

Hilliard Crossing PTO Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024 - 7pm Hilliard Crossing IDC

Participants: Kayla Pinnick, Katie Meyer, Donna Rzepka, Emily Smith, Eryn Gilson, Brittnee Greshner, Yeseul Moon, Nikki Hursh, Carly Colombi, Jennie Benitez, Holleh Vansant, Hydrie Shiplet, Janelle Ayers, Naheda Ramadan, Ashley McClain, Elizabeth Kiernan, Ryan Taylor, Beth Lykins

Welcome and Introductions

Board Reports

- **President Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Vice President Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Treasurer Report:** Nothing to report specifically but asks Katie if she would like her to go over the budget report now, to which Katie agrees (see budget approval below).
- **Secretary Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Communication Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Principal Report:** Kayla thanked everyone, both PTO members and those in attendance for their hard work on behalf of herself, the teachers, and the entire Crossing family. Kayla explained that the "Family Picnic" on September 20th is a read-in for parents to come read with their children twenty five minutes prior to their lunch time, extending the invitation for parents to stay and have lunch with their child following. Additionally, Kayla introduced Nikki Hursh who will serve as a teacher representative for all PTO meetings rather than having staff rotate throughout the year for representation. Nikki will work with the PTO and teachers for all needs through the year, ensuring that teams remain involved.
- **Teacher Report:** On behalf of the teachers and staff, Nikki Hursh thanked the PTO for the upgrades made to the staff bathrooms throughout the building as well as the cleaning of the staff lounge.

Committee Reports

- **Spirit Nights:** We had our first spirit night at the end of the August at Raising Cane's Chicken fingers, we have yet to receive the check, so we are unsure of how well it went. The following spirit nights have been scheduled out for the remainder of 2024:
 - September 19th Red Robin
 - October 15th Chipotle (HRR)
 - November 8th Chuck E. Cheese
 - December 4th Buffalo Wild Wings
- **Walk-A-Thon:** Alternation with Read-a-thon. Make a track in the field out behind the school with stations at the corners to engage students or give breaks from walking, Heidi brought a speaker two years ago which we will utilize again however, we are nixing the balloon arch. Katie found a yard sign woman to put a sign in the yard. Use get moving fund hub provides the website for fundraising, where they place sponsors, take care of donations, etc. only take 10% of profit. Last year read-a-thon we kept 97% of money raised. On Monday a letter will be sent home explaining the fundraiser and details. The child will make a pledge for laps for the children on the fundraising site. Registration starts Monday 16, goes through October 2 (actually open through midnight October 6th).

Our goal this year is 9k. Have been reaching out to sponsors, we have raised \$1850 committed to donations. They are paying by check, so they don't take 10% from those sponsorships. Sent out open offers to attendees to reach out with additional sponsors from local businesses. Jennie feels comfortable. Prizes in the PTO closet box will be used for registration reward. -- Prizes aren't consistent is an issue if we used them as a lap counting mechanism, so it's suggested we count laps with bracelets, maybe make the course longer to slow down the jam caused by the bracelets? – Jennie suggested blue beads and pipe cleaner, shoot for rainbow beads to give an array of color choices.

Prize bucket for registration. Kayla suggests that we check in with that about every three days to get prizes moving. **Extra recess** if we reach 9k. Teacher silly string thoughts thrown out by Nikki as an incentive. Popsicles given at the end of walk a thon for the kids on the day of the event. Canes is going to donate water bottles at the finish line – however, Katie is going to check with them to see if they have enough for everyone. Raffle baskets given to us by Cane's will be utilized for spring fling as well (as we can't use them for this fundraiser). Whoever happens to be the class that raises the most on the % of the # of kids, everyone's name goes into a drawing where one will be chosen to silly string their teacher. Volunteer shifts are going to be needed, the PTO is going to make a signup genius to ensure coverage of the event. Main cost right now swag bags, beads, pipe cleaner, yard sign (\$55), and popsicles (will check need of the stash in the teacher's lounge). This event is likely to stay under its \$900 budget.

- **Spirit wear sale:** In the past we have utilized Powell Prints, last year we voted to go with a new vendor for the 24-25 school year. The new vendor is a local mom named Melissa McKenzie with her business being named CeCe Hope Style Inc. – She offers new designs, earrings, hair clips, tumblers, sweatpants, etc., of which rather than having a limited ordering time, will be available for purchase all year long. Katie noted that once the link to our new spirit wear is up and running, it will be posted on the PTO Facebook page, as well as sent out in Kayla's weekly email to parents. – Kayla wanted to note that the staff shirts for this school year were fantastic, and everyone loved them, of which were produced by CeCe Hope Style Inc., so we are very excited for this year's spirit wear.
- **ISPTO:** Emily states that the meeting next week; nothing to report.

