

**Call to Order** - 8:15 Amy Shoffner. Amy welcomes everyone. Thanks everyone for coming. Goal today is for all of us to get to know a bit more about what PTO does, to talk about our relationship with staff and parents and to give everyone a feel for what's going on. We do not intend this to be a commitment nabbing time. A highlight of all meetings is listening to Dana Ellis, Principal, talking about the state of the school. Amy introduces the sign-up sheet idea requesting email addresses. Those who do not wish to be on the email list should indicate so on the sign-up sheet.

**In attendance:** Nicole Benjamin, Jennifer McDiarmid, Amy Chan, Amy Shoffner, Sue Gehlert, Alyssa Steinberger, Tiffany Heintz, MaryAnn Pyle, Erin Vito, Stasi York, Robin Keys, Kim Decker, Michelle Christenson, David Mollerstuen, Vivian Curl, Lisa Barbato, Tina Hirshland, Amy Carpenter, Dana Ellis, Jessica Coulson, Marina Diaz, Jennifer Goldman, Sherril Hanson, Margot Brow, Gretchen Haas, Jennifer Donohue, Elizabeth koehler, Patty Lydic, Diane Jones, Rick Dyson, Marni Gauthier

**\*Student Council Report - Starting in September, Student Council Members and Sue Gehlert** \* Sue Gehlert introduces herself as student council liaison. Starting in September, she will be meeting with the student council and conveying their concerns to the PTO. Kids are very involved in PTO here.

**Approval of the May 2016 Minutes** - 8:20 Nicole Benjamin  
<http://www.centennialmspto.org/pto-meetings/>

Amy S. asks if there are any corrections to the May meetings. No corrections are suggested. Nicole moves that the minutes be approved. Motion was seconded and all were in favor. Meeting minutes are approved.

**Presidents Report** - 8:25 Amy Shoffner

- Who we are and what we do
- Way's to get involved

<http://www.centennialmspto.org/volunteer/>

We created a value/mission statement for PTO last year. We'd like to encourage you all to check out our website.

**Treasurers Report** - 8:30 Diane Harpold

- Request for officers and chairs to review their budget line item and make requests for changes by Friday 9/2 . Send change requests to Amy Shoffner.

<http://www.centennialmspto.org/budget/>

Diane distributes annual report for last year. We came in under budget primarily due to a lag in our capital expenditures surrounding the sidewalk on the west side of the school. We did, however, finance some new bike racks. We also funded a message screen that will go up in the cafeteria for announcements. This year, we are still putting together the budget. We have been spending our budget on programs and events, staff appreciation, donations to health room and capital improvements. We'd love input about what you'd like to see this year. Generally, the Fuel the Cyclones drive funds things that go more directly to the classroom, although PTO will backfill if able. Budget is available on the website.

Amy asks officers and chairs to review their line item on the budget and please get adjustments by 9/2 to Amy Shoffner in time for the exec meeting and then for approval at the next general PTO meeting.

### **Principal's Report - 8:35 Dana Ellis**

- Safe transportation options
- Communication- how to stay in the loop!
- Fundraising at Centennial
- The importance of parent involvement

Amy sets our timer (we got feedback that we need to stay on time).

Dana says the running track is still under construction. All the middle school tracks were going in this summer. Ours is the last one. The infield will be multi purpose. The track on the outside is being upgraded to the rubberized surface. That will be opened up by the end of September. Grassy area around that area will open up end of October for our use.

The Transportation committee had approved a plan for how we move traffic around our school. A flyer you may have seen was created through a process of figuring out how we can best move kids. We asked for and got approval for Oak and Orchard Avenues to have upgraded paths at the end of the streets through to the track with bike racks there. We have so many cyclists. We have counted upwards of 100 bikes that are unable to get parked and locked at the existing bike racks. Dana will follow through with Don Orr who returns in September to find out how quickly we can get those trails and bike racks completed! We are working on getting people not to u-turn in front of the school and we are encouraging parents to go to the back parking lot for drop off and pickup. Our neighbors are starting to complain. It gets so backed up out front.

Jennifer Goldman asks if we know who the drivers are: Are they open enrolled parents whose kids can't take the bus?

Jen M. says maybe we can update the web page. There is a plan for those who want to go to practices/activities after school. If you are coming from the east and going to the east, you should use spaces by the ball field or at the tennis courts. If coming from the north or west, use the back parking lot.

MaryAnn says the Four Mile Creek bus is 3-4 kids to a seat so some of those kids are riding bikes. But, in the winter, those kids will have to take the bus and there is no space! Dana

says she will contact Transportation and see how to get this fixed. She encourages parents to call Transportation too.

Let's put transportation on the next agenda for next month.

PA system and bell system is broken at the school. This should be getting fixed soon. We are trying to go to every table at lunch and teachers are making announcements individually. Announcements are also posted by the main office.

