



# Cape St. Claire PTO

Supporting our children's education

## PTO MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2019  
Media Center, CSCES

Meeting began at 6:36PM.

Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

***In attendance:*** Kristina Poist, Mary Bradford, Laura Pappas, Laura Towers, Kristin Hurff, Janet Lancaster, Kim Burrows, Chelle Barrett, Jerry Kent, Becky Hall, John Lyons, Nicole Kempton, Jen Schroeder, Cindy Sawyer, Melanie Carson, Aaron Buchs, Alison Moore, Lorrie Dameron, Lauren Averill, Andi Destroup, Emily Johnson, Rose Jack, Terri Rafiq, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Mandi Tabor-Jett, Jen Costello, Jenna Wood, Christy McDaniel, Samantha Wilkinson, Renee Taylor, Jill Sewell, Vanessa Kellner, Morgan Van Arsdall, Crystal Wyatt, Casey Durst, Rose Forrest.

### ***Officer Reports***

*Treasurer's Report*  
John Lyons

- A Treasurer's Report is included. Not much activity going on right now. A report is included each month with the meeting packet.

*President's Remarks*  
Kristina Poist

- Board introductions were made.
- We're very excited to have everyone here, and we are very excited to get parents in the school volunteering.
- Room Parent names will be going out soon. Kristin is still working on getting volunteers for a few of the classrooms.

*Social Events*  
Mary Bradford

- Movie Night will be next Friday, September 20th. This is a free event! No admission charged but pizza, popcorn, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. Please register to come! Our hope is that proceeds from this movie night can be used to purchase a different/better movie license with newer shows for the kids to watch.
- Hoping to again partner a reading event with the Book Fair.
- January will be International Night.
- February – Sweetheart Dance.
- Chair still needed for the Talent Show.
- Social Events are chair driven. If there is no chair, then the event will not happen.

*Volunteers*  
Kristin Hurff

- Many Volunteer Forms have been received already. Thanks to all those who have signed up to help throughout the year. Please know that committee chairs will reach out closer to their events.
- Media Center volunteer opportunities will be added this week.
- Any questions, please reach out to Kristin Hurff. Her email can be found on the CSC website.
- New - room Parents will have an orientation this year!
- Volunteer Orientations – still waiting on additional dates. Back to school night volunteer orientation begins at 5:30pm. Please attend this one if you're able.