Old Business

- **Spring flower sale contract:** Last May at the last 23-24 PTO meeting, it was voted that the PTO would not be conducting the spring flower sale in the spring of 2025 and rather seek another fundraising opportunity (TBD).

New Business

- **Budget Approval:** Annual fundraiser goal (line #13) is budgeted at \$11,000. Spring flower sale continuance is dependent upon newly chosen fundraiser (still yet to be determined), and the proposed budget's needs come spring. STEM night budget is \$2,000. Artists in the school/COSI increase to \$1500. Teacher wish list from \$500 to \$2500 as this portion of the budget for teachers took a decrease last year for playground funds. Teacher and Staff appreciation budget also increased from cuts made previously (\$2500 to \$3000). Conference dinners increase too (\$1000 to \$1200). 5th grade celebration is also increased to \$3000 to make up for the fact we have to find a new venue and celebration as a whole since Ten Pin was bought out and is now out of budget. Overall balance totals out to zero, which is what we want with the budget. Did not

allocate all of the excess money within the budget for reasons dependent upon random needs of the PTO, such as a laminator/catch all.

Question: Do we fundraise this year for next school year? Answer: Not technically, we typically utilize the fundraisers each year and carry over excess. We budget according to needs.

****** We are not doing Mums this year. Beacon is doing them, and we can send people there for sales.

Erin notes she got the late picture check from Kayla, but isn't in the budget yet, needs to be approved before she add it. Motion to approve budget from Jennie and Naheda.

Budget approved.

- **Volunteers needed:** Donna states that she has a couple of events that need chairs and/or volunteers to ensure their success.
 - Spring Fling: This job includes collecting, handling, and putting together raffle baskets consisting of items collected from each grade level, of which each grade is assigned a theme. Jennie Benetiz volunteered to head spring fling raffle baskets this year.
 - School store: This job includes collecting applications from fifth graders, ordering/purchasing and stocking the school store (of which the fifth grade runs), creating the schedule (with guidance from Kayla Pinnick), as well as ensuring the store is stocked through the website utilized. Holleh Vansant volunteers to oversee the school store. States she will work with Katie Meyer after she checks in with Erica Ditto (past overseer of the store) for more guidance and information to ensure it runs smoothly.
 - Family movie night: this volunteer position would aid in the organization of movie night which would likely focus on ordering snack for purchase during the event itself (bags of chips, cookies, etc.). Donna and Katie agreed that out of all the volunteer positions currently needed as it pertains to events, this is the most low key, low stress. No one volunteered, so we are still seeking an individual.
 - Last is a program (similar to Giving Tree) that will aid in the sponsorship of school supplies for students at Crossing next year. Brittnee suggested such a program exist to help aid students who are unable financially to obtain school supplies in getting them. Additionally, this program would greatly benefit the teachers by providing additional supplies that they can utilize. This is a new program so it's still in the brainstorming phase, but we are looking for suggestion and/or volunteers to aid in the development and subsequent head this program.
- **Fifth Grade Celebration:** Eryn and Emily met today to talk about fifth grade celebration. Due to the fact we need to change locations (Ten Pin is no longer feasible), they plan to enlist the help of parents on brainstorming new celebration ideas. Will send out an email to all fifth grade parents and go from there.
- **Holiday Shop:** PTO has looked into offering a holiday shop for Crossing students this winter. The company is called Penguin Patch and has been used by previous PTO groups/moms. The items within the fundraisers start at a quarter and go up to about fifteen dollars. The PTO is able to choose a markup value, that way we can utilize this shop as a fundraising opportunity (which still keeps the cost between the quarter and fifteen dollar range). The shop consists of little trinkets and gifts that students will be able to shop for during school hours (similar to the bookfair). All gifts are non-denominational

and span from immediate family (mom, dad, siblings), to extended (grandma, grandpa, aunts, uncles). We are looking to have the shop open three or four days in December, with a possibility of having a weekend shop open next year (depending on how well the shop does financially). An answer on the shop is needed by October 5th, therefore the PTO asked for a vote where it was approved unanimously by all in attendance.

- **Second Fall Fundraiser:** We have not chosen a second fall fundraiser. PTO has chosen to wait until after we discover what the Walk-A-Thon raises to proceed with second options.
- **Zoo Visit (11/18):** On November 18th the Columbus Zoo Ambassadors will be providing a free assembly for all Crossing students with animals. There will be three assemblies throughout the day, each containing two grade levels. Katie checked with Kayla to get our free and reduced lunch percentages, as those numbers are what is providing the free assembly.

Katie plans to get the superintendent at the upcoming October meeting that way we can gain information about Issue 39 (the upcoming school levy), as well as have an educated source to answer any questions from PTO meeting attendees.

Katie asked if there were any additional questions about the information covered this evening; with none being asked.

Motion to adjourn by Donna and seconded by Emily – Meeting Closed.