Late starts: Yesterday was the YMCA's first day here. They are keeping track of the number of kids who come. There were quite a few here. We pay for the program to happen. YMCA runs that program independently. We don't know how much it will cost yet because we don't know how many kids will come yet. Yesterday they made screened t-shirts. Lots of kids were playing sports in the gym. Homework club was also running.

The District received a generous donation for improving teacher practices in our schools a few years ago. Each teacher writes an individual goal for themselves and has access to \$170 to further that goal. This is one way the generosity of our community is improving teachers.

Fundraising is up and running! Fuel the Cyclones and PTO fundraiser. Diane says for PTO, we are a bit above \$5000 so far. In the past, we raise 2/3 to 3/4 of PTO money in the spring and the rest in the fall. Currently, we seem closer to the opposite of that. Amy S. points out the flyer on fundraising. Here, at CMS, the school and the PTO raise money separately but we collaborate. We ask people to donate twice: two checks or two rev track logins.

Dana says last year the PTO and Dana worked hard on improving the e-blast. E-blasts have been a little long this year because we had to explain the registration process that has moved to online. They won't always be that long. There are always hot links at the top. The first part of an e-blast will be the important calendar dates. The person who is doing it this year is brand new.

Amy S. says if anyone has suggestions for the e-blast to please let her know. However, submissions for the e-blast go to Erin Vito by the end of Wednesday or early Thursday morning for submission in that week's e-blast. Erin asks that all submissions be proofread. Erin also asks if you can please be concise to keep the e-blast manageable. Erin will also put the submissions on the website. There is a call to action spot at the top of the website.

Dana says we are really wanting to get parents involved. We had 10 parents who were coming regularly to SAC meetings. Goal from that committee was to look at parent involvement in committees and in volunteering! For example, we have our second back to school picnic tonight. She encourages people to come. Back to school night is Thursday, September 1!

Jennifer Goldman says that, as a parent who has been here and been surprised at the whole way the Language Arts program has changed, she wonders how parents will be apprised of how things are working out. This has been such a new huge thing and how will communication happen on this? Dana says we will talk about it at back to school night. Dana says that teachers were talking to kids about it during registration last year. Jennifer says the

first she heard of it was over the summer. Dana says they started working on it during the school year last year. MaryAnn says she thinks we all should have been sent a letter. Dana says we talked about it at a board meeting last year. Amy S. asks if we can table this conversation for back to school night so we can continue with PTO business. Amy suggests we add this to the next meeting's agenda. Another parents says there is not enough time at back to school night to address this conversation. Amy says we will put it on the agenda at the next PTO meeting. MaryAnn says it needs to happen sooner. It may need to happen outside of working hours to capture more parents.

Amy Carpenter: There are committees for things PTO does. These are on our website. Amy says we want our whole community to know about opportunities so these are now in the e-blast in a dedicated section. Best way to find out about one time volunteer opportunities is to look in the e-blast. There are always ways to get involved. Dana wanted to send the message to parents that you are welcome here and we need your help. Dana saw an opportunity for that in tutoring. If anyone is interested in tutoring, please contact Dana. Dana says parents can help in the classroom too. All volunteers must go through a screening process. The school does try not to put you in your old child's classroom.

Amy Shoffner says there has been a cultural change in the school with Dana's leadership. Parents are really welcome here. Parent involvement is a part of our school accountability goals.

Amy S. encourages people to ask any of us any questions.

Amy C. says there is a link now for library volunteers. This week the lunchroom link for volunteers will come out. Robin Keys has volunteered in the lunchroom and says it is awesome. We are working on recycling. You help direct kids in making good choices in the lunchroom. You stand at the door and make sure they don't leave when they are not supposed to. You can interact with the kids if you want to. You are basically there to help them remember the rules and remind them to clean up. Typically, the administrators are helping outside at recess because there are often bigger issues outside. However, parents can volunteer for that too.

Sarah asks for people to sign-up for student directory. Currently, we are at about 25% participation. You can find a link to student directory by going to the PTO website or to the CMS site and click on "parents" and "PTO". The ADU is a separate thing that is just the census information for the district. PTO is sponsoring the student directory. The link to upload your child's information is still live on the registration page.

Margot: Thanks everyone for locker day participation. We sold over \$1000 in spirit wear!! We sold out of a lot of stuff. We will be way more prepared next year. Suggesting the white t-shirts for PE has been great. We sold a lot of hoodies.

Liza: She is working on getting a parent book group going. She is putting a blurb in the e-blast for next week. Should we do it in library? Dana says we can. We will have to get on community schools' calendar to clear the space if it is before or after school. Amy will put this on the agenda for next time.

Patty: Asks if there are dedicated spirit wear days for students. Dana says that student council organized that last year and we will talk to them about it.

Amy Chan: Could we get someone who is going to the graduation requirements meeting to report back? We will put this on the agenda for next time.

**Announcements:**

- Next PTO Meeting is September 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:15-9:30 in the library. (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month). We have moved them to Thursdays because Wednesday is late start day.