

Minutes—CW Henry PTA

August 25th, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom and was recorded

Welcome from President (Leah Corsover)

- PTA Board and Committee Chairs have rolled over from the Spring due to being unable to hold elections in person. The state PTA has now adjusted its bylaws to allow remote elections, so the new plan is to hold elections in September. Current board members are listed below; open board positions are marked.
- Please join the PTA! Membership needs to be renewed every year, so please join (or renew). You must be a member to vote in the elections next month. Link to join is on our website, www.cwhenrypta.org
- Mission and Vision of the PTA
 - Vision Statement** - The C.W. Henry School PTA is the driving force behind engaging and encouraging a diverse community to foster exceptional educational opportunities.
 - Mission Statement** - To build bridges which unite and sustain K-8 families and their community through stewardship and leadership. To support a stimulating and nurturing educational environment through advocacy, programs, and activities.
- Introduction of Board Members and Committee Chairs:

Leah Corsover – President (looking for a co-chair)

Baiyina Brown – Vice President

Mark Graham – Treasurer/Finance Chair (looking for a co-chair)

Rebecca Smith – Recording Secretary (not returning)

Patty Skuster – Corresponding Secretary

Bridget Morak—Membership Committee Chair

Meghan Medlock—Projects & Events Committee Chair

Natasha Broadwater—Fundraising Committee Chair

Jennifer Byiers and Rachel Sitkin Marks – Communications Committee Co-Chairs

Katharina Mullins-Sheard – Lower School Committee Co-Chair (Teacher)

Jonathan Barnes and Orien Smith-Warren – Lower School Committee Co-Chairs (Parents)

Kimberly Smith—Upper School Committee Co-Chair (Teacher)

Maurice Watts—Upper School Committee Co-Chair (Parent)

Kristen Roth—Playground Committee Chair

Meredith Jacoby—Garden Committee Chair

If you are interested in joining the Board or a Committee, please reach out via e-mail or our Facebook page.

Principal's Message (Ms. Davis)

- Teaching staff returned yesterday, Aug. 24, and are in professional development all week.
- Staff members are at the school getting chrome books, workbooks, and other materials ready for pick up. We are waiting on a delivery Thursday before scheduling pick-up times.
- Two new teachers have joined us – Mr. Joseph Peoples—1st grade, and Mr. Terri Conrad – Instrumental music, which is an additional special this year (Ms. Trisdorfer will be focused on world music and dance, and all children will receive both music specials)
- Staff are prepping for a fully virtual experience through Nov. 17. There were four parent meetings in August and will continue w/ bi-weekly meetings through September. Next meeting is on Sept. 1.
- C. W. Henry will be partnering with WHYY (1/3 schools) to work with a digital media educator to create and share media projects throughout the school.
- Registration is still open and ongoing. There have been some changes in enrollment, but we won't know final numbers for sure until the first day of school.
- There will be schedule updates from the teachers soon, hopefully later this week. Teachers are revising the supply lists and those will be shared in the next week.

- Teachers will be communicating through the portal initially to try and reach as many people as possible, so keep an eye out for e-mail updates coming through the parent portal.

Finance (Mark Graham)

- Budget Summary: Last year we brought in \$26,909 and spent \$57,718 (\$28,700 was for the playground resurfacing under the original structure. This was an intentional expense of savings)
- We did not receive any refund for Playworks last spring, but did not enter into a contract with them for this year.
- Leah added that she wants the budget for 20/21 to be very transparent and to get input from all PTA members.
- We froze PTA spending in the Spring due to the pandemic, but also missed out on expected sources of revenue as all of our Spring fundraisers were cancelled.
- Mark would like for us to vote on releasing funds for classroom and specialist support to offer to teachers. \$4000 (\$100 per classroom teacher/\$250 per specialist)
- We also have teacher mini grants for special projects, classroom enhancements, etc. that teachers apply for every year. Ms. Pownall has requested ~\$500 for a green screen.
- A parent asked whether the school has a need for any school-wide subscriptions to online services that the budget could be used for instead of small amounts per classroom? The answer from Ms. Davis was an emphatic yes. Services they have purchased or are looking to purchase include Razzkids(\$3500), BrainPop (\$3000), and MysteryScience (\$1200). Total of aprox. \$8000 that they would have to find funding for.
- Teachers who were present said that they do count on the \$100 to offset the cost of supplies, so it was decided to keep that and consider helping with online subscriptions as well.
- Voted to approve some of these needs now, so that funds can be released before full budget is approved.
 - Motion made to allocate \$8000 of the budget in the following ways: \$4000 for teachers' classroom supplies, \$3500 for BrainPOP license, and \$500 to Ms. Pownall for a green screen. **Motion approved, no opposition or abstentions.**

Additional Questions from participants

- *Is there a way to increase involvement of upper school parents?* Leah responded that we have tried to find ways to encourage upper school involvement and are always open to new ideas; also this is not just a Henry issue, but family involvement tends to naturally decrease as children get older. Ms. Smith also added that upper school children often live further from the school so it is hard for them to come back to activities at night—activities during the school day or right after may be more practical for them.
- *Any ways that parents can volunteer or help?* Ms. Davis responded that one need may be to drive materials to families that live far away and can't get to school themselves
- *What is the status of the Childcare directory survey?* A small committee of people is organizing the data and it needs some more massaging. We need help!
- *Can the PTA organize in-person gatherings?* This has not been an option as of yet, but depending on health directives, the Board will discuss the possibility.

Visit the PTA website www.cwhenrypta.org for information on events, fundraisers, meeting minutes, volunteer opportunities, community news and to **join and donate to the PTA!**

Contact us: Cwhenrypta@gmail.com