Calvin Leete PTO Organization

Calvin Leete Elementary School

PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2021

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom

In Attendance:

Kenneasha Sloley

Monika Lopez- Anuarbe

Stella Ridge

Ornella Rullo

Dawn Parker

Kristine Ford

Clarice

Zoey Smegielski

Kathryn Schauer

Erin Decker

Melissa Meehan

Lauren Ferrante

Deirdre Dolan

Lara Tagliepetra

Mila AbuGhazaleh

Kristen Zailskas

Co-President: Christine Lataillade

Co-President: Audrey Barr

Treasurer: Yaro Voloshin

Secretary: Jen Gould

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7pm via Zoom

President Notes:

Christine Introduces Mila and Zoey (4th grade student council reps) – They state at their first meeting in Dec. they wrote their Mission Statement – Our mission is to make sure that everyone at Calvin Leete School is included. They raised money for the Song Strong and Guilford Foundation – raised $454.90 – PJ Day.

January Student council meeting – Power of a positive attitude video – brainstormed and created cards for every police officer – on Saturday 1/9 Vigliotti’s brought cards to police department.

Christine speaks about December in Review –

1. PTO donation in lieu of holiday party – donated $300 to the Guilford Community Fund – supports local nonprofits.
2. Square 1 deliveries – School delivery came on 12/14 but home deliveries didn’t come until 12/22.
3. Audrey speaks – Cougarwear – all was delivered before the holidays except pj pants and replacement fleeces will be delivered this week.
4. Picture re-takes – they will go home in backpacks tomorrow.

January –

1. Virtual Live Assembly – Meet George Washington Carver & Friends – Friday January 22, 2021 – 3rd and 4th grade students – in line with the ABAR committee deliverables for the year. In line with the theme of diversity, acceptance, age appropriate. Catlin Obrien found Bright Star Theater Company out of California.
2. Virtual Book Fair – 1/16/2021 – 1/29/2021 – free shipping if you spend $25. Books shipped to your house and we earn scholastic dollars to buy books for the classrooms.
3. Mrs. Trotta and Mrs. Foster – purchased books with ABAR money – they wrote a very nice thank you on behalf of all the teachers with a photo of all the books they purchased.

Ornella – Enrichment –

1. Painting and cooking – 38 students participating – new session starts at the end of this month – cooking and painting again and a virtual yoga and mindfulness class.

Budget Update – Yaro –

1. $7130 revenue - $3500 in membership - $952 – Lifetouch $514 from Enrichment, $2100 Boon Supply
2. Expense - $2500 bills from last year – tennis court painting - $6200 classroom supplies - $533 breakfast.
3. Revenue matches expenses – great considering Covid
4. New checks for teachers and start assemblies

Principal Update – Mrs. Sloley –

1. During morning announcements, we have students participating doing announcements – in school students now but trying to figure out Cohort C.
2. Everyone is staying safe, having good hygiene. Freeman visited and saw students still wearing masks even outside – they are adjusting well.
3. Younger students – working on math skills, phonics for reading
4. Senior students – more complex topics, critical thinking skills
5. Kudos to the teachers, students, and parents on their flexibility
6. Budget highlights –
   1. Increase library media specialist and art teacher to full time – they made it into the proposal – she thanks parents for their support – letters and signatures!

