

Claxton PTO
General Membership Meeting
October 1, 2019

Number of members present: 27

Meeting called to order at 6:00.

I. Welcome by PTO Co-Presidents Stephanie Jones & Amanda Pattanayak

II. Thank You/Shout Outs

- A. Thanks to Lindsey Kucsera and Sarah Howell for organizing September staff appreciation luncheon which was hosted by 5th grade families. Lindsay said that for October luncheon, hosted with 4th grade families, they're using Sign Up Genius for donations/volunteers.
- B. Thanks to Anne Callihan and Mimi Vrable for Ice Cream Social.
- C. Thanks to Erin Dunnuck and Meg Ragland for Merchandise sales at Ice Cream Social and throughout year. They vend at certain events and will have car magnets for sale at carnival.
- D. Thanks to 4th/5th reps for dance. September dance brought in \$1100 that goes towards field trips and other needs.
- E. Thanks to Meredith Love who leads up PTO corporate sponsorship.
- F. Thanks to Sara Niedenthal and Wren London for their incredible efforts on Fun Run.

III. Fun Run Update by Wren London

- A. Approximate profit for Claxton is \$31,000 (based on 95% collection), which is \$4000 above goal. Thank you to teachers for your support and energy behind this! We acknowledge that it's an interruption to some class time and appreciate the help.

IV. PTO Meeting Minutes and Information

- A. See claxtonparents.com for minutes from last month. We're working on summary budget.

V. Update from Claxton Music Teacher, Mr. Butler

- A. Claxton has had a relationship with LEAF (Lake Eden Arts Festival) and its artists for many years. Each fall we do a 2nd grade LEAF artist residency and this year's will be with artist Darrell Rose during the week of Oct 14-18. This experience will culminate in an afternoon student assembly (families welcome) with performance by all 2nd graders on Fri, Oct 18 and a performance by some of our 2nd graders at LEAF on Sat, October 19.

VI. Corporate Sponsorships Report by Meredith Love

- A. Thanks to returning sponsor Blue Ridge Pediatric Dentistry and Claxton parent Dan Knechtel. Thanks also to repeat sponsors Blue Ridge Orthodontics and Range Urgent Care.

VII. Principal's Update by Mr. Edwards

- A. Big thanks to Mrs. Nichols. Mr. Edwards was out for a few weeks on planned medical leave. Appreciated Mrs. Nichols and the entire Claxton team for keeping Claxton running smoothly. Ms. Wertheim-Davis, former 2nd grade teacher who is interning with Claxton administration this fall, helped enormously during this time.
- B. Fun Run was amazing! Loved seeing new and returning families out on the field. Thanks for supporting our school.
- C. We are planning a clothing drive in partnership with Ira B. Jones Elementary. Trying to meet some needs that area agencies often can't help with. We're going to swap donated items between Jones and Claxton.
- D. Istation is our new state reading assessment, which you might have read about in the news. Since this measure is completely new to us, we're using the fall assessment information to help figure out how to utilize this benchmarking tool. Fall assessment information won't be coming home with students as it is not yet a good data point for us. Student reports from the winter benchmark window will be shared with families.
- E. October is a great month here! Love the carnival--join us!

VIII. Event Updates

- A. Carnival Update by Susannah Watson -- Carnival Team meeting was held yesterday. Getting vendors lined up. It's an event intended to support our sense of community. It is a fundraiser but emphasis is on FUN and building connection within our community. Official launch for carnival season and prep will be on Thursday with the announcement of carnival flyer contest winner! There were 58 flyer contest entries. We are looking for Claxton alumni kids who have community service hours or are otherwise interested in helping with carnival; please spread the word and contact Carnival Co-Chairs Susannah Watson and Kelly Yeiser with interest. Carnival takes our entire community coming together with volunteers. Carnival committee could use a couple of other volunteers to help prior to event; team is looking for a volunteer event design assistant (festive decor, etc) and volunteer point person (coordinate with community volunteers). Being a volunteer is such a wonderful experience of getting to understand the school and teachers. Sometimes people might be hesitant to volunteer but the time slots are really designed for people to just give a little bit of time during the carnival (or split a timeslot with a friend). Parent/PTO member Patricia Simpson volunteered to be the point person for carnival volunteers. Looking for a few things to borrow--EZ-up tents, LED lanterns; contact co-chairs if you have these.
- B. Jubeelee Update by Lisa Manning and Amy Aiken -- Jubeelee Team is looking for volunteers. Event is scheduled for Sat, 2/29/20. Since the event is earlier this

year, we are starting to get donations and need volunteers, who can help with getting donations, to join the team. Event will be at Ivy building at AB Tech; this is a historic building that is currently undergoing renovations. Very accessible parking. Exploring catering options.

- C. ACS Craft Fair (all ACS schools invited to participate) - Will be held Sat 11/9 from 10-5 at Salvage Station. Tricia Johnson is lead organizer. See Buzz newsletter or claxtonparents.com for more information.

IX. Leader in Me Parent/Family Intro by Ms. Ferguson, Claxton 1st Grade Teacher

- A. [YouTube Video of Ms. Ferguson's presentation](#)
- B. Downloadable [Leader in Me Parent's Guide](#)

Next Meeting: November 5

Adjourned at 7:00.