

General PTA Meeting Notes – Sept 20, 2023

Go to new website - stcloudpta.com- to get calendar invites and see various activities

Around 48 attendees – including several teachers

Started at 7:05 pm

Amy Oliver started the meeting – this is the first PTA meeting and we're excited to see so many attendees.

Principal Update

- Welcome to everyone for the first PTA meeting of the year. Big thank you to the PTA, especially the Exec board
- It's been a smooth start to the year – last night was a successful Back to School night
- Thank you to the PTA for the bulletin board on the blacktop – will help families learn more about activities available at St. Cloud
- 5 A/Cs were installed by Building and Grounds – 13 were purchased by PTA based on Jaguar Jog fundraising – goal is to have all the instructional spaces climate controlled by the Spring – Big Thanks to PTA!
- Gaga Pit, also funded by PTA, is super popular – kids see it as a great addition to the space and PE teachers are able to use it for teaching
- PTA also funded the Amazon Wish list items for teachers – over \$8,000 worth of supplies
- PTA also provided food for Back to School for teachers – and Brian Craine fixed the Laminator
- Hispanic Heritage Month is being celebrated – Dance Troupe coming in October
- Thank you to Ms. Pallant (Library), Ms. Gbur (3rd) and Ms. Ash (4th) – going forward, we'll have combination of teachers attending PTA meetings

Presidents Update

- Since this is the first meeting, we'll have an update but want to spend time on General PTA Overview so new participants know more about getting involved and what the PTA does
- PTA keeps a running list of ideas for improvements to the School so it can be provided when funds are available
 - This is how the PTA purchases 13 a/c units and a Gaga pit – your ideas matter
- Class Parents – list is being finalized with the office- announcements should go out in the next few days
- What the PTA does
 - After School Enrichment Program
 - Family events
 - Cultural Arts and Assemblies
 - Faculty Appreciation
 - Special Projects

- Fifth Grade Committee
- How to Get Involved
 - Join the PTA (\$15 for the whole family)
 - Visit stcloudpta.com
 - Join monthly meetings – second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm
 - Participated in a poll for meeting time preference and format (virtual or in person)
 - Question about possibly having the meetings recorded.

Ways & Mean

- Zohre introduced herself – Chair of Ways and Means, Fundraising and Events throughout the year
- Back to School Picnic this Saturday 9/23 –
 - lots of fun activities- DJ, food to purchase, Games, Arts and Crafts
 - 5th grade will also have baked sale
 - By 10 am Saturday will know if need to move to rain date of Sept 30
- St. Cloud Skate Night – Date TBD (very successful and fun last year)
- Trunk or Treat Saturday October 21s (note, West Orange town Trunk or Treat is Oct 28)
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Holiday Bazaar
- Talent Show
- Bowling Night Social – Date TBD
- Jaguar Jog – plan for biggest fundraiser
- FunFest

Diversity Council

- Jess Harrell, chair of Diversity council, introduced herself
- St. Cloud is the only school in West Orange district with a Diversity Council
- Meets monthly – engages with Mr. Price, teachers and administration
- Plans events
- Advocates at the district level
 - Black Lives Matter at School week – council is working with Superintendent Moore on confirming details for the full District
- Host roundtables with guest speakers
- Engaging group – we'd love to have more people participate
- Rupal Patel – co-chair of Diversity Council, is coordinating the Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month activities
 - Oct 13 – Dance program
 - Working with Ms. Pallant for contributing books for more representation in each grade level
 - Coffee for teachers and additions for classrooms
- November – Ruby Bridges Day and Diwali
- More events throughout the school year – always open to suggestions
- Question came up about having a General World Culture day for those that don't fall into Heritage months – would love to have that discussed in a future meeting

After School Program (ASP)

- Holly Williamson introduced herself and Becky Ackerman – coordinators of ASP
- ASP catalog was published last week
- Registration opens at 7:30 am on Sunday 9-24
- Classes often sell out so plan for registration – 10 maximum in a class

- Volunteers get early chance to register
- Need volunteers to help
- Sessions are Mondays and Thursdays
- Ms. Gbur is running a Book Club for 4th and 5th graders
- Sign up for HomeRoom account early before registration starts
- asp@stcloudpta.org

Treasurer's Report

- In accordance with bylaws, required to provide details of financials at first meeting
- Shweta introduced herself as Treasurer and explained the categories of Revenue and Expenses
 - Givebacks – Cultural Arts – for assemblies and events - \$10,000
 - Givebacks to students and family – examples are Talent Show, picnic, fun fest- \$13,200
 - Givebacks to School and Teachers - \$20,650
 - Givebacks to Community - \$5,000
 - 5th Grade committee - \$10,000
 - Expect to raise \$63,000 in fundraisers
 - Plan to spend around \$95,000 for our school and kids
 - There are 430 students
 - Each kid is getting about \$216 of contributions from the PTA
 - Please everyone pay the \$15 membership fee to help the funds
- Jess motion to approve budget – Joy seconded
- Vote to approve budget – all Yes
- Budget approved at 7:58 pm

Next Steps – Q&A

- Ms. Gbur thanked PTA for the A/C – will help the learning in June
- Dania is tracking suggestions on Spirit Wear in the chat
- PTA ordered the A/C units – WOBOE Building and Grounds and Electrical do the installation and then maintenance is handled by Building and Grounds – also bought a couple extra to allow for swap outs
- Full Calendar available on stcloudpta.com – monitor the website for updates

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Hold for future – upcoming items

- **School Ideas**
 - **Adjustable Basketball Hoop**
 - **Sensory Tools**
 - **Court Yard**
 - **New EZ Up Tent**

Ideas for PTA store

- with different art (kid's artwork?) and st.cloud logos –
 - notebooks, folders, bumper stickers, fridge magnets, reusable shopping bags, gift wrapping paper.. a combo of art and logo