

## Minutes of CES PTO May 13, 2025 Meeting

**Officers:** Aaron Zain, Heather Cobb, Jen Rice, Mia Park, Tyson Stoddard

**Attendees:** Aaron Zain, Jen Rice, Mia Park, David Champlin, Evin Liljengren, Tyson Stoddard, Laura McGuire, Amy Sizer, Brendan Mahoney, Amanda Rasmussen, Becca Sinusas, Caitlin Calder

Motion to begin at 5:30 pm.

### **Approval of April Meeting Minutes (Mia Park)**

- Motion to approve minutes 5:35 pm by David Champlin and Aaron Zain seconds.

### **President's Report (Aaron Zain)**

- When I started, the PTO had a parent involvement gap and it's been great to see parents step up this year. Thank you for the nice change to support our kids and the school.
- Will discuss officer nominations and budget for 2025-2026 and will vote in June. I encourage everyone to come and participate.
- Reminder May 13, 2025 - Chester Town Budget Vote at Meeting House, 7pm. The Chester Elementary School budget will be voted on tonight and must be present. Please go to the meeting.

### **Principal and Teachers Report (Tyson Stoddard)**

- Thank you so much to the PTO for your tremendous support and generosity. We had a tremendous teacher's luncheon and it was much appreciated by the entire staff.
- SBA testing has continued this week and will wrap up next week
- Camp Hazen 6th Grade day is coming up this Friday and field day is scheduled for June 9th. Thanks to the generosity of Camp Hazen! They are funding the field day through their Caring Connections Program.
- We also have Warriors in the Community this Friday, May 16th. This is a day in which Valley students go into the community to help out on projects.
- Memorial Day Parade on May 26th, CES band will participate
- May 29th Spring Arts Festival (chorus, band, and art show)
- We will be holding our Chester BBQ to be held on June 5. Welcome all parents/families to join us to eat with their kids.

### **Treasurer's Report (Aaron Z on behalf of Heather Cobb)**

Income:

Bank Interest \$6.26

Special Projects: Fish Tank

Sponsorships:

Whelen \$2,000

Chester Rotary \$250

ConnDucky Derby (cash donations) \$71.35

Patronicity Fundraising Site \$810

Expenses:

Bus Driver Appreciation \$70.00

School Beautification \$125.32

Teacher Appreciation \$546.64

Spring Fling Liquor Permit \$60.00 (This will ultimately be deducted from our profits)

### **Present 2025/26 budget (Aaron Z on behalf of Heather Cobb)**

- Budget looks the same except reduction in bus driver breakfast, adjusted sixth grade graduation by student cost.
- We have a budget for Camp Hazen Field Day, but the past few years this has been donated by Camp Hazen.

### **Budget Motion**

Heart Cart: Jen Rice - made a motion to allocate \$300 remaining from teacher appreciation budget to heart cart next year. Aaron Zain seconds the motion. Because we were having trouble getting consistent donations from parents. Becca Sinusas commented that Andrea Selmer said we got the same level of donations this year as last year. Would be good to account for times when parents are already being asked to donate for the baskets, spring fling, etc. The \$300 would supplement the heart cart. Aaron asks for a vote, which was unanimous.

Subsidized yearbooks: Diane Amara asked for 20 yearbooks for children on free and reduced lunch. Heather Cobb proposes re-allocating \$300 from multilanguage dinner and remaining balance \$125.80 from bus driver breakfast, Aaron Z makes a motion to use this money. Larger number than previous years. David Champlin seconds the motion. Aaron Z calls a vote, unanimously approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Spring Fling (Caitlin Calder and Meg Stewart)**

- Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> Spring Fling 5-8:30pm at the Chester Meeting House,
- Tickets available now! 44 tickets sold - please get your friends and family, open to the public
- Most funds from Spring Fling will go towards a new fish tank at CES (\$12k)
- Becca commented that for next year it would be nice to stick with Venmo so friends could see who is going and to avoid the added fee. Eventbrite was used last and this year because it helps with organizing the guest list. Also suggested providing a babysitter list next year.

#### **Halloween Town (Mia Park and Brittany Silvestrini co-chairs)**

- Downtown main street event Friday night, October 24, 2025
- Will rebrand/rename so no confusion about not using the cemetery: Halloween Carnival on Main, Chester Mayhem on Main Street, Chester Spooky Street, Chester Carnival on Main
- Recruit each class to create an activity station - carnival game, craft, temp tattoos, photo booth, mystery box
- Many great new and old ideas: parade; red carpet; simple food - cupcakes, popcorn, water/apple cider, candied apples; music - playlist and speakers; Odd Fellows, Flash mob with Rayna's dance, Pie in the face (teachers/staff)
- Sponsorship opportunities lower because of fish tank commitments already, but hoping to get businesses involved in other ways
- Looking for ideas on making it fun for big kids
- Planning meeting May 19, 7pm at the Hive

#### **Teacher Appreciation lunch (Jen Rice on behalf of Elaine Thyse)**

- Big thanks to Elaine for organizing with decorations and themed food.
- Received cash donations from parents so had funds left over from budget

### **Room Parent Coordinator (Becca Sinusas)**

- Everyone loves the heart cart so if we can continue to do it, that would be great. We are done for the year.

