

Cutchogue East PTA Meeting Minutes:

01/11/2023 – Re-Scheduled from 11/16/2022

The following board members were in attendance at the meeting:

Kerri Chituk – President

Amanda Sena-Ayzenberg – Treasurer

Dana Forlenza -Secretary

Kerri Chituk made a motion to call the meeting to order. The meeting was all called to order at 7:09PM. A quorum of members was present.

Board members and members in attendance introduced themselves, and Kerri Chituk reviewed the new PTA website, www.MC-PTA.org, reminded everyone of membership sign up via MemberHub, and advised that the PTA can be followed on Facebook (@Cutchogue_East_PTA). She also advised that the district can be followed on Facebook (@Cutchogue_East_Elementary_School) as well as on Instagram.

The following completed events were discussed:

- Fall Trunk-or-Treat – Took place in October. This was a free event and open to all grades. It was estimated that about 300 people were in attendance. Candy donations were accepted, and special thank you's were extended to Bryanne Kmiotek for helping to plan the event, and to Harbes, Splish Splash, Burton's Book Store, LI Aquarium, Mattituck Movie Theater, Lieb Cellars, Primavera Pizza, Love Lane Cheese Shoppe, Black Sheep Bagels, and Wowak Farmstand for donating prizes for the costume, trunk decorating, and jack-o-lantern carving contests.
- Prestige Catalog Fundraiser – Took place end of September- beginning of October. Both paper and online sales did very well. This was our biggest fundraiser so far this year. Prestige provided three \$25 Target gift cards to the three top sellers from our school. A special thank you was extended to Kim Lappe for running this fundraiser.
- Wingo Nights # 1, 2, and 3 (October, November, December) – Took place first Friday of each month. Average attendance is 50-80 people. Each session is playing 7-8 games with 5 winners per game. PTA is selling game booklets, snacks, and drinks. We have been using volunteers from the high school to help run the night and call the numbers. A special thank you was extended to Kim Lappe for running these events. It was noted that the January event was cancelled, to allow for the Winter Social to take place, and there will be no Wingo in April due to the school breaks.
- Bike Rodeo (Fun Family Fitness Event # 1) – Took place in October over Columbus Day Weekend – This was a free bike safety event with AAA guidance and props. Participants learned the rules of the road, navigated an obstacle course, and there was also a free-riding area. Special thank you's were extended to Alan and Jeanne Cardinale for the use of their parking lot, to Greg

Williams for helping out and for splitting the cost of a new bike to raffle off, and to Officer Chenche and Ryan Springer for teaching the rules of the road.

- Halloween Candy Buy Back – Took place in early November. Dr. Vic Grazina at Facing the Future Orthodontics does a candy drive with local PTA organizations. The candy is donated to the troops and Dr. Grazina gives the PTA \$1 per pound of candy collected. The Cutchogue East PTA will be receiving approximately \$195 for the candy our school collected.
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Took place at the end of October (on conference day). A special thank you was extended to Gregg and the staff at Ammirati's on Love Lane for providing the catering for this event. It was mentioned that the PTA is on track with the budget for Teacher Appreciation as we used about half of the allotted budget on this event, and have one more event planned for later in the school year.
- Shoe Drive – Began in September and ran thru mid-November. The PTA had set a goal of 100 bags of shoes collected and donated. This goal was met about halfway thru the fundraiser. At the end, we collected 235 bags of shoes (bagged in pairs of 25), which is just under 6,000 pairs of shoes.
- Book Fair and Literary Pumpkins – Took place in mid-November. We went back to using Scholastic for the book fair this year as Follett (the company used last year) was sold to another company and is not operating in our area yet. There some concerns about using Scholastic due to issues in the past, but the fair was a success. Scholastic sent us a large, fully stocked fair. The teachers, and librarian, Heather Ranieri advised the selection of titles were great. The PTA did a quick book drive the week before the fair to collect gently used books that could be offered free to all children, even if they did not have money to spend at the fair. A Literary Pumpkin display was also added this year where each classroom was encouraged to choose their favorite book character and carve a pumpkin to look like that character. There were close to 30 pumpkins submitted, and a special thank you was extended to Krupski's farm for donating the pumpkins. The PTA purchased books with our Scholastic dollars for teachers who filled out wish lists for books, and as prizes for the pumpkin display winners. A special thank you was extended to Bryanne Kmiotek, Heather Ranieri, and Amy Gebbia, as well as to all of the parent volunteers who pulled this event together. Members mentioned fairs that were held at other schools that we all donated, gently used books, that we sold for a fraction of the price of new books. Amy Brennan mentioned a company called Book Fairies that warehouses used books in Freeport for book swaps. A possible book swap or low-cost book fair was brought up, but there were concerns about the amount of time and man-power needed to organize an event.
- CAST Winter Clothing Drive – Took place in early December. The PTA supplied CAST with three car loads of winter clothing, and also saved some to stock the school closets at both Cutchogue East and Mattituck High School. The PTA also sponsored a family of five (two parents, a 10 year-old boy, and twin girls) for the holidays. Several families helped shop and purchase items, and we collected \$180 in donations to put toward purchases the PTA made.
- Holiday Shoppe – Took place in mid-December. We used a new company, Frosty's Fair this year, and it went very well. The students came in and were able to purchase gifts for friends and family members. Special thank you's were extended to Morgan Maul and Denise Taormina as well as all of the "helper elves" who helped the kids budget, shop, and wrap their gifts.
- Winter Social – Took place January 6th (originally scheduled for December 16th). This event needed to be re-scheduled due to sicknesses in the school and community, as well as conflicts