Erin Decker and Deirdre Dolan give grade level and specials updates –

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| Kindergarten | **Choose Love** - exploring what it means to have courage and how we can demonstrate courage in our daily lives by standing up for ourselves or someone else, trying something new, making a new friend, or sharing our thinking.  **Math** - introducing teen numbers on the number line, decomposing numbers into two parts, using number trees to represent decomposed numbers, counting forward and backward on the number line.  **Writer’s Workshop** - beginning opinion writing. Learning to express opinions and reasons for them using the written word. Also focusing on conventions such as spaces, using lower case letters, and beginning with uppercase letters.  **Foundational skills** - segmenting and blending CVC words, digraphs (th, sh, ch), filling our “toolboxes” with ways to decode unknown words, strengthening sound-symbol correspondence. |
| First Grade | In reading, students continue to build their phonics skills using our new EL Skills Block reading resource. In addition, they are working toward building stamina while reading more challenging texts.  In writing, we have started our “Opinion Writing” unit. Students are  developing opinions and learning how to support their opinions with  specific reasons using items of their own personal collections. In their  opinion pieces, students learn the format of opinion writing:  introducing a topic, stating their opinion, giving reasons for that  opinion, and writing a sense of closure.  In math, we are continuing to secure strategies to become more fluent in addition and  subtraction. Students are practicing efficient strategies to add and  subtract using place value with tens and ones and using the number line to 120.  In science, we will soon begin exploring different phases of the moon. |
| Second Grade | This week we started Unit 5 in math. Unit 5 is Place Value to One Thousand  In this unit, your child will:  -Represent numbers using groups of 1s, 10s, and 100s to demonstrate an understanding of place value to 1,000  -Use models, sketches, and numbers to add and subtract within 1,000  -Solve money story problems involving pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters using correct notation.  In Literacy, students are reading and listening to informational texts in diverse formats.  This includes books, articles, google slide presentations, and listening tasks.  Students are using informational text features such as headings, captions, maps, and diagrams to access various information.  During this unit, students will research environmental issues. Students will research a problem and develop an opinion around potential solution.  They will share their opinion in a presentation of their choice (letter, poster, Spark Video, brochure, or podcast) To conclude students will write their opinion about which presentation they felt was the most effective. |
| Third Grade | **Literacy:** We are working in a persuasive speech writing unit called Changing the World where students are picking a topic they are passionate about and writing a speech trying to convince their specific audience to believe they way they do.  They are learning about brave, bold thesis statements or opinions, having strong reasons and details to support their opinion, and using language that is convincing and persuasive.  **Math:**  We are finishing up unit 4 which is a Measurement and fractions unit.  The students are telling time and looking at elapsed time using number lines. They are also learning about fractions, comparing/ordering fractions, and placing them on a number line.  **Social Studies:** We are in the middle of our Civics unit in Social Studies. We are focusing on the questions: Why is it important to be politically and socially responsible? How does community service enrich your life? Students are learning about the importance of activism and why we should try to be a responsible and active member of our community. |
| Fourth | In literacy, we just wrapped up an opinion unit and we are beginning a new unit that will focus on reading narrative nonfiction to learn about the rainforest. Students will build background knowledge about the rainforest to create an eBook. We are wrapping up our third unit focusing on fractions and decimals. Fractions and decimals, it’s a large focus in fourth grade. In our next unit, we will revisit strategies for addition and subtraction. Students will revisit the standard algorithm for addition as well as the standard algorithm for subtraction. In science students are learning about energy. They are learning about how energy is stored released and transferred by creating chain reaction machines. |
| Special Areas | **Music:**  Grades 3 and 4 are practicing decoding melody and rhythm and applying these skills to performing on a digital instrument.  Grade 2 is practicing reading rhythm in standard notation.  Grade 1 is practicing ear training in concepts such as “same or different” and “high or low”.  Kindergarten is learning about dynamics and tempo and applying these concepts to performances. |



Guest Speaker – Lara Tagliapietra – update from SEPTO – series of webinars by Dr. Alicia Farrell– “How to raise a well-adjusted confident, self-reliant and civil adult in a crazy mixed up world” -offered every Wednesday in February from 7-8:30pm – For More Information visit aliciafarrellphd.com

1. February 3rd – The Pressure to be Perfect and Its Unintended Condequences
2. February 10th – Weeding out Fact from Fiction: Marijuana, Alcohol, Nicotine and More
3. February 17th – The Negative Influences of Screen Time and Content on Our Children’s Development and What We Can Do About It.
4. February 24th – Boots on the Ground Parenting. Raising Children with Grit and Resilience

A Look Ahead –

1. Audrey Barr – Learning Fair – moving to April – to have outside in the tent so kids can see it. K-2 one day and 3-4 on another day – cut down on traffic – week after spring break possibly.
2. Cultural Day – late February/early March
3. Career Day – March
4. 2021 -2022 Proposed Budget Public Form 1/25 and 1/26 via zoom with questions and comments – on BOE district website under budget you can view it ahead of time.
5. Next PTO meeting – Wednesday February 10th via zoom at 7pm

Questions:

1. Do teachers have an amazon wish list for their classrooms? She is questioning because she saw on social media that teachers did this in other areas and they got all their wish lists filled quickly
   1. Erin Decker said not that she knows of and talked about things she spent the PTO money on in the classroom – talked about book club books that may be in need.
   2. Christine talked about second checks coming to teachers soon and hopefully the Scholastic Dollars will help them too.
2. Any news on when teachers will be vaccinated to Sloley – sometime between January and February – superintendent has to make a list of who will get it first – its been pushed back.
   1. Monika Lopez-Anuarbe – dept of public health tomorrow is having a big press release – she’s on the committee.

Kristine Ford – Shout out to the ABAR committee – assembly, things for teachers – committee meaning 2/11/2021 – [leeteabar@gmail.com](mailto:leeteabar@gmail.com) for any information

Meeting Adjourned 8:00PM