

**Claxton PTO
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Broadcast on Facebook Live.

I. Thank You's

- **Thank you to all the new faces at the meeting tonight!** We are always thrilled to see new community members come to PTO meetings and of course we're always happy for involvement in committees/events that interest you. (See below for some of the committees that are looking for new members in the 2020-2021 school year.)
- **Thank you to everyone who participated in the Claxton Month of Love!** Many CLX families "adopted" staff members with notes and treats throughout the month of February. This is so very helpful during a hard month for staff.
- **Thank you 4th and 5th grade reps for a very successful Winter Dance!** Dances are for 3rd through 5th graders and raise funds for the 4th and 5th grade field trips to Raleigh and DC, respectively. The money not only helps offset the cost to families but helps with scholarships.
- **Thank you Karan Eifried and Nanci Mackey for organizing and running the Scholastic Book Fair!** Karan and Nanci were at Claxton every single day of the book fair, with help from volunteers. It went so smoothly and was such fun.
- **Thank you to Cherie Davis, for everything she has done for Claxton!** Ms. Davis recently left her position as Claxton's secretary to take a job closer to her new home. The PTO gave her a gift of appreciation and sent her off with our love.

II. Staff Updates

A. Principal's Message (Ms. Nichols)

- **Claxton recently hired Ms. Martin as our new bookkeeper.** She will be in the front office for 2 hours in the mornings as she transitions into her position full-time. Ms. Martin is also a CLX parent! We're so excited to have her!
- Please note that there's been some **reorganization of the front office**, and everyone there has stepped into a new position. Please be patient with them as they learn the ropes!
- **NC Check-Ins** are coming up for 3rd through 5th graders.
- There will be a **student talent show on April 1**. Information about auditions has gone home. Encourage your talented kids to participate!
- Ms. Conti deserves a shout-out for her work on the **Hidden Monuments project**. She conceived the idea when she was in college and brought it to life at Claxton. Third grade students research Asheville's African-American "hidden" history and design monuments to community leaders and events, with a showing in the Media

Center. This is a terrific example of arts integration, helping students learn history by deploying their art and design minds.

- Claxton will be holding a **Career Fair on March 11**.
- You should be aware that Central Office has been contacting parents to assess **parent engagement**. This is part of Title I, a federal program that provides much-needed funds to our school district. If you are contacted, we hope you can provide some information!
- **Math Night is March 19**. It will be a little bit different this year. Parents will choose sessions to attend so they can learn how math is taught at Claxton. (There will be two 30-minute sessions available.) We will also be offering an arts-integrated activity for children in the gym.

B. Lighthouse/Leader in Me Team (Ms. Nichols)

- Ms. Nichols and several teachers recently attended an all-day symposium on the Leader in Me. It was a great chance to learn about what other Leader in Me schools do.
- They visited one school that offered clubs every week, with every staff member leading a club based on kids' interests. This is something we are looking to do in the future at Claxton.
- All students are currently participating in a **school-wide WIG** (Wildly Important Goal) in math. There is a scoreboard in front hallway so kids (and their proud families!) can see their progress.
- Claxton is ambitiously working toward achieving "**Lighthouse status**" next year, a recognition for reaching a new level of achievement in the Leader in Me program. Acquiring Lighthouse status will involve having a **parent Lighthouse Team** that will work with the staff and student Lighthouse teams. Parents will provide guidance for our 5th grade Lighthouse team (for example advising the safety or hospitality teams on projects and goals) and will provide some office support (copying, printing, etc.) Parents would meet with student teams probably every other week during school lunch.
- Additionally, **the PTO is looking for Lighthouse chairpersons** to facilitate this. Of course, the PTO Chairs could also be parent Lighthouse team members.

