



# Central Magnet School PTO

General Board Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2022

## PARTICIPANTS

|              |                  |                              |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Ash      | Kristen Warner   | Nicole Lester Russell        |
| Dr. Guthrie  | Ayat Abu Halimah | Kathie Elfersy               |
| Mrs. Huffman | Meridee Pelham   | Approximately 70 CMS Parents |
| Mr. Nichols  | Nikki Messick    |                              |

**A meeting of the Central Magnet School PTO Executive Board of Directors was called to order at 6:30 PM CST on Monday, November 7, 2022 in the Central Auditorium.**

## Welcome and Introductions

- CMS PTO President welcomed everyone to our General Meeting
  - This is her first year as PTO President, she was the PTO Recording Secretary for the past two years
- CMS PTO President asked the other PTO Board Members to stand up and introduce themselves
  - Three board members were unable to be present at the meeting, however, the five board members who were there introduced themselves and the position they hold
  - CMS PTO Vice-President also mentioned the upcoming International Food Festival and that we are still looking for families who can sponsor the tables for Japan and England
  - CMS PTO Corresponding Secretary also mentioned the importance of the individual class pages on social media to share their information to the main social media page so that all can stay informed and involved
    - She also told parents they can reach out to PTO through email or social media with any questions they might have
- CMS PTO President gave an overview of PTO
  - CMS is one of the few middle and high schools to still have a PTO
  - PTO is here to support the students and staff at Central Magnet
  - PTO helps raise money for the school
    - Donations given directly to CMS must go into the general fund
    - Donations given to CMS PTO can be allocated with more flexibility
      - Special Instructional Supplies
      - Campus Improvement
      - Teacher Incentives (Christmas gifts, new shirt)
      - Staff Development
      - Bereavement
      - Non-Budget (miscellaneous)
  - PTO helps show CMS appreciation
    - Appreciation breakfast, lunches, and snacks are greatly appreciated by the teachers and staff
      - Not only is the food donated appreciated, but it is also great to donate your time to help serve in person



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- This allows for time to see and speak with your child's teachers and meet new teachers making CMS feel more like home

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- CMS Treasurer stood up and shared the following information
  - Total bank balance of \$24,397.95 which matches our back statement
  - CMS PTO approved and wrote a check for \$10,000 to CMS earlier this school year and gave to Dr. Ash
  - Amazon Smile has brought in \$389.40 so far this school year
    - She mentioned if you use Amazon Smile for shopping purposes and do not have it set up to give a percentage to any other non-profits, please consider adding Central Magnet PTO to your account to help us raise money that way
  - Total Brighter Future collections of \$26,444.81 so far this school year

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

- A CMS Fundraising Co-Coordinator stood up and shared the following information about the Brighter Future Campaign
  - There have been 105 individual donations so far this school year
  - We are at 55% of our goal
  - That is with only 8% of families participating so far
  - These donations impact our students, teachers, and staff
  - Donations can be made different ways
    - Send/mail the Brighter Future form (found on the PTO website) and a check payable to "Central Magnet School PTO" with "Brighter Future" in the memo line to school in a labeled envelope
    - Make a donation through our online platform GiveButter using [givebutter.com/BrighterFutureCampaign](https://givebutter.com/BrighterFutureCampaign)

## VOLUNTEER REPORT

- CMS PTO President explained the next way to help volunteer will be for the Holiday Teacher Breakfast on Friday, December 16, 2022
  - A Sign-Up Genius will be coming soon for parents to sign up to send in food and/or volunteer their time to help serve that morning
- CMS PTO President thanked parents for all of the ways they have already contributed
  - The Fall Parent-Teacher Conference food was very appreciated because teachers have to stay at school so long and late that day



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- Nothing goes to waste – if it is not eaten that specific day, it is packed up and put in the teacher’s lounge for future use
  - It also gets shared with the custodial staff
- Gift cards sent are great for times when not a lot of items are donated
  - A CMS PTO Volunteer Co-Coordinator can then use those gift cards to purchase what is lacking for that specific event

