

Cutchogue East PTA Meeting Minutes:

03/08/2023

The following board members were in attendance at the meeting:

Keri Chituk – President

Dina Knudsen – Vice President

Amanda Sena-Ayzenberg – Treasurer

Dana Forlenza – Secretary

Kerri Chituk made a motion to call the meeting to order. The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM. A quorum of members was present.

Kerri Chituk reviewed the PTA website information (www.MC-PTA.org) as well as that membership is available via MemberHub. Kerri also reminded everyone that both the PTA (@Cutchogue_East_PTA) and the school (@Cutchogue_East_Elementary_School) can be followed on Facebook for updates as well as photos from events.

The following completed events were discussed:

- Kerri Chituk advised that in January, Lisa Boyd began purchasing the items from the Teacher Mini Grants that the PTA fulfilled. The Mini Grant application was open to all teachers at Cutchogue East and was on the PTA website to fill out with a mid-November deadline. The following grants were fulfilled by the PTA:
 - Mrs. Rowe requested decodable readers (BOB book sets)
 - Mrs. Scholtz requested BOB book sets, reusable dry erase pockets, and reading whisper phones.
 - Mrs. Martinsen requested a set of JR novels, two different decodable book series, and other books for her English language learners.
 - Mrs. Lievre requested several “BIG” books with corresponding smaller versions so students can practice strategies along with her in small groups.
 - Mrs. Vear requested flexible seating, magnetic hooks for laptops, and a classroom mailbox.
 - Jose Torres from the Transportation Department requested bus safety packets and crayons for his upcoming bus safety program.

Each grant was approximately \$200.00, excepts for the bus safety materials as enough was purchased for the entire school.

Additionally, there were two grants that the PTA was unable to fulfill:

- Mrs. Massoud requested a new carpet. This was fulfilled through the school budget.

- The first grade teachers requested money to offset the cost of their field trip to the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center and the PTA was unable to fulfill this request as it would be unfair to assist with a field trip for one grade only.
- Wingo Night took place on February 3rd and on March 3rd. Wingo is taking place the first Friday of each month (except January as this became the date of the Winter Social, and April due to scheduling issues with breaks). February Wingo had a very small turnout due to weather, but March had close to 50 people in attendance. The CE students have been able to assist with calling numbers, and have been having a great time! This event is not a big money-maker for the PTA as we only sell the game booklets, water, and snacks, but overall it has been successful and enjoyed by our families. There are 3-5 winners per game, and 6 games are played per night.
- The Wiz-Fit Challenge and fundraiser took place from February 1st thru February 15th. This was a new and very fun and engaging program. It consisted of several school wide live Zoom sessions with "Swoop" from the Harlem Wizards. There was also an in-person kick-off assembly and a very interactive "graduation" assembly with two players from the Harlem Wizards. Students watched a series of six fitness videos in gym class over the two weeks. The videos got the kids up and moving, doing different exercises, and also had sessions where the Wizards coached the students on character, with a different theme in each video. Parents were encouraged to sign their kids up on the Wizards platform and share their link to get sponsorships and win Wizards souvenirs along the way. Since this program took place during the school day, every student received a light up Wizards bracelet and a light up Wiz-Fit medal upon completion of the program. The fundraising portion lasted an additional week after students completed the challenge at school, and the PTA made \$16,227 (after paying for medals and bracelets for the students) from the fundraising portion. Prizes were distributed to students the week after February break, and the following school-wide rewards were earned for hitting fundraising goals:
 - \$3,000 raised resulted in a no homework night building-wide.
 - \$7,000 raised resulted in popcorn and a movie on Valentine's Day. The popcorn was real movie theater popcorn, and was donated by Axe & Smash, it took over six hours for employees to pop enough popcorn for 500 people. Kerri Chituk thanked the staff of Axe & Smash for their generosity and hard work.
 - \$10,000 was the initial top goal, and resulted in turning Mrs. Brennan and Mrs. Solomon into mummies. This is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 10th.
 - \$15,000 was the top goal added one the initial was surpassed, and resulted in the Kona Ice truck being secured to come for Field Day.