C. Specialists (Coach Hafke)

- **Asheville City Schools middle school bands, chorus, and orchestra came to perform for our 5th graders and recruit them to join**. If students don't sign up for band in 6th grade, they can't participate in 7th or 8th, so be sure to contact the music department of your rising 6th grader's school for more information!
- Coming up, the **4th graders will have a Celtic workshop March 6-13**, with financial support from the PTO allowing us to invite Rosalind Buda, a bagpipe player who will give a musical presentation; Bardic Alchemy, a Celtic music group; and an Irish dancer.
- **1st graders will have a LEAF residency with The Campfire Reverends**, who will work with them on folk music and campfire songs. **The students will perform at the LEAF Festival over the weekend of May 15!**

- **5th graders will also have a LEAF residency, this one involving building their own drums with Steven Turner and Giving Tree Music. They'll be performing at the LEAF Festival as well over the weekend of May 15!**
- **3rd graders are starting their recorder flute unit.** Every 3rd grade student brings home a recorder flute that they will learn to play, reading music. We hope to have enough extra donations from 3rd grade families to provide scholarships for students who need assistance purchasing a recorder flute and will look to the PTO for additional assistance if it's needed.
- **Field Day** will likely be Tuesday, May 26. Coach Hafke is working with the PTO to help support him as he runs this event for the first time. The PTO hospitality committee is already working on food donations and volunteer sign-up. **Look for your chance to volunteer at this super-fun event!**

III. Treasurer Updates (Stephanie Jones)

- **Dawn Rollins has agreed to be the PTO treasurer next year, with help from Sara Niedenthal! Thank you, Dawn and Sara!!!**
- We are hoping to get a **Finance Team** together to help make it less of a burden for any one parent, so **please let us know if you'd like to join!**
- All PTO Chairs will soon be receiving a copy of the current budget. If you chair a committee, please check to see how much money is still available for you so the PTO can stay within its budget.
- Income from the Winter Dance = \$1191.

III. Event Updates

A. Jubeelee (Lisa Manning and Amy Aiken)

- Jubeelee is a celebration of Claxton and a major fundraiser. It's an adults-only evening of food, music, drinks, dancing, and both silent and live auctions. Tickets, available at <https://www.biddingowl.com/Jubeelee>, include all food and drinks.
- In the past, this has been known as the Claxton Auction, but the committee rebranded it as Jubeelee this year to celebrate Claxton's bee theme and to make it a recognizable and specific event.
- We will have **two live bands and DJing by Dr. Dickerson** this year!
- Asheville Primary School (APS) has joined us in planning this event. This was an opportunity for Claxton to engage with the larger Asheville City Schools community and to give this relatively new PTO experience with fundraising.
- **Tickets are available on line (free for staff with reduced rates for staff guests).** See staff email for details.
- The committee is requesting **assistance with collecting auction items.** We don't have as many donations as last year yet, but we expect to have more people attending the event. **We are especially looking for live auction items! (These are big ticket items, e.g., \$800 or more. Several nights at a cabin, orthodontics package, etc.)** Email Lisa Manning (manningLA@yahoo.com) or Amy Paxton Aiken (aepaxton@gmail.com) if you can help!

- **If you're on Facebook, please like the Jubeelee Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/thejubeelee> **and invite friends to like it.** There are daily postings of the cool items that will be available in the auction. Please share them!
- Lisa also welcomes help with postings. We want to celebrate and promote the businesses who have donated, which means many and frequent Facebook posts.
- **If you have been collecting donations, thank you! You can leave them in Ms. Nichols' office or give them to Amy.**
- **The committee is still looking for an MC/auctioneer.** They would love to have one CLX parent and one APS parent, OR a professional auctioneer. This would also involve introducing bands and announcing closing of tables. Please email Amy/Lisa if you have a lead!
- Last year, for the first time, there was an online auction leading up to and after the auction to generate excitement and allow out-of-town family members to participate. There will definitely be an after-auction this year, but the committee asked the members in attendance for their opinion about holding an online auction before the event. The consensus was not to hold one before the event.
- **Asheville Primary School has secured childcare option with Roots and Wings. Limited numbers. See Buzz for details on how to sign up.**
- **PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP THE DAY OF THE EVENT!** <https://tinyurl.com/jubeeleehelp> Any amount of time is super helpful. You can bring kids to set-up during the day!
- We've sold about 70 tickets so far. Last year, 200 tickets were pre-sold. **Please get your tickets and spread the word! You do not have to be a Claxton family to come. It's just fun!**
- **Financial assistance is available for Claxton families from Mr. Ackerman.**

