



NEIL CUMMINS ELEMENTARY

**Neil Cummins PTO
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2020**

Call to Order: ZOOM Call: 9:09 a.m.

PTO Representatives:

Patty Elliot, Principal
Kyle Shaw, NC Counselor
Jessica Edelen, NC PTO President
Amanda Dickerman, NC PTO VP
Whitney Robinson Creutz, Treasurer
Mindy Sagemeister, Auditor
Kate Lowe, Secretary
Kristen Scales, Spirit Wear Fundraiser
Corinne Golden, Spirit Wear Fundraiser
Leigh Denbo, Class Coordinator Lead
Jennifer Shaumbroom, Campus Conservation
Lisa Griffin, NC Newsweek Editor
Karen Emmons, Teacher Representative
Katherine Chan, Board of Trustees Representative
Beth Mitchell, SPARK Representative
Angela Movafaghi, NC Assembly Coordinator


Sara Esslinger, NC Yearbook
Lyn Everly, School Administrator
Nathelle Belloni, School Administrator

- **Gratitude & Questions:**

- Catherine Chan: Thank you to Patty Elliot for the amazing work she and the entire staff have endured over the past months and their endless hours to get the school reopened. Patty was featured in an NBC news brief along with Kyle Shaw and Dr. Brett Geithman.
- Jessica Edelen: Thank you to Amanda for the great work behind the scenes. She is doing an amazing job working with Jessica.

- **Principal Update, Patty Elliot:**

- First Day of School- Take Two! It was an amazing, heartwarming, *GRAND* reopening with so many emotions colliding, resulting in the most profound, overriding emotion of *JOY*.
- This is most definitely a defining day in our careers, and I feel incredibly

proud (and a little tired, too !). We couldn't have done it without *OUR AMAZING PARENTS AND COMMUNITY* and supportive Board of Education. Thank you PTO for helping host our *GRAND REOPENING* with balloons, chalk art, music and more!

- It took an extraordinary team made up of individuals who were willing to go to extraordinary measures to make it happen. Our leadership team has been relentless in our efforts. Most importantly, Dr. Geithman has led us with perseverance, courage and passion, consistently helping us believe and see that it was possible. Partnering with Dr. Geithman throughout this journey is a privilege and honor. He is a top-notch leader like no other, with a rare combination of intelligence, humor, candor, integrity and tenacity combined with a clearly articulated vision.
- We did it! *AND* we did it well! And....we will do it again tomorrow! As I told Brett back in March when we closed schools, we **DID** sign up for this. We signed up for this, and so much more. **Whatever it takes** to do the best thing and the *RIGHT* thing for our students.

- We are super proud of our Learning Hub that opened last week with a cohort of 14 students in room A1 at Neil Cummins. This is a program sponsored through Marin County Office of Education, private donors, and staffed with YMCA staff. This provides a location on site for our students (who have had difficulty with accessing distance learning for a variety of reasons) to have supervision, support and guidance throughout the full school day 8:00am to 3:30pm. HUGE thanks to Kyle Shawn and Susan Rakness (speech teacher who helps with all Spanish translations and parent/family outreach) who made this a possibility for our students and families who need this support.
- The Town of Corte Madera is hosting a Camp/Childcare option for our staff and community in room A1 and room A11 on our school campus. They are expanding their program to use the previously designated Twin Cities portables that are not property of LCMSD.
- **PTO President Update, Jessica Edelen:**
 - For any/all PTO meeting issues or agenda items, please email Jessica Edelen directly throughout the month to be incorporated into the PTO Monthly Meeting Agenda.
 - Members from PTO need to attend one Board Meeting and one SPARK Meeting to represent PTO Meeting throughout the year. The Board is currently meeting in person, but there will be a Zoom link available for those who would like to attend remotely.
 - Please note that any/all members of the LCMSD Families are welcomed to attend these meetings.
 - SPARK Meetings will be held via Zoom throughout the year unless otherwise notified. Please find the dates of meetings below and PTO members designated dates to attend. Feel free to switch if current dates do not work with your schedules:
 - Board of Trustees meetings (Zoom link to follow) - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 - Oct. 21 — Amanda
 - Nov. 18 — Jessica
 - Dec. 14 — Kate
 - Jan. 13 — Whitney
 - Feb. 10 — Corinne/Kristin
 - March 10 — Jen
 - April 21 — Leigh

- May 19 — Mindy
- June 2 — Jessica
- SPARK Meetings (Zoom link to follow) - 7:30-9:00 p.m.
 - Nov. 2 — Jessica
 - Dec. 7 — Amanda
 - Jan. 12 — Jen
 - Feb. 1 — Mindy
 - March 1 — Kate
 - April 13 — Corinne/Kristin
 - May 3 — Whitney
 - June 7 — Leigh
- Measure M: PTO approved to endorse Measure M
- Administrative issue:
- Gun Safety: The Organization Brady ASK, a non-partisan, government accountability office is promoting safe gun storage. Gun Safety starts at home. The National PTA promotes Brady ASK. For playdates, etc. it is important to ask if the homeowners have a gun in the home and if ammunition is kept separately. This is important information to have prior to any playdate and or baby sitting job. Please pass along this life-saving information.
- PTO Vice President Update, Amanda Dickerman:
 - No update
- Teacher Representative Update, Karen Emmons:
 - HUGE THANK YOU for the lunch yesterday. Such a treat:)
 - Kinder is excited to be on campus for the first time and learning new routines. They made October calendars with a jack-o-lantern mosaic art.
 - 3rd Grade: Gallagher and McGuinness were able to buy fresh water colors for at home art and get fancy ones for in class because of PTO funds. They will be using them in class tomorrow as a community building art project to spruce up our room to look more inviting! Thanks PTO!

