

PTO Meeting General Minutes
9/14/17

MEMBER ATTENDANCE LOG

Maile Solis	President
Jessica McDonogh	Vice President
Amy Totten	Treasurer
Melissa Oquendo	Secretary
Johanna Fricano	Fundraising Co-Chair
Susie Clark	Fundraising Co-Chair
Megan Green	Marketing & Communications Co-Chair
Debby Fries	Marketing & Communications Co-Chair
Joanne Pepper	Sports

Personalized Learning Presentation (Ms Sparrow, Ms. Rohan, Ms. Nolan)

- The Myth of Average by Todd Rose was used as a design.
- Personalized learning at CICS IP involves listening to kids, using empathy, movement, tech, being hands on, collaboration, meeting children at their level, and redesigned classrooms.
- We utilize Puma Reads, Puma Solves, NWEA skills navigator, computer-based programs, small groups, and mastery of skills.
- Differences included small and individual learning, student choice, collaboration, meeting, 1:1 tech.
- Innovation Night is used to communicate to parents, to display what children are doing in classrooms.
- Personalized learning minimizes summer loss, increases retention, and lowers suspensions and office referrals.
- Last year's implementations were Puma Reads and Puma Solves, Thrively, and Summit Learning.

Personalized Learning Q&A (Ms Sparrow, Ms. Rohan, Ms. Nolan, J.W. Kuebler)

- The new model is logistically different from old model due to student choice, using tech as a tool, teaching in small groups, and utilizing more support staff.
- K-4 use tech 20 minutes per day for reading and math each. 5-8 have used it longer, but we are trying to shift the balance. We welcome tough feedback, and are growing and refining the program.
- The Personalized Learning Model itself, as well as the classroom redesign, is unique to CICS IP and we received a grant for it. Some of the programs that we use are available nationally.
- There are weekly updates from teachers. Parents may reach out to teachers for additional information.

- The weekly updates give information on what every child is learning, though each is learning differently, at their own pace.
- One can access Lexia and ST Math at home if interested.
- Feedback has shown that parents prefer to have mostly no homework, but some homework is being assigned, especially for older grades, as High School preparation.
- The average summer loss is no loss. Some schools see gains.
- Scarves given to Personalized Learning presenters as a thank you.

Director Update (J.W. Kuebler)

- Thank you for the warm welcome, and the small-town feel that was evoked in welcoming new baby Jack to the Kuebler family.
- In his new role, J.W. wishes to be the Lead Learner, by being open and willing to learn, and displaying the energy, positivity, and joy that is already present at CICS IP.
- Introduction and Thank You to Assistant Director Jen Harth, for her capable leadership during the first few weeks of school.
- Budget Update:
 - We have no numbers yet from CPS.
 - We are hopeful, but concerned about “equity”.
 - We might need help with advocacy.
 - There is a board meeting on Monday Sept. 18th at 3:00, which might provide more clarity.
- Playworks:
 - Playworks is being funded by the PTO, and will begin soon.
 - This should improve the school via recess by getting students more engaged, ready to learn, feeling safer, decreasing bullying, and wasting less time.
 - The PlayWorks coach will be full-time at CICS IP starting in October.
 - The Jr. Coach Leadership Program will involve students in grades 4-6
 - There will be sports leagues for students in grades 3-4.
- Black Hawks Goal Program:
 - The Black Hawks Goal Program application has been submitted, and accepted.
 - Two members of the Black Hawks staff will run hockey workshops.
 - They will provide training for Matt Madera, the school’s PE teacher.
 - They will leave all of the equipment for the school to own and use.

Traffic Update (Beth Colodny)

- A Parent PRIDE Committee was formed to help with the traffic issues.
- Parents are urged to help within our community by volunteering on any free morning from 7:30-8:15 or free afternoon from 3:00-3:45. They will be provided with traffic vests and signs. Anyone able to volunteer can contact Beth.

PTO Board Updates (Maile Solis)

- Members of the PTO Board were introduced.

- Thanks to the PTO and involved parents, last year we were able to raise over \$40,000. We funded the playground renovation.
- This year we are funding Playworks as well as other identified school requests and needs, and we plan to identify additional needs, help to fund other improvements, assist with the potential budget crisis, and continue in partnership with the school.
- Members of each committee in attendance were introduced, or mentioned if not in attendance.

Fundraising Update (Susie Clark)

- On October 12th we will hold an Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner in the gym.
- The Fall Fund Drive is soon, in which we ask for financial donations from parents.
- The Puma Prowl is held at the end of the school year, in which we ask for pledges from other family and friends.

Marketing and Communications Update (Megan Green)

- The committee has been working on providing Facebook and Google Drive updates, and the newsletter. A school directory is in the works.

Sports Update (Maile Solis)

- Joanne has successfully planned such events as Cubs Night, Bulls Night, and Black Hawks Night.

Room Reps Update (Maile Solis)

- We are looking for help in this area. We are looking for a co-chair to handle administration and communication.
- We also need volunteers to serve as liaisons between their child's teacher and the parents.

Fine Arts Update (Maile Solis)

- The Puma Painters program will be starting next week as a part of Kid's Club, per Ms. Jimenez's correspondence. It will provide the opportunity to learn art appreciation and hands-on technique.
- This committee is looking for people with an interest in bringing supplemental Arts education to CICS IP.

Advocacy Update (Maile Solis)

- We are looking for volunteers to advocate for the school, and to serve as liaisons between our school and our local and state reps. Please contact Lou Ramos if interested.

Social Update (Maile Solis)

- Erin has done a great job planning parents' outings, Father/Son Bowling, Mother/Daughter Yoga, and dances.

- We are looking for help for the Fall Harvest Fest. It is a full day of activities, and we need people to coordinate, organize, and oversee this event. There are set procedures to follow to simplify organization, which can be expanded upon if desired.

BAC Update (Kathy Zerega, VP)

- The BAC provides a platform and serves as an advocacy group for Spanish-speaking parents.
- It is an inclusive group, and all are welcomed to attend meetings, which include coffee and muffins. Meetings are conducted in Spanish and English.
- The next BAC meeting is Weds. Sept. 20th at 8am.
- The BAC is looking for new members, and assistance in planning and hosting International Day. The event will be a celebration of culture and heritage, both to share one's own, or to experience someone else's.
- All information presented additionally in Spanish.

Closing (Maile Solis)

- Students of parents present will be given a dress-down day tomorrow.
- 5 items were raffled off to parents.