



Columbus Elementary School PTO Meeting
School Year 2020-2021
Thursday, May 6th, 6:30 pm

Time Item

6:30 Welcome & Board Introductions

6:35 Board Elections

Postponed board elections due to technical issues with Zoom and small attendance; we will look at possible scheduling of elections in June.

6:40 Enrichment Update

Virtual field trip - 1st & 2nd grades; TheaterWorks USA (Charlotte's Web & Jack and the Beanstalk). All grade levels have had a Museum of Science virtual activity, most grades are doing an additional enrichment activity. We will have a show with a magician - to be coordinated with mini Fun Day. Clubs - no in person clubs this year, but club kits have been delivered to homes/school (approximately 300 kits were delivered throughout the year). Planning one more kit for the end of the school year to give kids something to do at the beginning of the summer. Five virtual clubs over the winter, including CCSR and the newspaper club (published a newspaper in April).

6:50 Fundraising

Planning for school supply boxes that can be ordered and delivered to kids' classrooms on the first day of school in the fall. Keep an eye out for order forms, and the board will work on pushing the order information to incoming K families.

7:00 Fun Run

Citywide Elementary Alliance - Virtual Fun Run (May 21 weekend) - can do it anytime, take any path. \$10 kid, \$20 adult. Funds split evenly across the 4 elementary schools. Free shirts if registered before May 10. <https://medfordmafurun.org/>

7:05 Teacher and Staff Appreciation

Week 1 - making signs/cards for teachers (dropped at school or emailed), drinks and snacks (nut free) can be dropped off at the school (any time throughout the month so

treats can be spread out).

Week 2 - heart template will be emailed out and are also printed and available in the office

Week 3 - luncheon donated by Wegmans

Week 4 - Tribute video - link has been sent out for people to upload videos (by May 25)

7:10 Principal Kay's Corner

MCAS dates are in the newsletter, and this year there will tentatively be one makeup date per subject, May 17th for ELA, May 20th for Math, June 4th for Science. Apart from filling out the rules form, no other prep is needed for remote MCAS students. Remote students opting out of MCAS will spend the time doing make-up work or reading, no new instruction/work.

There will be a new Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) curriculum next year.

Retake/remote picture days will be May 19th, 11-12 for in-person students, 12-2 for remote, with more info to come soon

Important dates:

6/11 tentative 5th grade moveup

6/18 last day of classes, with a noon dismissal

The district will be piloting a new math curriculum next year; there is a math committee, with Mrs. Sherman-Hudson on the committee.

Ms. Kay spoke about budget priorities that were outlined at the SC on May 3rd, including:

- Hope for more cross-school paraprofessional support (not just within special education team);
- Budgeting for tech. especially replacing Chromebooks to stay current with this tool;
- Support for a handwriting program K-3;
- Second FT adjustment counselor to go from 1.5 to 2, especially to assist ESL Newcomers.

Newcomers will stay at CES in 2021-2022, and there was discussion as to how best to ensure they were well-integrated to the school community; this seemed to be a particular issue when the program was not at the CES. The students will eat with their grade level next year, for instance, and they are trying to have all newcomers on the same floor as their grade level, as well as trying to integrate academically where feasible.

Discussion of how to prepare students emotionally for return to school; what are the district's plans for this? Plans for a (short?) summer program, no details as yet, but to look at some of these questions. Next year, they need a 5th special, and one suggestion is to have this more focused on social-emotional needs, e.g. on the Michigan [model](#), where this is not just on the classroom teacher's plate. Hoping also to have more Fall playground dates, potentially in smaller cohorts (e.g. not grades 1-5 all together). Summer Fun will also be at CES, in case that can assist some students with reintegration to the building.

No plans by DESE for a remote school option absent special medical needs, though parameters not yet clear (and anything could change, just as DESE has changed tune on MCAS a number of times).

Next Meeting: The first PTO Meeting of the 2021-2022 school year will be announced over the summer!

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