, Ms. Piltzer: About the apps, unfortunately this is not an app driven site. The design of these websites, it's a responsive site, it's designed so that the view of the site adjusts itself to any device. So you look at it, you get the same experience. So it's not app driven website anymore, so can just bookmark it. Also, too now, you have to pay for apps at Google store and Apple.

Special services, Mr. Beck: We had a student who had some special needs and offered to volunteer at an event a few weekends ago, so thank you.

Superintendent- Ms. Garibay: As a shout out, on the website on the calendar, our friends of different learners meets here four times a year so be on the lookout.

CRPS Principal, Mrs. Barr: This is the perfect month to be at primary school, very busy and simultaneously joyous time of the year. Next week, 1st grade winter holiday show. On the 20th, school-wide meeting, the focus this year is on the "gift of laughter". The 21st is pajama day and the 1st grade story hour. Where we serve hot chocolate and read some holiday books. We love December at the primary school. We start to see how the learning really clicks with students, using Chrome books and Raz. We see children are moving slowing, because they are taking everything in. It is fun to watch that progression. One of the things that we are focusing on is expanding their friendships and yesterday we did a mix-it up with lunch mates. We are also working on expanding friendships on the playgrounds with different themed activities and stations. Starting next week, our 2nd graders are working on mindfulness coach, Danielle Concorde, working on mindfulness and self-control and being aware of their impact on their classroom and the community. Just a Reminder- please make sure kids are bundled up for outside playtime.

CRES Principal, Mr. Osmond: We talked a little bit earlier about it being a tough time, but it is also a time we have really come together. I am really proud to see how the community and staff pull together during difficult times and it is a sign of the amazing connection between the school and the community. Thank you and the community for all your support. There are good things happening, at the primary school, I got to observe the students and teachers. To get to see students that are going to be with us, pre-us, pre-elementary school. It is neat to see who they are. It's a neat initiative to expand out and go to different buildings. It's a process to educate the children K-8th. For me it's

interesting to see them before they get to us and after they leave us. It builds a connection of the work we are doing. We are having a school-wide meeting on the 19th in the afternoon. The chorus and band are coming over and they are going to spreading some good cheer. It's pajama day for us as well. Lastly, hopefully this Friday, I should be able to publish a list of winter clubs at the elementary school or if not, it will be out before winter break in the weekly update. Winter session is January through March. And then one more session in spring, April through June.

Cedar Principal, Mr. Rigby: I just to add to what Jim had said before, it's been a great experience for me to see the different buildings. I have loved my time in fifth grade. A big shout out to you for your PTO Mini-grants. I hope you understand the effect that has on the students and teachers. There is an excitement that the teacher comes back with when they were approved. We have a big one coming up on Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Tierney was able to turn that around really quickly. We have an author coming up from North Carolina. Her name is Susan Stein. She works with Brookdale. So she is coming and working with every 8th grade student on their literary unit –"Raising the Sun". Sara Campbell is able to take some of the funds and work with real-life skills with some of her students.

For the week, we have our holiday winter concert on Thursday night, first time in a long time that the chorus and band are together. So it is going to be a packed house. Friday is the school performance. Next week, we have the holiday breakfast coming up on Friday. Parents get there between 6:45-7 and cook for the kids. We have our winter intramurals coming up the second week in January. It's a push to get kids connected outside the school day. They get to extend their day.

Director of Curriculum, Ms. Erica Reynolds: In the curriculum world, there is a lot of curriculum being reapproved at tomorrow night's meeting and it's really for the state when they come in. So there are specific requirements but really minor changes. You have access to all that in Rubicon.

Executive Board Reports

a. Amy Dimes--President

Spring Gala: Thursday, April 11th

I just wanted to give a quick update on Gala, it's fully underway and we have tri-folds and donation letters. We are looking for sponsors, gift donations and ad placements. We have letters for that as well.

New Fundraising Director

New nomination –Kirsten Conner. We will vote on that before the end of the meeting. She helped with our Fall Family Night. She did a great job with that. She has a background in grant writing and fundraising. She will be a great addition. I am very happy to have her.

b. Stephanie Collura--Vice President

Mini-grants awarded: \$17,645.24-See PTO Mini-grants Approved 2018-2019 document.

c. Fundraising/Sponsorship Director

d. Lena Nicholson--Communications Director

Friendly reminder to use Amazon Smiles for holiday shopping; The PTO earns ½ percent from most purchases. Make sure to select Colts Neck PTO on site.

e. Jennifer Mayrose--Student Activities Director

Frosty's – We had a great turn out. Thank you to the parent and student volunteers. The 8th grade breakfast is next Friday. 8th grade photo montage/8th grade memory book- We still need chair people.

f. Danielle Quigley--Assistant Treasurer

g. Kristie Tierney--Treasurer

Sept-Oct Treasurer's Reports

September 2018 Treasurer's Report:

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Total Bank Accts **\$88,104**

Notable Sept Income:

- \$6,398 Super 50/50 Revenue (not profit)
- \$5,871 Membership Revenue
- \$2,539 Saver Card Revenue (50% yet to be paid to vendor)
- \$1,710 Spring Gala Donations - from Membership Registration
- \$1,501 Accounting Adjustments from Prior Periods

Notable Sept Expenses:

- \$999 Lawn Signs purchased at request of Superintendent for Colts Next Initiative

October 2018 Treasurer's Reports

Month Ending Book Balances

Checking	\$17,472
Gaming	\$ 4,672
Savings	\$31,004
Petty Cash	\$ 250

Total Bank Accts **\$53,397**

Notable Oct Income:

- \$3,240 Membership Revenue
- \$1,450 CRES School Store Revenue
- \$1,298 Spirit Wear Revenue - Back to School Sales
- (\$2,321) Super 50/50 - Sales Revenue offset by Winner Pay Outs/Final License Fees - net profit of \$4,037
- (\$2,284) Parent Social - Overall loss due to significantly decreases attendance from 2017 to 2018

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h. Michelle Forero--Secretary

Approved September 2018 Treasurer's Report (Tara Buss, Courtney McCormick)
All were in favor.

Approved October 2018 Treasurer's Report (Courtney McCormick, Tara Buss)
All were in favor.

Approved September 2018 General Meeting Minutes (Courtney McCormick, Tara Buss)
All were in favor.

Approved Kirsten Connor for Fundraising Director (Courtney McCormick, Tara Buss)
All were in favor.