- 4th Grade: Here's a fun padlet from Ms. Pollack's kids about returning to school. <https://padlet.com/jpollack8/u8bpduhkvxizmp3u>
 - 5th grade: The 5th grade leadership team has been selected and the first theme for the month is Compassion. They will be putting together a sock drive (Sock - tober) launching this week. Students can bring new socks (adult and kids sizes) to donate for the rest of the month. At the end of the month, they will be donating them to a homeless shelter as a treat from our school
 - PTO received a nice email from Ms. Klaubert to thank PTO for supplies and support for the music program.
- Board of Trustees Update, Katherine Chan:
 - Approved School Site Safety Plans: Also, this year the BoT had to complete a School Site-Specific Protection Plan before they were allowed to return to in-classroom instruction. The SSSP shows how the schools are following the 30-point guideline created by Marin Public Health, and all the safety measures that have been implemented.
 - Waivers and Reopening Guidelines: At the time of the last board meeting, the district was still considering applying for a waiver to re-open as Marin was still in purple tier. They have since learned that even if the county moves back into the purple tier at some point, our schools will still be allowed to keep our classrooms open, so there's no need for us to apply for a waiver. Originally, we were thinking of using it as a tool to keep our classrooms open even if we wavered in between tiers, but there's no longer this need.
 - Budget - Community Funding is essential. The district was able to build up their reserve a little by not filling some vacancies this year, and cutting back on professional development, layoff of human resources role in the district office, and receiving relief from state and federal government, but outlook is grim for our years with the drop in property tax revenue. We are so grateful to SPARK and PTO for continuing to support us -- 30% of our budget comes from local revenue -- that includes PTO, SPARK, our leases, and parcel taxes. That's 30% more than what most schools in CA are getting, and why we're able to provide the services we do. Without that, our schools would look vastly different.

- Trustee Vacancy - Meeting tonight at 6 pm via Zoom on Becoming a Trustee. Applications due Oct. 19 and BoT will interview candidates on Oct. 26. It's a 4-year term starting this Dec.

- SPARK Update, Beth Mitchell:
 - Not in attendance

- Treasurer Update, Whitney Robinson Creutz:
 - Not in attendance
 - Update by Jessica: We have had a couple unforeseen projects that have needed funding; we have been able to move funding around to cover the project costs without a problem due needing to cancel events, etc. because of covid.
 - We have some flexibility with the budget this year due to event changes.

- Garden Update: Jennifer Shambroom
 - Jennifer is working directly with Dana Swisher on projects for the school garden
 - Volunteers: volunteers will be needed to help with the Fall garden; information will be posted in the Weekly when needed.
 - Two grants are being evaluated for shade structures in the garden- they currently are applying for a \$8K grant for the shade structure for a permanent shade structure; another application for Whole Foods for \$2K will be completed as well.
 - Open to ideas regarding the Green Team; please send her any ideas for incorporating green ideas into the school year.
 - Virtual Garden Website: Jennifer rolled out the website in the Spring. It has educational tools for students to learn about the garden and much more. Check it out!

- Auditor and SPARK Update, Mindy Sagemeister:
 - Mindy has the according file with receipts, etc. and wonders where it should reside. Typically they are housed in F3. For now, she will provide it to Whitney for storage.

- Discussion ensued regarding F3 space and whether or not it should be utilized for storage. If PTO can no longer use it as storage space, we will need an alternate space. Currently no space available so we'll continue utilizing F3 for now.

- Spirit Wear Update, Kristen Scales & Corinne Golden:
 - Online sales have been very good. Thus far they have fulfilled 80 orders for approximately \$4,000.
 - Masks have been disappointing as the sizes are too small or too large, they are working with the vendor on this issue.
 - Hats, Sweatshirts and Tie-dyes are a great hit.
 - Challenges: Getting orders to people. Still working on the best approach to fulfill the orders. Currently Nathelle and Lyn are distributing the orders to the teachers which seems to be working.

- Classroom Coordinator Lead Update, Leigh Denbo:
 - Water issue was resolved
 - Each classroom has received a back-up case of bottled water in case any student forgets their H2O bottle.

- NC Newsweek Editor, Lisa Griffin
 - No update

- Holiday Store Update, Kate Lowe
 - Discussion ensued regarding potential ideas for a substitute Holiday Store this year due to the fact that we cannot hold the event as it has in the past. Some ideas:
 - Leave holiday parties up to each individual teacher to coordinate with their Class Coordinator
 - An all-school art project of making holiday cards for their family members, either via Art Class or another method.
 - KL will circle back with Lisa Losee, SPARK representatives, Liza Mathews to brainstorm ideas. Will report back next month.

- Adjourn: 9:55 a.m.