

Cunniff School PTO Meeting

February 5, 2019

Attendance

Lee Haley, PTO Co-President
Milton Contreras, PTO Co-President
Jen Nicholson, Secretary
Tina Brisson, Co-Treasurer
Carrie Holland, Co-Treasurer
Mena Ciarlone, Cunniff Principal
Lauren Stefano
Julie Weeden
Cara Mia Bruncati
Helda Shirinian, ESL teacher
Anna Nolan
Jackie Airasian
Maura Hurley

Guest Speaker – Helda Sirinian, ESL

The two ESL teachers at Cunniff are Helda Sirinian and Danika Hodges. Together they service 44 students who speak a variety of languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Bulgarian, Thai, Russian, Persian, Chinese, Turkish, Pushto/Urdu, Mandarin, French, Armenian and Nepali. Students are identified by their home language survey which is filled out when registering. If a language other than English is spoken at home, students are assessed to determine eligibility. Services can be pull-out or push-in according to the proficiency and need of the student(s). The goal is to have ESL students receiving their services within the classroom. Students with very limited English proficiency are provided with cards in both their native language and English to help them when they are in the classroom. These students are very resilient and some exit ESL services after their first year of services. There is also an after-school program for ESL teachers where they socialize, finish their homework and practice reading. A morning program similar to iReady will begin shortly as well. A vast majority of our ESL students were born in the United States. ESL teachers will be working alongside reading and library teachers for Literacy Night coming up next month and will also be taking part of International Night in April.

Principal's Update

Mena reported that there is a custodian candidate that she is trying to move forward this week. There is a shortage with 3 out of 5 schools needing a custodian in some capacity. Hopefully an update will be ready to send by Sunday. Dalva O'Connell joined as our third lunch aide. A Literacy Night is being planned for March 7. Teachers are

excited to share iReady reports at conferences this month. Additionally, the 100th day of school is coming up later this week.

Upcoming Events

Family Fun Night is this Friday, February 8. Carm said we are still very much in need of volunteers for hour shifts and also to help with setting up beginning around 4:00pm.

Literacy Night – PTO was asked by teachers running the event if Scholastic dollars could be used to help purchase books, which we agreed. Lee will follow up with Maria about how to instruct the teachers to proceed. Mena noted that there are often books on sale for less than a dollar available on Scholastic that we can look into as options.

International Night – Anna Nolan reported that the date changed to April 25th due to a conflict with the original date. The new date is now the Thursday after April vacation. She believes there will be around 14 tables for the event.

Fitness and Fine Arts Night is coming in May.

New Business

Field Day – Lee spoke briefly today with Mr. Tempesta. He is thinking about keeping the K and Pre-K separate from the older grade levels. They will still be part of one of the red, white and blue, but it will be substantially separate (a “Critters Olympics” for the younger students). He also said that he doesn’t want to take away elements of past Field Days that students love such as the bounce house and shaved ice truck. Lee thinks instead of giving water bottles that it would be a good idea to give colored t-shirts for teams to wear that day.

Fundraisers

Box Top Contest – Lauren is considering the dates March 1-29 with the theme of “March Madness” for the contest. Instead of grade levels, we could have two classrooms as the winners.

Fire Truck escort – We will run this in the warmer weather this spring.

Carm mentioned that Julie is a contact from Fiorella’s and they are willing to donate gift cards so we need to think about how we can utilize them. We also have to finalize how to use the Car Wash gift cards that we were given.

5th Grade Update – Julie Weeden

Sargent Camp meeting is Wednesday, February 6 at 6pm at the Watertown police Station. Fifth grade will also have a table to sell favors at Family Fun Night.

Event Recaps

Tony moved to the Middle School. We purchased him a gift card from the PTO.

Fidget Chairs have all arrived. We did go over our budget of \$500 and it was closer to \$800 because of how the chairs were grouped for sale and shipping.

Financial Snapshot

Total raised: \$23,400

Left to Goal: \$1,600

In Reserves: \$6,693.19



Next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2019.