



CDSP General Meeting Minutes

35 Leroy Ave.

October 10, 2019

In attendance: Julie Best, Sara Parent, Anne Fox, Carol Kennedy, Robin Nelson, Stacey Tie, Amy Daniels, Jenn Sherman, Adrienne Kelly, Alex Hall, Amy Zerbe, Byrne Pozzi, Caroline Comfort, Cathy Bailey, Ellen Abbott, Gina Gromelski, Jennifer Morici, Joanna Walsh, Kadi Lublin, Marina Carey, Mekhala Attonito, Sarah Madson, Tara Wurm, Stefani Desai, Cristina Boudo, Jill McCammon

Meeting called to order by Sara Parent at 9:32.

Vote to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019 by Stacey Tie; seconded by Julie Best. Approved unanimously.

Co-chair Update

- Vote on donation for Darien Foundation
 - Clarification on voting, each school gets 3 votes
 - Vote to approve the \$250 request by the Darien Foundation of each of the PTO's, same level as last few years
 - Tokeneke (3 votes in favor)
 - Hindley (3 votes in favor)
 - Royle (2 votes in favor)
 - Ox Ridge (2 votes in favor)
 - Holmes (3 votes in favor)
 - MMS (2 votes in favor)
 - DHS (1 vote in favor)
 - CDSP Exec (8 votes in favor)
 - Yes, vote carries

- District news
 - Gender Neutral Bathrooms - follow up
 - Discussed with Dr. Addley and Dr. Da Silva last week
 - All agreed that this should be available in each of our buildings
 - YWCA is working on a parent education event for the community on this topic
 - Food Services update
 - District is negotiating with vendors, we will remain patient as this gets worked out but the Administration has said that parental input is welcome and our message has been heard - the cost and healthfulness of our lunch options at DHS and MMS need to be addressed.
 - Dr. Addley added that the process is complex but that he concurs that the situation needs to be improved and they are considering numerous options, possibly outsourcing.
 - Municipal Election - 11/5
 - First Selectman and some RTM positions are contested
 - Rest of the positions are not, but still important to hear what the candidates are focused on
 - 10/23 Candidate's Night, 7pm at Town Hall
 - co-chaired by Stacey Tie and Marcy Minnick
 - available on Channel 79
 - blurb will be sent to all the school wires
- Elementary PTO Meeting Update
 - Field Trips
 - continue to focus on how schools are paying for these field trips and how to make it more uniform
 - Getting class lists at start of year
 - due to privacy laws, the inability to access this information at the beginning of the school year has inhibited the assembling of the

- Directories as well as assigning room parents and advertising school kick-off events
 - the Administration has been supportive in finding other ways, such as allowing the PTO's to request permission of parents in the Springtime for the coming Fall.
 - also can ask new parents coming to registration and orientation for their information at that time
- Gift Giving Policy
 - should the process and dollar amount of gifts to faculty and staff be standardized?
 - District policy offers a guideline, but may need to be updated
 - Board of Ed prohibits cash gifts
- Discussion about how the schools want to/should spend their money
 - in anticipation of the discussion regarding how the PTO's will all support the Library Reimagining Project, each PTO should think about what they want to be spending their money on
 - PTO reserves need to be spent down
 - discuss with your Exec Boards, Principals and former PTO chairs
 - these would be out of cap expenses and will likely require permission from the Board of Ed
- Library Reimagining Update
 - this will benefit all seven schools
 - Sara and Julie will be meeting with Dr. McGettigan and Dr. Da Silva on Oct 23, will also discuss how to coordinate the needs of each building
 - all PTO's will be asked to support the project, levels to be determined
 - Dr. Addley asked that we address this sooner rather than later so that he can properly frame the project for the Board of Ed with regards to how much the PTO's are contributing, relative to other funding sources.
 - question was raised as to how to address the parents with Facilities concerns (portables) in light of the time and funds being allocated to this Library project
 - Dr. Addley reassured that these are being addressed in parallel and that Facilities are a priority as well and should not be perceived to be running in conflict with this project
 - Funding needs to be determined this academic year
- Website design?
 - several schools would like to update and revamp their websites
 - Catherine Kalderwood was recommended, she recently redid the Depot website
 - Hindley recently updated their using Word Press

- Directories
 - as a reminder in accordance with privacy laws the information in the Directories belongs to each school and can never be purchased or shared
 - separately but relevantly, each PTO's Publicity person must verify that the pictures being shared only include students who have given consent
- Upcoming speakers at CDSP mtgs
 - MFY, Darien Humans Svcs

School Updates

- *Royle: Oct 14 - co-hosting resiliency workshop with Holmes at Royle, Oct 18 - Fall Cocktail at Woodway, Oct 25 - Dr. Addley speaking*
- *Hindley: just held Fall Cocktail at Noroton Yacht Club, well attended (180 people) and held successful silent auction (moved from Hindley Happening)*
- *Holmes: held Book Fair along with 5th Grade committee raising funds selling pizza and baked goods, Oct 25 Fall Social, in November will hold online auction*
- *Ox Ridge: held first Speaker Series featuring the Ox Ridge Building Committee, well-attended (70 people), slide deck will be posted to Ox Ridge PTO website, Nov 6 Dr. Addley speaking*
- *Tokeneke: Oct 12/13 photo sessions, Pumpkin Carnival coming up Oct 19 (rain date Oct 20), starting at 10am (9:30 for Special Needs students), Oct 23 Dr. Addley speaking*
- *MMS: status quo*
- *DHS: Oct 18 dance, football team encouraged to attend, Oct 19 football game 1:30pm*

Officer Update

- *Treasurer: thank you to all who submitted their tax paperwork, please send in your conflict of interest forms.*
- *Special Education: met with all the reps two weeks ago, minutes will be shared to further the discussion in each building*

New Business

- raffles: prohibited by state law, requires permitting.

Motion to adjourn at 10:22am. Stacey Tie, first; Jen Morici, second.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Piorkowski, Secretary.