## Super Trivia Bowl

- CMS PTO Corresponding Secretary briefly explained Super Trivia Bowl
  - It is a fun way to raise money for the school
  - It is a night where teams of six people answer trivia questions asked by Dr. Ash
    - It is good to have a range of knowledge between players on a team because the questions cover a wide range of topics
    - Teams create a theme for their tables to try and win prizes
  - Food is served
  - There is a silent auction
  - You get to see/meet CMS students
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual CMS Super Trivia Bowl is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023
  - It will be held in the CMS gym
  - Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner is at 6:00pm, and trivia starts at 6:30pm
  - Tables (six people to a team) cost \$195
  - Buy your tickets early because it sells out
    - Information will be e-mailed, as well as updates to the PTO website and social media notifying parents when ticket sales open
- The Super Trivia Bowl committee is asking for any parents who own businesses, or know others who do, and would be interested in sponsoring Super Trivia Bowl to e-mail them at [kellie@maineventpro.com](mailto:kellie@maineventpro.com)
  - Looking for items for silent auction and prizes

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

- Dr. Ash gave the School Update
  - We have had a great fall – every sports team has gone to the state tournament
    - Golf, Volleyball, Cross Country (2<sup>nd</sup> runner up), and Girls’ Soccer (2<sup>nd</sup> runner up)
  - We have 24 National Merit Scholars
    - There are a total of 214 in Tennessee
    - That means we had over 11% of those in Tennessee at CMS



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- There are seven seniors who have a 36 on ACT
- One student played the viola in Carnegie Hall and in Austria over the summer
- Using the school website is a great way to get information – it really has everything you need to know
- If you or someone you know will be applying to attend CMS next school year, we are hoping to have it all done online
- Great year for clubs – robotics participating in drone racing
- The administration is available to answer any questions
  - The surest way to get an answer is to ask Dr. Ash
    - Email, call, or stop by to talk to him
- When students have great teachers, they will succeed
  - CMS has great teachers
  - We are #7 school in America
  - #1 middle school in Tennessee
  - #1 high school in Tennessee
- Teachers are in short supply
  - If one quits now, there would most likely be a substitute for the rest of the year
  - Dr. Ash recommended that parents talk to commissioners and school boards to get teachers raises
  - Rutherford County has 40 openings for teachers currently
- We need two custodians if anyone is interested or knows someone
- Sending emails to thank teachers goes a long way

\*\*See the PowerPoint on the School Website for the full information for Service Hours, Student Resumes, and Testing\*\*

- Mr. Nichols introduced himself and then discussed Service Hours
  - Why?
    - Volunteering in the community sets us apart from other schools
    - It combines academic learning with personal and social development
    - Stronger Students = Stronger Community
    - Dr. Ash added that scholarships and selective schools look at community service in application process
  - How Much and How?
    - Middle School students must complete a minimum of 10 hours a school year
    - High School students must complete a minimum of 25 hours a school year
    - Students in both middle and high school can earn special awards by completing three times the number of required service hours each year
      - Middle School 30 hours and High School 75 hours
    - School service hours must be separate from any hours required by a club



