

# GENERAL MEETING 3/28/23

6:00PM, CARY ELEMENTARY MEDIA CENTER

## ATTENDEES

PTA Board members: President Viviana Solorzano, Vice-President April Farley, Secretary Katie Richards

Katie Herndon, Cristina Tikirogla, Melody Smolen, Heidi Odham, Julia Findley, Sarah Ralph, Stacey Beard, Rod Stanton, Randy Jones, Ben Murphy, Dana Cassell, Kailee VanDamia, Andra Thomasson, Sergio Marti, Bonnie Gambardella

## AGENDA

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: VIVIANA SOLORZANO**

#### **What does a PTA look like post-pandemic?**

#### **1. Membership Survey results**

Viviana started with the results of the Membership Survey. There was a 13% response rate, with an even split between members and non-members participating. These survey results are not meant to be completely representative of our parent body, but they can be used as a good steering document. Thank you to everyone who participated!

It appears that people are looking to participate and want to but at times communication and information about events and opportunities are hindering participation. The Board is taking in the survey results and hope to make changes in how we communicate events, etc. even through the end of the school year.

#### **2. How can we lay the foundation for next year and the next Board?**

Coming back from the pandemic has been a 'building the plane as we are flying it' experience and this Board wants to build a community of togetherness. Viviana said we are hoping to end the year strong and take the learnings from the survey (more transparency and more obvious ways in how people can participate and volunteer) and how we can move forward and apply these things for the future. One of our goals is to try and make it easier to approach the PTA or the appropriate person to make it easier to get involved.

#### **3. There is a desire for Community Events**

The survey showed good feedback on community events, trunk or treat Walk and Roll events. As a result we added a PTA Playdate for April to see if this is something that our community responds well to. We are also looking forward to the Talent Show, which is our final community event for the year.

Ashley Grainey mentioned that since the Trunk or Treat event was the most attended, how do we build on that momentum and keep parents engaged and involved throughout the year?

#### **4. Fundraisers/Fun Run/Spirit Wear**

Feedback shows that the PTA needs to do a better job at communicating what we do, why we need money, and what the money goes to. We want to take a look at this and make adjustments as needed.

The Fun Run will continue but it will be pushed to March next year because of dates available from the Apex Fun Run company. Next year another decision can be made on whether or not we will continue this fundraiser. Katie Herndon commented that perhaps the timing will be better because we won't conflict with other neighboring fundraisers (i.e. ECMMS and CHS). Alison Rosciano brought up that she has a friend who runs a fundraising company that focuses on local businesses (like gift cards). Has been passed on to the Board for consideration.

Spirit wear results were also interesting, top results for the bulk order and second is online store to place orders at any time.

#### **5. Communication**

Communication tools are also being reviewed, including additional text apps, etc. Try to make sure that we do not overburden parents but also give enough information. The Board is also working on reviewing an appropriate communication flow to make sure that the school administration is always looped into the discussion.

#### **Principal's Report : Mr. Stanton**

Been very busy at school with a lot of good things this spring. Field trips, Kindergarten LetterLand, 1st Grade Wax Museum, Dreambox competition going on for classrooms (basketball theme), 4th Grade has asked for a dunking booth for Mr. Stanton]. Thanks for the volunteers for the landscaping outside, snacks for the breakroom (has a big impact on staff morale).

#### **New Business**

#### **BUDGET UPDATES: BETH DICKERSON**

##### **1. Fundraising Excess**

We've done really well with the fundraisers this year, and coming in as a new board we were conservative in our budgeting this year just to see what this year brought us. We've been very fortunate with the income, so we are wanting to benefit our students, teachers, and our school for the remainder of the year. We are going to make sure that teachers within the classrooms

(working with administration to see if there are other classroom needs to cover); student needs (students come into the office for items that they need for school to make their day successful). Particularly the #4 and #5 categories – beef these up during this fourth quarter. Working with staff, teachers, and administration to see where the need is.

- Field Day - we are going to handle all the snacks for the day
- Teacher Appreciation, we are taking care of all the financial needs
- Talent Show, 5th Grade
- Student & Teacher needs

## 2. **New Gaga Ball Pit!**

The PTA is going to fund a second gaga ball pit for our students with funds from our Fun Run! The Board is working with the administration to get this worked out.

