

CRESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Opening:

The first meeting of Creston School PTA was called to order at 6:13 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2019 by President, Meghan Kelly. Meghan welcomed attendees, introduced Board members and called attention to the Meeting Agenda, along with Standing Rules and Proposed Budget for this year available on each table for review.

Meghan shared the many ways to get information and how to contact the PTA this year: Leave notes or forms in the new black mailbox on the wall inside the office labeled "PTA." Join the Creston PTA Google Group for current info/updates. Reader board outside the school and the Bulletin Board in the lobby will be frequently updated. Also following our CrestonPTA Facebook and Instagram.

Intro to Roberts Rules of Order:

Vice President, Tia Knuth provided an overview of the Roberts Rules of Order. The helpful info sheets will be out at every meeting on the tables. Roberts Rules of Order are used by the Creston PTA to provide equity in speaking for all attendees.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting held in May were reviewed. Tyler Bechtel made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lauren Held. A unanimous vote passed the approval.

Standing Rules (6:24 p.m.)

President Meghan Kelly asked attendees to review the updated Standing Rules. Motion to approve filed by Tia Knuth, seconded by Mariah Appolito. Standing Rules were approved with a majority vote.

Budget (6:28 p.m.)

President Meghan Kelly asked attendees to turn their attention to the budget. A new change this year by the board is to allocate a \$12/student amount for classroom funds. This includes all K-5 classrooms, each homeroom and CRP. The amendment increases the amount provided to classrooms and was made as an approach toward making funds more equitable. If and when classroom sizes change, teachers may request the extra funds for that additional child. If funds are needed in addition to these, they can be requested through an online form by staff. Requests will be addressed as they come in by the board.

Amendment 1) Motion to add a line item in classroom funds for new teacher Ms. Freedman (Intensive Skills Classroom). Lauren Held filed the motion, seconded by Elena Miranda.

Principal, Angelica Cruz shared an update about the new Intensive Skills Classroom, formerly called Life Skills. Motion unanimously passed.

Amendment 2) Motion to replenish the “Kindness Rock Garden” with a \$200 budget. Motion filed by Laureen Held, seconded by Janie Osborne. Discussion over where proposed dollar amount comes from. Last year’s budget was \$250; she is asking for \$200 for rocks and paint. A suggestion for the future is that this can be procured through donations. Motion passes by majority vote.

Amendment 3) Motion to add a \$500 to the budget for purchasing Power Up. The program would reach 80 middle school students this year and can be renewed every year. There are very little school discretionary funds available to fund this item so it is coming to PTA. Amber Hilborne filed the motion, seconded by Molly O’Neill. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item 1) Motion to double middle school teacher funds. Motion filed by Rebecca Garringer, seconded by Emily Graves. The concern is that middle school students at Creston are grossly under-served compared to other middle schools. The way the \$12/student allotment is set up helps K-5, but middle school works differently. Vice President Tia Knuth files a motion to table the discussion until a Middle School Budget Committee can be formed. The committee is tasked with researching Middle School teacher’s needs and coming up with a proposal to bring back to the October meeting. Molly seconds the motion. Motion passes with a majority vote.

Amendment 4) Motion to remove \$300 PE funds. Some discussion over the allocated \$200 classroom funds for the two PE teachers (totaling \$400) should be adequate. Angelica Cruz reminds attendees that we received an Adidas Grant last year for equipment so should be covered. Motion passes with a majority vote.

Amendment 5) Motion to split music K-5 and Band teacher line item so each “class” has the allotted \$200 funds. Motion filed by Mirra, seconded by Aram Babasin. Motion passes with a majority vote.

Action Item 2) Meghan will add Restricted Funds back into the budget report as she didn’t realize it had to be hand typed in to be included.

A motion is filed to approve the budget as it stands and with amendments voted on tonight. Mariah Apolito motions to approve budget, Mirra Nerenberg seconds the motion. Four opposed. Majority vote passes budget as amended.

Fundraising Focus (7:11PM):

Meghan Kelly announces that after a budget assessment and community outreach, the board has decided to make the focus for this year's fundraising be Science and Technology. A Science and Technology Committee will be formed. The committee will be tasked with assessing school needs and formulating a proposal.

Principal Update (7:13 p.m.)

Principal Cruz made the following announcements:

- Reading Achievement is the focus overall at the school this year. This comes as perfect timing with the reader workshop adoption this year.
- Back to School Night will be taking place next Thursday.
- Lisa Hibbert will be coming on board as the new Student Culture Specialist this year. She is tasked with handling behavioral issues in the school. Lisa is also taking on Safety Patrol. Volunteers are needed for during pick up and drop off times. Please connect with Molly O'Neill if you can help.
- The new TAG Coordinator this year is Ms. Fuentes. A TAG Meeting will be held in mid October.

Volunteer Opportunities (7:18 p.m.):

Mirra Nirenberg, Volunteer Coordinator shared an update about volunteer needs. Requests will come in through the Google Group. Mirra presented a list of opportunities. Any questions about specific committees can be addressed to Vice President, Tia Knuth who will liaise between committees and the board. To sign up, speak with Mirra.

This year, PTA has organized "Classroom Parents" to serve as a liaison between teachers and PTA, making sure they get the supplies, volunteer help and other items they might need.

Mariah Apolito presented information on the Sustainability & Garden Committee; Elena Mirana shared information on the 4H Partnership Program; Mirra also spoke briefly about Art Masterpiece – all programs and committees also currently seeking volunteers.

Membership Update:

We do not yet have access to our Google group and website as we are waiting on last year's board to pass that on so they can be updated.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM by Meghan Kelly. Attendees were invited to join the meeting next month, taking place on Tuesday, October 8th 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Creston Cafeteria. Oregon State Representative, Rob Nosse, will also be presenting that evening.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Keely Montgomery, PTA Secretary.