In addition to the school-wide fundraising goals, the following were also awarded:

- The 5th grade was the grade who collectively raised the most money. The entire grade will be having a Magic Fountain ice cream party on Friday, March 10th. Students voted on which flavors they like best and Ali from Magic Fountain is making the top three flavors. There will also be a topping bar set up.
- For hitting 50% of the student body registered for the Wiz-Fit challenge, a Sports Jersey day took place on Monday March 6th. Students were encouraged to wear a sports jersey to school for the day.
- The final reward was for the student who individually made the most money. This reward is going to Will Meringer, who personally raised \$1,425.00. Mrs. Brennan will be scheduling a day for Will to be Principal for a Day.

- The Someone Special Social took place on February 11th and was held at the Greenport Legion Roller Skating hall. 43 students and 6 adults skated, and the Legion waived their site fee as the PTA is a non-profit, and we were charged \$10 per skater. The PTA covered \$5 for each student, and it seemed like a fun time for those who attended.

The following upcoming events were discussed:

- March 14th – Harlem Wizards vs. CE Faculty game at Mattituck High School. See below for additional information.
- The Square 1 Art fundraiser is currently underway. Mrs. Finnican has been working with the students to create the art. Mrs. Finnican has taken the lead on this, and it was discussed that it may be nice to give her a portion of the proceeds from the fundraiser to put towards her classroom, if possible.
- Local Author Visit - this is still being planned. Kerri and Principal Amy Brennan have plans to discuss further and try to schedule.
- Field Day Shirts should be ordered in March. Kerri reached out to East End Sporting Goods for a price, and a few other printing businesses will be giving a price as well, and we will also be pricing online. Shirts for the 6th graders are covered by the PTA. The possibility of covering the costs for the other grades was mentioned and will be discussed further.
- May 1st-May 5th – Teacher Appreciation Week. Breakfast for the teachers is currently scheduled for May 1st. This may move, as Mrs. Brennan pointed out that testing is scheduled for the remainder of that week.
- May 19th – Tuck Night Jr. This event is for 5th and 6th grade students only.
- June 8th – Field Day. The DJ and Kona ice truck have been booked. The rain date is scheduled for June 15th.
- June 20th – 6th Grade Moving Up Celebration. This event needs a theme.
- June 21st – 6th Grade Luncheon.
- Possible events with dates to be determined: Parents Night Out (possibly at Axe & Smash), Spring Fun Family Fitness event (possibly another bike rodeo or beach yoga), End of the Year Celebration/Movie Night.

Harlem Wizards:

As of 03/08/2023, 559 of 700 tickets have been sold to the Harlem Wizards game. 2 of the 10 available Benchwarmer tickets have been sold, 45 of the 50 available Courtside tickets have been sold, and 90 of the 200 available Reserved tickets have been sold. The remainder of the tickets are General Admission. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:00PM, and the doors will open at 6:00PM. The Wizards will arrive between 4:30PM and 5:00PM for set-up. There will be a private meet and greet in the library for Benchwarmer and Courtside ticket holders. We need to have 8 volunteers for the souvenir stand, who will need to arrive by 5:00PM to be trained by the wizards. These volunteers need to be adults, as they will be handling money and processing credit card transactions. Between 5:30PM and 6:00PM, the home team, referees, and score keeper will need to arrive. The PTA will need 4 volunteers checking tickets, possibly another 1-2 outside. The MHS Booster Club will be selling concessions. Zeifman Orthodontics graciously donated braces or Invisalign to raffle off. The PTA is planning to pull the raffle at the end of the

3rd Quarter to allow for extra raffle tickets to be sold during half-time. The PTA will need volunteers at the PTA table selling raffle tickets, as well as at least two volunteers on each side of the bleachers as ushers.

The students will be invited onto the court to warm up with the Wizards if they are wearing the Wizards jersey. Jerseys were a prize for fundraising, they are also available for purchase with tickets, and will also be for sale at the game. Students will also be invited onto the court during half-time.