## 3. **Potential for Multi-year projects?**

Mr. Stanton said that we are really looking okay right now - mostly because of the PTA funding projects in the past (xylophones, flat screen tvs, etc.). However there is no real budget or money for playground equipment so there is an opportunity for future funding of playground needs.

### COMMITTEES WITH UPDATES: APRIL FARLEY

1. **Communications:** Would anyone want to share about your experience during COVID? Particularly in regards to experience with the school.
2. **5th Grade graduation:** Kona Ice truck will be on the back parking lot on the last day of school – open to all students. (icees will be free for 5th graders). Lower field after dismissal. Looking for volunteers for set up, clean up, and activities during this.
3. **Cultural arts:** all programming has completed except 4th grade, their event is the week we come back from Spring Break. Lauren mentioned that there is a lot of activity for cultural arts during the summer including an arts event that someone from the PTA has to attend, meeting with artists, and a grant application.
4. **Book Fair:** We are working with a new vendor next year, and have a new chair.
5. **Bookstop:** stock is good we will continue to collect at all the PTA events
6. **Events: Talent Show:** May 25th, Thursday before Memorial Day. Logistics of food are being determined. Sign up for the talent show will be in early April, first 25 acts will be accepted and then additional will have to submit a video. Encourage your kids to team up with friends.
7. **Fundraising: Spirit Nights:** no event in April, but May is Triangle eSports.
8. **Grounds Committee** Spring Clean Up: Clean up coming up April 29th from 9:30am-12noon. Anyone has seedlings they want to contribute.
9. **Teacher Appreciation:** PTA is not soliciting for donations for this week-long event. Planning meeting on April 13th on the back deck. If anyone has gift cards already that you want to donate, (unfortunately the PTA cannot purchase gift cards).
10. **Spirit Wear** will be sold at the talent show.

### THANK YOU TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS: APRIL FARLEY

All committee chairs (incoming and outgoing) have been invited to a gathering on April 17, 7pm at the Cotton House as a formal way we can say 'thank you' for volunteering your time and leadership this school year.

## FUTURE OF THE PTA: APRIL FARLEY & KATIE RICHARDS

How can we make the PTA attainable and sustainable?

We've reviewed our own by-laws from 2014, other local elementary school PTAs and received feedback from membership.

We would like to propose a change in the PTA structure, moving all the committees from being the Vice-President's responsibility to creating some Committee Chairs/Leads/additional VP positions. We'd like to gather input from our committees and present the changes to the membership at large (virtually) for a vote on May 16th..

Then during the 2023-2024 school year if it seems to work well, organize a committee to officially amend the by-laws for a vote in the spring of 2024.

## ADJOURN: VIVIANA VALLE

### Upcoming PTA and School-Wide Events

March 31	Yearbook orders due ( <a href="http://www.strawbridge.net">www.strawbridge.net</a> code: YB27004) Teacher work day, no school		
April 3-7	Spring Break, no school		
April 13	Teacher Appreciation volunteer meeting	Cotton House	6:30pm
April 17	Committee Chair Appreciation Gathering	Cotton House	7:00pm
April 21	Teacher Workday, no school		
April 29	Spring Grounds Cleanup 🧑 PTA Playground Playdate	CES CES Playground	9:00am -12noon 1:30pm
May 8-12	Teacher Appreciation Week 🧑	All around CES	
May 9	Early Release		1:45pm
May 11	2nd Grade Play (with Choir performance preceding)	CES Gym	6:00pm
May 19	ESports Spirit Night	eSports	
May 16	Special PTA General Meeting	Virtual	7:00pm

May 18	Open House for INCOMING Kindergarten	CES	6:30pm
May <b>(Dates TBD)</b>	EOG Testing Snacks & Encouragement 🧑	CES	During School day
May 25	Talent show 🧑	Back Parking Lot	6:00pm
May 29	Memorial day, no school		
June 8	Field Day 🧑 (Mrs. Ide will coordinate volunteers for this day)	CES	During School day!
June 9	5th Grade Celebrations 🧑 & Last Day of School	CES	

 denotes volunteer opportunity