with other community events. It is estimated that there were approximately 200 people in attendance. This was a free event, and there were several winter themed craft stations, Happy Feet 2 was played, and there was a hot chocolate and snack bar set up. Special thank you's were extended to Morgan Maul, Denise Taormina, Bryanne Kmiotek, Jillian Anderson, Mary Shalvey, and Julie Dantes for helping to set up, to the several parents who helped during the event and with clean-up, to Ms. Mirsky for helping at the craft tables, and to Lauren Robert-Demolaize for helping at the hot chocolate/snack bar.

The following upcoming events were discussed:

- Harlem Wizards (see more information below)
 - February 1st-15th – The students will be participating in the WizFit Challenge. This is a boost-a-thon style fundraiser, and the kids will have assemblies and videos will be shown in gym class.
 - March 14th – Harlem Wizards vs. CE Staff Game
- Someone Special Social – February 10th – Open to grades UPK – 4th – Possible glow theme. Cost concerns were brought up with the glow theme as black lights may be needed and can get very expensive for large areas. It was also mentioned that the older kids (5th and 6th grade) may like this theme as well and be disappointed if not included. Kerri Chituk advised she was considering moving the social to the roller-skating rink in Greenport to keep with the glow theme and be able to accommodate more people.
- Local Author Visit – Date TBD – Kerri Chituk advised she has been in contact with Peggy Dickerson and they are in the process of determining what date and what grades to include. The librarian, Heather Ranieri, is also working to get another author to come in, so they want to be sure that every grade gets to see an author.
- Field Day T-Shirt design/orders – March, exact date TBD. Need a company to make the shirts, the 5th and 6th grade usually vote on the design to be used on the shirts. The shirts for the 6th graders are usually purchased by the PTA, and each child's signature is collected. The 6th grade shirts are printed with the graduation year and class signatures on the back. Possible student designs and/or designs from the High School art teacher were mentioned.
- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week – May 1st-5th – Breakfast is provided for staff on the first day.
- Tuck Jr. Night – May 19th – 5th and 6th grade ONLY. Drop-off event.
- Parents Night Out to Mingle – Date TBD.
- Fun Family Fitness Event # 2 – Date TBD – Possibly a spring bike rodeo or beach yoga.
- 6th Grade Moving Up – June 20th – Theme needed. This takes place in the high school library. Last year's theme was Reach for the Stars.
- 6th Grade Luncheon – June 21st – Pizza, ice pops, yearbooks.
- Possible End of Year Celebration/Movie Night – Date TBD – Possibly to take place at Peconic Bay Winery.

Harlem Wizards:

- As outlined above, the students will be participating in the Wiz-Fit Challenge from February 1st-15th, and the game will take place on March 14th.
- This will be our last big fundraiser of the year.

- The PTA wants to push for everyone to register their children for the Wiz-Fit Challenge. It is free to register, and prizes are awarded for registering, and at graduation, even if the child does no fundraising.
- As part of the Wiz-Fit Challenge, all students will participate in a Kick-Off Ceremony on February 1st, two in-class Zoom calls from Wizards players, and a Graduation Ceremony on February 15th. They will also be watching videos in gym class, and learning the steps to the Wiz-Fit Shuffle, which will be performed at half-time during the game.
- The PTA will receive 52% of funds raised from the Wiz-Fit Challenge and the ticket sales. We also receive a portion of the merchandise sales (all merchandise is sold by the Wizards), but this percentage is likely different and was not readily available.
- The game will be taking place on March 14th, at 6:00PM, in the Mattituck High School gym, and as this fundraiser was passed to us by the MHS Booster Club, the PTA has agreed to let the Boosters run their snack shack during the game, and they will be keeping the proceeds from that.
- Amy Brennan reported that 15 teachers and staff members had already signed up to participate in the game.
- Kerri Chituk advised that she and Amy Brennan are working together to come up with three goals and rewards for the students during the Wiz-Fit Challenge, one easy, one medium, and one hard.
- The PTA will be asking for business sponsorships as part of our fundraising efforts for the Wizards game. In exchange for sponsorship, we will be putting sponsor names and logos on the ticket website, and sponsors will be called out during the game. We are also looking for sponsors for each quarter, and one for the half-time show (preferably with a good or service that can be raffled off). The PTA plans to make a playbook that will include teach bios and mention the sponsors of the game, however, we need to get permission from the Wizards to do this.