B. Teacher Mini Grants (Gabrielle Paschall)

- Teacher mini-grants are \$300-500 dollar grants Claxton teachers can apply for, funded entirely by the PTO.
- We have \$6,000 allocated to teacher mini-grants in this year's budget. About \$4,500 remains (not accounting for any reimbursement requests that haven't yet been submitted).
- At last month's meeting, the PTO approved \$300 for a 3rd grade field trip to complement the Hidden History monuments project.
- The following applications have come in this month:
 - Ms Baggerly: \$291.22 to purchase lap looms for her classroom
 - Social Justice League: \$834 for the 6 people on the committee to attend a 3-day conference in July to present about the work the Social Justice League does. They were able to receive funding for the conference fees but need assistance for travel and lodging.
 - Step Team: \$58 for a portable Bluetooth speaker
 - Ms. Martin: \$308 for a ping pong/tennis table for staff to relax and for kids to play in the gym in the mornings. (Ms. Nichols shared that there have been discussions of how to allow kids to play outside before school. But there is a supervision issue, so it is an ongoing discussion.) We will

look for a less costly used one, but if we can't find one, we will give Ms. Martin funds for a new one.

- Ms. Autrey: \$350 for a Holocaust survivor to speak to 5th grade in conjunction with them reading *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and a Teaching Tolerance unit
- Ms. Morgan: \$239.20 for a 2nd grade living life cycle insect project
- All of these requests come to \$ 2347.05. This would leave about \$2,000 left in the budget.
- The membership discussed the fact that the Social Justice League request exceeds the maximum grant amount of \$400 for a group but is also something that touches not only the entire Claxton community but will have an even wider reach at the conference. We decided we could fund it as two group requests awarded \$400 each.
- The membership moved and seconded to approve all grant requests. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. **Fun Run 2020 (Meredith Stanley)**

- The PTO's new Fun Run team has received feedback from CLX families who are concerned about the percentage of funds raised that Boosterthon receives and about a lack of equity awarding prizes based on how much money a student raises.
- The committee discovered that Boosterthon offers different tiers of support; with less support, Boosterthon takes a lower cut.
- The committee voted to purchase the lowest tier of service, which means we receive ONLY the Boosterthon pledge platform (www.funrun.com). This will make soliciting and receiving donations much easier.
- The committee will need LOTS of help with sponsorships for class prizes. There will be more of an emphasis on class-based prizes rather than awarding individuals for fundraising. This will increase equity.
- Please contribute your ideas for what class prizes could be! E.g., CLX swag; visits from athletes, etc. Sponsors will be thanked on social media.
- Contacts are needed for:
 - a photographer (pep rally and event day)
 - an inflatable tunnel (for students to run through on the day of the event)
 - print marketing
- The committee also needs help putting on the pep rally from talented staff and parents.
- They are in search of a social media person who would do lots of posting during the two weeks of the fundraiser.
- The pep rally/kick-off will be September 29. The Fun Run will take place on October 9.
- Please contact Stephanie Jones (stephmissvolgo@gmail.com) and/or Amanda Pattanayak (alsevigny@aol.com) if you are interested in helping out!

D. New Event! Claxton Family Potluck—April 1

- This is a community event intended to bring Claxton families together in a fun and friendly atmosphere.
- The Claxton Step Team and student music groups will perform.
- Families can bring any dish they'd like to share.
- Bring your own plate if you can.
- More information coming soon!

IV. Volunteer Needs! Come join a planning committee for the 2020-2021 school year!

The following PTO teams are in need of new members, ideas, and energy! Please let Stephanie Jones (stephmissvolgo@gmail.com) and/or Amanda Pattanayak (alsevigny@aol.com) know if you're interested!

- Yearbook Team
- Finance Review Team
- Jubeelee Auction Team
- Fall Carnival Team
- Advocacy Liaison
- Grounds Team
- New Families Team
- Claxton Rewards (formerly known as Passive Giving)
- Fun Run Team
- Leader in Me/Lighthouse Parent Helpers
- Secretary

Dates to Remember

Friday, March 13: Staff Appreciation Lunch (hosted by K and 1st grade families)

Saturday, March 14: Jubeelee!

Thursday, March 19: Math Night 5:30-7:00

Wednesday, April 1: Family Potluck 5:30-7:00

NO PTO MEETING IN APRIL BECAUSE OF SPRING BREAK

May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week

Tuesday, May 5: PTO Meeting 5:00 in the media center

Wednesday, May 6: School Nurses' Day (collect new sweatpants, socks, and underwear for Ms. Alday's office)

Thursday, May 14: Salvage Station Spirit Night 4:00-7:00. All money raised will go to Children First.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.