<p><i>Fundraising</i> Rebecca Hall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many similar events planned this year.</li> <li>• Skate Night is our first event! It will be this Sunday, September 15th.</li> <li>• Remember that kids can bring scooters!</li> <li>• R4E will be October 23rd.</li> <li>• Holiday Shop will be December 4/5.</li> <li>• There will be no fall spirit wear this fall. An offering will be coming this spring.</li> <li>• We are in need of a chair or committee for the spring Fun Run. Please reach out to Becky Hall if you're interested in this fun opportunity!</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><i>School Activities</i> Jerry Kent</p>	<p>Cultural Assemblies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are three of these during school hours. The assembly Chair is attending the Showcase at the end of September to see what assemblies may be a great fit for our school.</li> </ul> <p>After School Clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been many changes in the before and after school clubs.</li> <li>• Last year, the county began to enforce certain policies. CSCES adhered to these policies. This year, more changes have been made. It appears as if the county has now moved away from after school clubs being offered in our schools.</li> <li>• CSCES is trying to see what can be done, as it seems there is a great disconnect between the Board of Education, Parks &amp; Rec, and what local schools are actually offering. This is a county wide issue right now, and it's not very clear cut. Issues such as the regulations from Parks &amp; Recs not coinciding with the regulations from the County, make this even more confusing. It's important we have them define what "PTO sponsored" means and "school sponsored" means.</li> <li>• A teacher being required to be on-site during a club is not a new policy, however, it is now being enforced. PTO has discussed setting aside a stipend for any teachers willing to "sponsor" after school clubs at CSCES. However, these clubs would still need to be permitted by the County as well as CSCES Administration.</li> <li>• According to policy, Parks and Recs allows "Abrakadoodle" and "Jump Bunch" (these are both accredited organizations approved to operate in AACPS schools, it's still unknown if we could get these approved by all parties involved. Another possible programming option would be Destination Imagination. Other clubs such as Girls on the Run, Hero Boys and Chess Club are not approved at this time.</li> <li>• Mary Bradford, Social Events chair, does plan to approach the Board of Education about in inequalities between what is happening among schools.</li> <li>• The PTO plans to send out a survey to our teachers to see if we have anyone willing to sponsor a club, and if so, what programs they'd like to see in our school.</li> <li>• What about clubs like the 24 Club and Chessie – are these still proceeding? Mrs. Lancaster has a list of the advanced co-curricular programs. Most of these, however, are for grades 3-5. 24 Club falls on this list. Mrs. Lancaster said that the Broadneck/Annapolis cluster Principals are meeting later this month to discuss and get clarification.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PTO &amp; Administration need to work collaboratively to get the county to define this process more, as well as push for a long-term goal of increasing the offerings for our younger K-2 grades as well.</li> <li>• The public session opens at 10am for the September 11, 2019 AACPS Board of Education meeting. Please let's use our voices and be heard! Make phone calls to voice your support of after school club choices for our students.</li> </ul>
<b>CSCES REPORTS</b>	
<p><i>Principal's Report</i> Mrs. Janet Lancaster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome! All of our Kindergarteners came to school today!</li> <li>• We are very fortunate for our amazing staff. Welcome to our new staff members throughout the school.</li> <li>• State standardized tests – we had the third highest gain on PARCC scores in the county for Language Arts. CSCES also had the fifth highest gain in math. This is thanks to the hard work of our teachers. We truly have the best of the best here are Cape St. Claire ES.</li> <li>• The first school newsletter from the administration came out last week. CSC also has a Blackboard page for the school. Each grade level uses this to put important information out for parents. Often homework is posted on there as well as permission slips for field trips, etc.</li> <li>• You can also follow the school on Twitter: @CSCElemAACPS</li> <li>• 10/8 – two-hour early dismissal for a Professional Development Day</li> <li>• 10/23 – not just Race for Ed but also Unity Day. Please wear orange.</li> <li>• Drown Proofing for 5th grade will happen in early November.</li> <li>• In October, Kindergarten will be going back to Camp Woodlands for their field trip.</li> <li>• Back to School Night – 6:30pm on 9/17. Volunteer Orientation will begin in the Cafeteria at 5:30pm. It is a Cape St. Claire policy that all volunteers attend one of these orientations in order to volunteer with kids in the school.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><i>Teacher Liaison Report</i> Mrs. Kim Burrows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for the wonderful breakfast on our first day back!</li> <li>• The staff is very excited to work again with the PTO on many wonderful events this year.</li> <li>• Please remember to read every day!</li> <li>• Mrs. Horton – last year a gardening club was started. They met to help beautify the courtyard to clean it up. It was decided that this year they hope to put in some plants to beautify the area further. If anyone would love to help with the Garden Club, please be on the lookout for information about this as well as a Family Garden Night!</li> <li>• Side discussion about A to Z app. Please download this app. The PTO is using this to send or monthly Newsletters, post flyers, etc!</li> </ul>
<p><i>New Business</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question from the floor: How does our spelling homework correspond to our curriculum and why does the homework seem like rote memorization? Answer: Since different grades do spelling differently it is best to reach out directly to the classroom teacher. For some grades spelling is homework, for some grades it's not. Literacy blocks look different for each grade. Our K-2 grades have a new phonics program. This will look different than what is done in the past.</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question from the floor: Will MCAP (formerly PARCC) testing be done on the computer again?</li><li>• Answer: Yes, this as well as quarterly tests will be done on the computer.</li></ul> |
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The meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM.

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