

**Claxton PTO
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2019**

I. Thank You

- A. Thank you to Tricia Johnson for coordinating the ACS Craft Fair and the CLX hive.
- ACS Craft Fair was the first collaborative PTO event between multiple ACS schools.
 - All but one ACS school had at least one family participating.
 - Mr. Butler provided music, along with other local musicians.
 - It was a big success!
- B. Thank you to Mr. Butler, Ms. Rigsby, Mr. Godleski for Alice in Wonderland, Jr. our fall play performed by 4th and 5th graders.
- C. Thank you to Ms. Brown for her hard work on Thanks for Reading
- 350 guests attended.
 - The book fair with Firestorm Books in West Asheville provided money for all of our teachers to purchase books for their classrooms.
- D. Thank you to all the CLX families who participated in the winter clothing drive/exchange.
- This will likely become an annual drive since it was such a big success.
 - Mary Cousins very appreciative of the help replenishing the closet at Emma Elementary.
 - The nurse's office at CLX is *always* in need of gently used shoes; new socks and underwear; and sweatpants. Please consider donating them at any time!

II. Staff Updates

- A. **Assistant Principal's Message (Ms. Nichols)**
- Fall NC Check-in's are complete!
 - CLX's annual Storytelling Festival is coming up this Friday, December 6. Many thanks to Mr. Godleski for arranging this big event every year.
 - Asheville City Schools Foundation will be buying a book for every 5th grader to go with the Jason Reynolds event in March (he has written many amazing middle-grade and YA books). They are looking for contributions to help make this happen. Emails have gone out to ACS families, and you can donate on their website.
 - CLX specialists have allocated money from their funds to make sure our 5th graders can attend the Jason Reynolds event for 5th grade ACS students.

- CLX teachers have been participating in Artfully Resilient workshops that help them with the stress of teaching by talking and learning about resiliency and doing mindfulness and self-care activities. Organized by Molly Peeples and Lina Olson.

B. Social Justice Team

- The Team is focusing on goals for this year.
- Its new mission: To focus on diversity, identity, and inclusiveness to create a school culture that is inclusive for all students.
- The family workshops this spring will be more like the experience students will be having in school. This will give families a common understanding and language to talk about and practice inclusiveness.
- The Team is also working with teachers to help them align the Teaching Tolerance standards with curriculum in the classroom.
- The Social Justice Team model is districtwide, but it originated at CLX with funding from a social justice grant from ACSF. We have served as a model for other ACS schools.
- To increase access and inclusiveness to PTO meetings, the PTO, at the request of the Social Justice Team, will start streaming PTO meetings to bring them to those families who can't come to them. Starting with next month's meeting, they will be streamed on Facebook Live, which also preserves them for watching later.

C. Specialists

- In February, Mr. Butler will speak at the PTO meeting to give families more information about Claxton's arts theme. He will talk about what it means to be an A+ school and how the specialists are working to get CLX more involved in and able to benefit from membership in a statewide network of A+ schools.
- 3rd graders had field trip to see the Asheville Symphony perform. Traditionally, the Symphony performs at ACS schools, but its performance this year was unexpectedly interrupted by CoGAT testing. Many thanks to Mr. Butler for arranging to have our 3rd graders attend the performance at Jones Elementary and to Ms. Nichols for supporting this off-campus field trip so they didn't miss out!
- Storyteller and TAPAS artist (Teaching Artists Presenting in Asheville Schools; a program run by the Asheville City Schools Foundation) David Novak has been working with 3rd graders to support creative writing in advance of the Storytelling Festival. A group of students will also do a presentation as student storytellers at the Festival.
- The Storytelling Festival is an all-day event in which students go to multiple storytelling performances by artists of all sorts of backgrounds. It is taking place this Friday 12/6 and is open to parents. (Ask your child's teacher for the schedule if you'd like to attend.) The teachers have been connecting storytelling to the classroom curriculum to make it a particularly rich experience for students.
- The PTO will provide food for the 15 visiting storytellers.

D. Social Emotional Learning Team

- The Team is currently collecting data from a screening all teachers have performed.
- This information will help support the Team's work this year.

E. Lighthouse/Leader in Me

- CLX's Leader in Me advisor visited the school this past month.
- The Team learned more about how to best use leadership notebooks and WIGs (wildly important goals) and will share this information with classroom teachers.
- The Team will also be encouraging families to work with their kids to create family goals; this will encourage kids to use the same strategies they're learning in their classrooms outside of school as well.

III. Treasurer's Report (Ashley Israel (not present, but sent report to the meeting))

A. Boosterthon

- Net income to PTO: \$26,111.53
- This includes giving teachers 10% of funds raised and buying all students tee-shirts.

B. Fall Carnival

- Estimated net income: over \$4,000.
- This is the highest net from the carnival in years (over \$1,000 more than last year).

C. ACS Craft Fair

- Gross sales from Craft Fair - apx. \$2,500 to be distributed among participating schools.

D. Dance for 3rd-5th grades

- The dance is a fundraiser to support the 4th grade spring field trip to Raleigh and 5th grade spring field trip to Washington, DC.
- This year's first dance raised \$1,350.
- There will not be a holiday dance as in years past, but there will be one in February.

