

Center Street Elementary School PTO
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2023

Principals Report:

Mrs. Sotero shared what a fantastic month we had at CS. She thanked everyone who helped make our Fall Festival a spectacular one. She shared that she was so thankful for the following parents and volunteers who helped to make this year's event so amazing: Katrina Ungvasky for leading the event, Lena Munn for the outstanding job organizing one of our smoothest and most successful Scholastic Book Fairs, Alicia Tammaro for organizing the student volunteers from Elmira College, Pam Callahan for helping us to have large haybales delivered and picked up the same day /night to make our Fall Festival look so great as well as secure high school volunteers to work some of our stations, Shannon Tyler for being our DJ for the night, Sue Ungvasky, Ellie French and Olivia French for taking pictures of the event, Nakita McAtee and Kristy Ervay for their tireless efforts in helping to set up, and for all the CS Staff members and parents who donated snacks and volunteered wherever there was a need. All the new ideas that were put into place helped to create so many wonderful memories for our families. Our Character Education Assembly went great, and our first Buddy Day was a huge hit. As this year we have a theme book: "The World Needs More Purple Schools", our students decorated a purple cut out person. Then the students played games together before returning to their homerooms. The Student Council held their classroom elections in grade 4. In grades 3 and 4, the homerooms held their spelling bees. In the beginning of October, we enjoyed a wonderful assembly presentation, and we so appreciate our PTO's support for these opportunities we provide for to our students. The HH Fire Dept. is scheduled to present fire safety in the homes to our students during Fire Safety Prevention Week. We are looking forward to one amazing year at CS.

PTO Meeting Recap:

Old Business:

The month of September was great, we had one of the biggest turn outs at the Fall Festival that we can recall. The festival went so well, we think from now on it is a better idea to keep the set up starting in the morning. This way when volunteers show up it's not as stressful. There was a great deal of candy leftover from the festival that could be used to make goody bags as prizes for March Madness

The Kindergarteners went on a field trip to Apples and Moore, and we had the Book Fair. The Preschoolers will be collecting and decorating pumpkins on Friday 10/6, if weather permits. Otherwise, it will be rescheduled until the following week.

There will be free haircuts next Wednesday, October 11 provided to us by the BOCES students.

The clothing sale is coming up and we will be working with Finger Lakes Design. All orders will be completed online and then we will hand out the merchandise when it is picked up.

We will be preparing for some wonderful October fall events like our great costume parade at the end of the month.

We went over the Treasury Report, we are saving on storage due to being able to store things

at Mrs. Sotero's church and Katrina's building. We spent money on providing dinner for our volunteers during the Fall Festival. We would like to build in refreshments for our volunteers who come in the late afternoon and work well past their dinner time. We will have this established in our future budgets. This is something that we think shows we appreciate their help.

We discussed purchasing a counter clicker to keep track of how many people are attending our PTO School events.

New Business:

Other events coming up were discussed.

Make a Difference Day is being planned for Sat., Oct. 28th. CS will be collecting food and items for local animal shelter. The CS Student Council will be leading a community project of making tie blankets. We are looking for volunteers to assist with delivering the animal supplies. The HH School District will be using our school buses to deliver the food times to the food bank and to the animal shelters.

Veteran's day breakfast and refreshments are built into the budget. This year, we are rebuilding after covid and with so many of our former participants not able to attend due to health and / or relocation, we anticipate it will be a smaller group than we had prior to covid. We moved the time so that our Pre-K students will be able to join in the event and therefore need to shorten the celebration due to lunch preparations. We will need volunteers to assist with the breakfast refreshments.

The Holiday food baskets are going to be taken care of by Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Scibek and Mrs. Sotero again this year.

Jamie Dauphinet will be leading the Holiday Shoppe again this year. Mrs. Sotero will be sharing the schedule so that we can begin to encourage volunteers for this special event. Since we had so many parents who volunteered for our fall book fair, we will be reaching out to them too.

We will need a coordinator for March Madness.

Fun Run - Pam Callahan will get back to us to see if she is able be in charge of the Fun Run.

Spring Carnival – now Carnival (since it is scheduled again in June). We discussed bringing back the option of holding basket raffles again.

For future book fairs such as the BOGO Book Fair -we discussed the need to request 2 registers because we met the minimum at the fall festival. We are also going to add a makeup day after the last day scheduled for grade levels. We will need to do a refresh book order during the fair so our children have more of a choice for new books. In addition, a flyer will be sent home the day prior to the make-up day letting parents know and then another flyer will be sent home regarding the options of shopping online even after the book fair has physically ended at our school.