### **Yearbook (Jen Rice on behalf of Adele Andrew)**

- Customizing the year book and getting free shipping is due May 14
- With Lori Lenz's help, the cover is a mosaic of student artwork.
- Adele is stepping down next year and Elaine Thyse will chair next year. Thank you, Adele and Elaine

### **Old Business**

#### **Fish Tank Fundraiser (Aaron Zain on behalf of Heather Cobb)**

##### **Sponsorships:**

Whelen \$2,000

Chester Rotary \$250

Direct Donations: \$1,391.35

Reallocated from 24/25 Budget: \$1,624.98

Less T-shirt cost \$662.50

Total Available for Fish Tank: **\$4,603.83**

Heather has been working on a few other local sponsorships, and placed a due date of May 16<sup>th</sup> on the request so we should be hearing back later this week, or early next.

Special thanks to the Valley Courier for running our Press Release on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Posted on social media and sponsor write up. Heather approached many local businesses, including Wayfinder, Whelen, Chester Rotary.

Thank you, Heather!

#### **ConnDuck Derby (Jen Rice)**

Kris Pollock volunteered at a table to get word out and to solicit donations for the fish tank fundraiser.

#### **Nominating Committee (Tyson Stoddard and Aaron Zain)**

Two formal nominations: VP Becca Sinusas, Secretary Evin Liljengren.

Aaron nominates Jen Rice for president, Evin Liljengren seconds and nominates Heather to continue as treasurer, Jen Rice seconds.

Aaron- this is a great transition and thanks everyone for stepping up.

#### **Wellness Day 5/23 (Jen Rice on behalf of Heather Cobb)**

We're excited to announce that CES, in partnership with the PTO, will be hosting a Wellness Day on Friday, May 23rd. This special event is all about promoting health, wellness, and the joy of being active - encouraging students to get outside, play, and enjoy some fresh air. Mrs. Giordano & Ms. Amara coordinate the day. Get to practice the parade. No rain date.

To help make the day even more memorable, the PTO has generously secured three bounce houses for students to enjoy during recess. Will allow kids to cycle throughout the day.

Teachers and staff can manage/monitor the bounce houses so PTO does not need to recruit volunteer participation.

Erica Thomas, mom to 3 kids at CES, passed over spring break. CES is collecting donations for the kids and families, summer camp is one need. Stephanie Conashevick, sister to Erica, listed gift cards to Adams, grocery stores, Target, Walmart

Gift cards and cash can be sent in with your child with "Attention to Cathy Anouar" on the envelope.

## Comments

NA

Next PTO meeting is 6-7 pm on Tuesday, June 10th

Motion to adjourn at 6:24p by Aaron Zain and Jen Rice seconds

## Proposed budget 2025-2026

	Approved						Proposed
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
CES PTO	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
<b>Cultural Arts</b>	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00
Supports programming that enhances the class curriculum. Especially through visual arts, storytelling, music, dance, etc.							
<b>Mini Grants</b>	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Competitive grant program available to CES personnel. Supports development/implementation of educational opportunities for students. Requests only to include items not covered in School Budget.							
<b>Camp Hazen Field Day</b>	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
School-wide, end-of-year celebration at Camp Hazen.							
<b>Sixth Grade Night</b>	\$875.00	\$1,120.00	\$770.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,295.00	\$980.00	\$1,190.00
Celebratory 6th grade graduation send-off. Defrays cost of overnight at Camp Hazen, DVD, t-shirt, yearbook, photo booth, etc.							
<b>Social Development</b>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Annual school wide (evening) program with a social development message. "Ice Cream Social" after program; Kindergarten and new family reception at Camp Hazen in Fall.							
<b>Field Trips</b>	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Offset the expense of the families that cannot/do not pay the \$10 per student contribution, pay any difference in Field Trip admission costs and prevent parents from having to pay to volunteer							
<b>Operations</b>	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
Insurance, postage, supplies, checks, quickbooks, website, printing & publications							
<b>Special Projects</b>	\$400.00	\$750.00	\$400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Playground shed, recess materials, soccer goals;							
<b>Teacher Appreciation</b>	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
"Back to School" luncheon in Fall and "Teacher Appreciation" luncheon in Spring.							
<b>Bus Driver Appreciation</b>						\$200.00	\$100.00
<b>Multi-Language Dinner</b>						\$300.00	\$300.00
<b>STEAM Fair</b>	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
T-shirts for all participants							
<b>Book Fair Books</b>	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1 book <= \$10 per child with free or reduced lunch							
<b>Events</b>	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Holiday Craft Night, Bingo/Basket Raffle, Fun Run							
<b>ADD: LAST DAY "CARNIVAL"</b>				\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Bouncy castles, pizza, swag for 6th graders, ice cream truck							
<b>School Beautification</b>	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Plantings in planters at school entrance							
	\$17,775.00	\$13,120.00	\$17,920.00	\$21,850.00	\$23,095.00	\$23,430.00	\$23,540.00