E. Treasurer Position for next school year:

- Due to a new work conflict, our Treasurer (Ashley Israel), will not be able to continue in her role beyond June 30, 2019. Please join us in thanking Ashley for her many years in this role and her dedication to this position.
- We will therefore need a new Treasurer (or ideally a team of people to divide the work) for the next school year (fiscal year begins July 1). Ashley will be around and available to help all next year with the transition.
- A general role description is available online: tinyurl.com/CLXTREASURER

- Please let Amanda Pattanayak (alsevigny@aol.com) or Stephanie Jones (stephmissvolgo@gmail.com) know if you have an interest or if we can answer any questions.

IV. Event Updates

A. **Boosterthon**

- We are so grateful to the chairs who put in a ton of work on this year's Boosterthon!
- Membership discussed whether to continue using Boosterthon or perhaps engaging them for fewer services. Boosterthon is a for-profit organization that takes a deposit and a hefty sliding scale take of funds raised.
- One option is to do more of the work ourselves and have Boosterthon take a smaller percentage of the funds raised. Boosterthon offers different tiers that allow schools to do more work to keep more of the money. For example, we could put on the pep rally and race day ourselves and use Boosterthon only for solicitations, donations, and prizes.
- The other option is not using Boosterthon at all. There are ways to do the same fundraising ourselves, including platforms that will work the same way online to make soliciting and collecting donations easy.
- We are also interested in moving away from the prizes, which create inequities for students and add to waste.
- The PTO is looking for people to take this on for next year! Please let Amanda Pattanayak (alsevigny@aol.com) or Stephanie Jones (stephmissvolgo@gmail.com) know if you're interested.

B. **Claxton Hive/Bee Cause Honey Fundraiser**

- Our CLX hive collapsed, but Tricia Johnson is bringing in a new hive. Hive collapse is becoming more common, and while it's sad to have happen, it's a good learning experience for the students.
- The Bee Cause honey fundraiser provides money to CLX and to the organization that helped us set up our first hive. Buying Bee Cause honey helps pay it forward so Bee Cause can help other schools set up hives and spread information about honey bees and their importance in and sensitivity to our environment.
- Bee Cause honey is available for purchase in the front office.
- Spread the word about honey for the holidays!
- Tricia is available to answer your questions about the bees!

C. **Staff Mini Grants (Gabrielle Trott)**

- Although we funded teacher mini grants at the last meeting, the PTO extended the fall deadline at teachers' requests. We received five additional applications:

- Shealin Eldridge: \$218.92 for sensory options for the safe space in Ms. Eldridge's 3rd grade classroom. These items include: Mountain Math spiral review, alternative seating, kinetic sand, and a magnetic file folder.
- Lindsay Barta: \$339.96 for a sensory edge rug for her classroom to replace her current rug, which is falling apart and a tripping hazard. The rug she will purchase with these funds is CRI green-label, has anti-microbial protection, and meets Fire Code safety standards.
- Kelly Hillier: \$57.89 for math tools for targeted instruction in the 5th grade. Ms. Hillier will use these funds to purchase the EAI Education Fraction Model Multipliers and Activity Set, hands-on materials that help students learn fractions, decimals, and percentages.
- Michelle Burge: \$298.04 for social and emotional learning materials to help address social learning and communication challenges in the classroom. These include games, lessons, activities, discussion guides, curriculum, books, strategies, and lessons that will be shared among the classroom teachers, primarily at the K- level.
- Mary Nichols: apx. \$300 for Student Lighthouse Team supplies to help create a sustainable and functioning Student Lighthouse Team. The Team, comprised of eight 5th graders and eight 4th graders, meets during members' lunchtime to plan upcoming events at Claxton. The funds will be used to purchase lanyards, posters, supplies, leadership displays, and support for PBIS assemblies.
- Membership moved, seconded, and voted to approve all five applications.

D. Claxton Jubeelee (Amy Aiken and Lisa Manning)

- This is our annual fundraising auction. We are taking donations now. The Chairs can share the spreadsheet with anyone who wants to see what donations they have solicited in the past.
- Please email Amy and/or Lisa if you have solicited donations before and can do so again.
- Open Doors is having their fundraising auction the night we were planning to have ours (February 29). This impacts us not only in donations and attendance, but in food donations.
- Therefore, the Chairs have been looking at other dates, with a preference for Saturdays because Fridays are hard on the volunteers putting on the auction. Also, there are other fundraising events on Fridays in March. March 14 is most likely.
- The membership discussed the potential conflict with college basketball and decided we can put a T.V. in a back room to encourage families who are fans to still attend the Jubeelee.
- The Chairs are working on selecting a venue.
- At the request of membership, they agreed to contact people who have solicited donations in the past to see if they can get them again. This will help

avoid duplication of effort and ensure that businesses who are kind enough to donate don't receive multiple solicitations.

E. Giving Smiles / Holiday Giving Program

- Those who have already volunteered to provide **Giving Smiles** gifts for a CLX child and/or sibling, please bring them, **wrapped and in the bag provided with the original tag** to Mr. Edwards by December 11.
- Families participating in the Holiday Giving Program, please bring **unwrapped gifts with family #** to the Family Resources center at Emma Elementary by December 13.

F. New School Improvement Team member

- Membership voted to approve Lindsey Kucsera as the new parent representative on the School Improvement Team.
- Lindsey has a background in special education and will be a great addition to the team.
- Congratulations, Lindsey!

Meeting adjourned at 7:21