A group of PTA members and board members have been asking local businesses for sponsorships for the game. We have surpassed \$10,000.00 in business sponsorships, 100% of which will go to the PTA and our needs and goals. Kerri Chituk has put together a program for the game which contains all game day information as well as advertisements for all of our sponsors. The program is in the process of being printed. Gretchen Lang presented the sponsorship opportunity to Danielle, the owner of Zeifman Orthodontics, who graciously agreed to be our biggest sponsor and donated a free set of braces or Invisalign for the PTA to raffle off at the game. We have a total of 32 sponsors in all, and 6 of them donated \$500 or more.

Kerri stressed that this is our last big fundraiser of the year, and we need all hands on deck to make it happen. Excess funds raised will help the PTA provide additional outdoor play and learning spaces to further enhance the outdoor play and learning areas at CE. We are currently on track to raise over \$30,000 from this fundraiser, and are grateful for all of the support we have received!

Kerri also stressed that the Wizards will NOT sign our program. They will only sign their merchandise and posters at the game.

Treasurer's Report:

Amanda Sena-Ayzenberg presented the Treasurer's Report. Amanda advised that thru February 15th, the PTA spent approximately \$34,000.00 and made approximately \$43,000.00. She advised that the checking account balance is approximately \$60,000.00, and the two savings accounts have balances of approximately \$10,000.00 and \$15,000.00. Amanda plans to move money from the checking account into the savings accounts. Amanda advised that the business sponsorships brought in \$10,575.00 for the Wizards game, and the PTA spent approximately \$765.00 on the deposit for the WizFit Challenge and early charges for the rewards, and also spent about \$159 on the business sponsorship letters. The PTA netted \$16,227 from the Wiz-Fit Challenge. The PTA also made approximately \$565.00 from SquadLocker for apparel sales. Kerri Chituk mentioned that there will be more money coming in from apparel sales not made thru SquadLocker, and the PTA purchased some posterboards for the upcoming Science Fair.

Secretary's Report:

Kerri Chituk advised that the minutes from the 01/11/2023 meeting were posted on the PTA website, and are there for review. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 01/11/2023 meeting. This motion was approved.

Dana Forlenza advised that there have been no changes to the membership numbers since the last meeting.

Nominations for Board Members for the Upcoming Year:

Jill Kubetz expressed interest in taking over the Vice President position for the upcoming school year.

Elections will be held at the May PTA meeting, and it was decided that a flyer will be put into the programs for the Harlem Wizards game, as well as information to be made available at the PTA table at the game to help generate interest in board positions.

Principal's Report:

Principal Amy Brennan presented the Principal's Report. She began by thanking the PTA for their work this year.

Mrs. Brennan advised that they are making a change to the playground plans to add a rock wall, as the climbing structure on the initial rendering was underwhelming. She said they are currently waiting for the new rendering.

Mrs. Brennan advised that the budget process is currently underway for the upcoming school year. She said that Literacy and Math extra help will be offered on Monday's and Wednesday's. She advised this is included in the budget for next year, and will be for students in 3rd – 6th grade. She advised that in order to participate, students have to qualify for intervention services.

Mrs. Brennan confirmed that the SCOPE program, as well as the Reading and Math programs will be offered again this summer.

Mrs. Brennan mentioned that supply lists, flyers, etc. are all available on Digital Backpack. Many members were unsure of how to access Digital Backpack, so Mrs. Brennan advised she would include information in her next building-wide email blast.

The floor was opened for general comments and questions:

- There was discussion as to whether to keep PTA meetings in person, or possibly begin having them on Zoom or GoogleMeet. This will be discussed further.
- There was discussion about trying to do an Open Gym for next year that would line up with the PTA meetings, thus allowing parents to bring their children to play while attending the meetings. There was also discussion of trying to line the meetings up with other school events to try to increase attendance.
- Kerri Chituk thanked Principal Amy Brennan for including PTA information and events in her weekly building-wide email blasts.

Kerri Chituk advised that the next PTA meeting is scheduled for May 9th, and board elections for next year will take place at this meeting. Kerri stressed that we need new board

members, as each board member is limited to a term in their position, and also stressed that we need volunteers to chair and help with events.

Kerri Chituk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM.

Members and Guests in Attendance:

Kim Lappe

Anastasia Cobis

Juill Kubetz

Tim MacDonald

Julie Dantes

Emma Mirsky

Amy Brennan