

## Cutchogue East PTA - Board Meeting

September 19, 2023 at 7pm - Virtual

### Attendees:

- President, Kerri Chituk
- Vice President, Dina Knudssen
- Treasurer, Amanda Sena-Ayzenberg
- Recording Secretary, Jennifer Klodnicki
- Corresponding Secretary, Mary Shalvey
- Principal Amy Brennan
- PTA members - Amelia Rivas-Connolly, Courtney Stewart, Diana Kehl, Gretchen Lang, Jeffrey Connolly, Kelly Berkoski, Kelly Deerkoski, Kimberly Garcia, Lindsay Pollock, Molly Jernick, Zoila Darton, Tara Cubie

### Meeting Notes:

- Kerri Chituk, President, Call Meeting to order 7:08pm.
- Introductions and attendance. Meet the board members!
  - President, Kerri Chituk
  - Vice President, Dina Knudssen
  - Treasurer, Amanda Sena-Ayzenberg
  - Recording Secretary, Jennifer Klodnicki
  - Corresponding Secretary, Mary Shalvey
- Welcome Everyone! Review communication & what's new for this year with PTA!
  - Try mostly paperless communication through Amy Brennan's text/emails/parent square;
  - Website: [www.MC-PTA.org](http://www.MC-PTA.org); Membership through MemberHub;
  - Follow on Facebook (@Cutchogue\_East\_PTA and @Cutchogue\_East\_Elementary\_School for the district)
- Old Business:
  - Re-cap last year's closing of books - Amanda & Kerri
    - Last year's books closed on June 30, 2022 - we expected to spend \$51K and bring in \$54K
    - Overage - we ended up spending \$54k, but...
      - Brought in over \$80K in 2022-2023 because of Harlem Wizards event - also had overage of about \$8K from 2021
      - Plan to spend overage - **VOTE - APPROVED - 15 YES; 0 NO**
        - Outdoor classroom for about 25 kids - \$17-\$20K for outdoor tables and benches for outdoor learning
        - Field trip support - \$1K to each grade or \$7K for field trips
        - Recess cart - approx \$2,500 for equipment to enhance recess - sports and soccer balls, board games, hula hoops

- Other ideas for future funds - air conditioning for 2nd floor (likely too expensive for PTA bc of rewiring), online STEM curriculum, member idea (Gretchen) - “science in a box” toolkits to teach STEM
  - Member question - how do we ensure teachers will use outdoor space? Principal Brennan - if you build it they will come, teachers and students will be excited about the new outdoor classroom and will want to use it
- New Business:
  - Kerri Chituk to briefly discuss all events, programs, fundraisers, etc (see calendar on website for things happening thru Dec 31) & Amanda Ayzenburg, Treasurer, to discuss budget for this school year
    - Tried to take everyone’s feedback so families aren’t overwhelmed; keep the spirit of fundraising going
    - Budget
      - *Operational Costs* - \$3K or 10% of budget- i.e. PO box, accountant fees, website maintenance
      - *Membership and Donations* - i.e. membership fees, dues to state PTA
      - *School-based initiatives* - i.e. book fair, holiday shop, kindergarten orientation
      - *6th grade graduation*
      - *Fundraisers* - projected to net \$21K
        - Charleston Wrap - new company to keep things fresh, more variety and higher quality, can link siblings together to combine sales
        - Direct ask - new idea - for families who do not want to buy or sell merchandise
        - Raise-Craze - new idea - aligns with our culture, teaches children to be kind human beings - students perform acts of kindness individually/as a class/school to raise money for the school; partner with newspaper to raise awareness, PTA keeps 90% of proceeds
        - Coin challenge - Super Mario theme (tbc) - PTA keeps 100% of funds - bucket for each grade level and grade with most points win - pennies and dollars are positive points, silver coins are negative points; classes strategize how to earn points/win
        - Box Tops - increasing communication about this ongoing program; all digitized through an app that scans receipts
        - Halloween Candy Buy Back - Orthodontist in Riverhead pays \$1 per pound up to \$200
      - *Student socials and initiatives*
        - Trunk or Treat - one of the most popular events; would like to keep it free of charge; potentially partner with a local organization to open up to community and secure funding

- 5th/6th Tuck Night Social - charge to cover some expenses
  - Family movie night at Peconic Bay Vineyards or Harbes - free of charge
  - Family yoga/fitness day - free of charge
  - *Apparel* - pre-ordered apparel that we already have stock in and swardlocker.com for online orders
  - *Community based events* - i.e. CAST winter clothing drive, WINGO - 3 main events, free of charge
  - *Field Day* - T-shirts - End of year gift for teachers and students
  - *Teacher Initiatives* - teacher mini grants for new materials, teacher appreciation, PTA end of year thank you
  - Total \$34K expenses, \$36K fundraising profits - conservative estimate and we usually raise more money - **VOTE - APPROVED - 14 YES; 0 NO**
- Other fundraising/events ideas - *would need a member to spearhead the committee/event to make it happen*
  - Dance/social/glow party/skate night
  - Parents night out
  - Craft night - Home Depot can donate items and help run the event, 3 mo lead time
  - Pick a reading partner - NYS PTA program - reading challenge
  - Fundraiser - discount card to local businesses, HundredX online surveys, CE cookbook, food fundraiser i.e. popcorn or cookie dough
- We need help! Signing up to volunteer/chair just ONE event helps us out a lot! - a lot falls on the board currently and we need members' help to keep things running smoothly
- Upcoming PTA Meetings
  - Next PTA meeting - in person the week of book fair, Nov 16 @6:30pm
  - End of Feb - Superintendent Shawn Petretti will review proposed budget for feedback
- Open floor to parents for general questions to PTA and to principal, Amy Brennan
  - Principal Brennan
    - Expresses gratitude to PTA, executive board and parents - last year events and fundraising were tremendous
    - Bully prevention committee organized over summer - first training yesterday, program kickoff in early 2024
    - New report cards - thankful to parents and teacher committee - mid-oct informational meeting and parent guide
    - Shared decision making committee - standing meeting to vet decisions with parents and teachers, first meeting Oct 11
    - Parent book club (TBC)
- Kerri Chituk, president, ended meeting at 8:10pm. We hope to see you at an event soon!