Secretary's Report:

Kerri Chituk advised that the minutes from the 09/13/2022 meeting were posted on the PTA website after that meeting, and advised they are there for review. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 09/13/2022 meeting. The motion was approved.

Dana Forlenza reported that as of Monday, 01/10/2023, the Cutchogue East PTA has 122 members, 22 of which are teachers and/or staff. Dana thanked the members who have joined and/or made donations, and also thanked the Cutchogue East staff for helping to make events successful both during and outside of school hours. A reminder was made that all community members are encouraged join, and that members get a vote at meetings, on elections, and on how funds are spent. Dana reminded that a membership can be purchased for \$10 via MemberHub.

Treasurer's Report:

Amanda Sena-Ayzenberg presented the treasurer's report. Amanda advised that all numbers provided at this time are still being finalized and are subject to change. The Shoe Drive had a cost of \$166.00, the PTA made \$2,867.50, and will net approximately \$2,701.50. The Prestige fundraiser had a cost of

\$2,323.00, the PTA made \$6,356.00, and will net approximately \$4,033.00. The Book Fair had a cost of \$8,676.37, the PTA made \$11,600.29, and will net approximately \$2,923.92. The Holiday Shoppe had a cost of \$8,951.63, the PTA made \$11,527.00, and will net approximately \$2,575.36. The WINGO events already completed have had a cost of \$346.75, the PTA has made \$1,028.00, and will net approximately \$681.25. The Halloween Candy Buy Back had no cost to the PTA, and we will net approximately \$195.00 from it.

Principal's Report:

Principal Amy Brennan spoke and advised that the playground committee has been making progress towards deciding on a new playground design for Cutchogue East. She advised that children in Student Leadership have been working with the adult committee members on this, and created a Google Form that a completed by grades 3-6. For grades Kindergarten – 2, members of Student Leadership went from classroom to classroom and showed images to the children and did a thumbs up/thumbs down vote to see what was liked and disliked. Children have had the opportunity to put in their own recommendations/requests for the playground, and things like including the school colors, making it look different than it currently does, and making it more accessible have come up. A rock wall and zip line have also been requested. It is planned that the gazebo and swings that are currently in place will stay, but the new play structure will be multi-level, with a big swirl slide, suspension bridge, activities/music built in, and a small web. There is a \$300,000 budget for the playground, and the committee is currently waiting on a rendering and pricing to see how it will fit into the budget. It was also mentioned that stations around the walking path are wanted, but the company being used for the playground does not have child-sized stations, so this will be looked for elsewhere. It was discussed that Superintendent Shawn Petretti may be able to work the outdoor learning space into his 5-year plan in exchange for the PTA's help with funding the playground, but more discussion is needed on this.

Amy Brennan also mentioned that the Report Card Committee is scheduled to begin meeting at the end of this month. She advised there will be four meetings starting on 1/26, and that the report cards will be ready to use for next year. The committee will be reviewing our current report card, along with templates from online, and report cards used by other districts. Student Leadership students will be involved in this process, and the new report cards will be Standards Based, and will need to be approved by the Board of Education.

Amy Brennan discussed the CBT Testing that will take place on 1/19. She explained that grades 3-6 will be doing a log in test on their Chromebooks ahead of State Test dates to make sure there are no issues. She also advised that at the next Board of Education meeting, she will be presenting the last state test results. She advised that these results can be compared to the year before COVID-19 (testing changed/did not happen during COVID-19 and immediately after), county results, and cohort results (the same class over multiple years). She also advised that P.S. I love you day is February 10th, and there will be a spirit week surrounding that date.

Kerri Chituk advised that the next meeting is scheduled for March 8th, and will be board nominations for next year. Kerri stressed the need for volunteers and participation, and explained that chairing just one event is a huge help and benefits the kids.

Kerri Chituk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Members and Guests in Attendance:

Amy Connell

Emma Mirsky

Tim MacDonald

Gretchen Lang

Anastasia Cobis

Amy Brennan