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- In other words, “No Double Dipping”
- Students must document hours on a service log
  - Students can get a log from his/her advisor, or he/she can print one from the CMS Advisory website
  - Students can round time to the nearest half hour
  - Students must get an adult at the place he/she volunteers to sign his/her log
    - + Post pandemic, the adult who is signing cannot be a parent/guardian
    - + If the student is doing something to volunteer virtually and cannot get a signature from the adult in charge, a printout of his/her activity log or an email from the person in charge can take place of the signature
- Students must turn in completed service logs to advisors by the designated date
  - For the 2022-2023 school year, that date is Wednesday, April 5, 2023
- Where?
  - Students are encouraged to serve in an area where they are passionate about
    - Colleges want to see a focus on certain areas, not just doing something to fulfill a requirement
    - For example, if the student intends to become a veterinarian, he/she could volunteer at an animal shelter; if one the medical path, he/she could help at the hospital or nursing home
  - The sky is the limit!
    - Examples include, but are not limited to: helping in a library/animal shelter/former school, helping work on a political campaign or at a non-profit organization, helping with collection drives or beautification projects like picking up trash in a local park, etc.
    - Anything done at CMS must be approved by Dr. Ash
    - Things the student should already be doing (helping sports team with concession stand, babysitting a sibling, doing yard- or housework at home, helping a family member) do not count
- Answers to questions and other miscellaneous
  - Make sure to make a copy of the log to keep in your student file/folder at home before student turns into his/her advisor
  - In answer to a question – logs must be turned in earlier than the actual end of school year so that advisors have time document all of them from each of their students
  - In answer to a question - the next year’s service hours may begin after the final two-hour day in May is finished
  - In answer to a question – a parent who already signed off on hours thus far does not have to go back and get signatures from those organizations, but from here on out needs to have a different adult sign



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- In answer to a question – logs do not have to be notarized
  
- Mr. Nichols then discussed Student Resumes
  - High School students will get help in Advisory in January
  - Include academic information and service hours
  - Sometimes Work info is included if a student has a job during high school
  - Resumes are finalized in senior year
  - Resumes help with getting scholarships
  - Resumes can help get first jobs
  - When asking for letters of recommendation, be sure to ask someone who knows your child well because it is better to have more personalized letters
  - Start a folder in middle school
    - Put stuff in there and you can sort through it later
  - Sophomore year print tax returns for FAFSA and keep in folder
  - Any awards received during high school should be included
    - Not just awards from school, but outside too
      - Eagle Scout, Gold Award
  
- Mrs. Huffman discussed Types of Classes and Testing
  - High School – Honors and Advanced Honors
    - These courses teach and assess the Tennessee State standards (those can be found on the Tennessee website)
    - They have an End of Course (EOC) test at the end of the year
    - Three extra points added in the grade of Honors and Advanced Honors classes
    - There are not any levels lower than honors at CMS
  - High School – AP Classes
    - These courses are established by the college board and the student can take an exam at the end of the year to earn college credit if the score is high enough
      - You need to look at the specific college you want to attend to determine if/what score on the exam will qualify for credit
      - Most colleges require a 3 or better; a 4 or 5 guarantees credit
    - These classes are college classes taught by a CMS teacher
    - Students can earn five extra points on class grade if they take the exam; he/she only gets three extra points if he/she does not sit take the exam
    - There are 31 AP classes at CMS
  - High School – Dual Enrollment Classes
    - These classes are college classes taught by college professors
      - MTSU professors come to CMS to teach their classes here
    - Students can earn college credit and satisfy high school requirements at the same time



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- End of Year Testing
  - TN Ready – Based on state standards
    - TCAP (middle school)/ EOC (high school)
    - Usually in mid-April and has a window of time to complete
    - This year it will all be on the computer
    - If scores return in time, they become 15% of the second semester grade
  - AP Exams – College Board test at the end of an AP class
    - Students should/can use AP Classroom to help study and prepare for exam(s)
  - Finals
    - Non-tested classes will have a final which will count for 15% of the second semester grade
    - Students can be exempt from final exam based on their grades and total number of absences (regardless of excused or unexcused)
  
- Other Tests
  - PSAT – helps prepare for the SAT
    - Students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades are encouraged to take it each year
    - Can qualify for National Merit Scholarship in 11<sup>th</sup> grade only
    - Inexpensive fee
    - Khan Academy is a great way to practice, improve, and build on what is known
  - ACT/SAT- college entrance exams
    - SAT is only given on Saturdays
    - Some schools require SAT subtests – so be proactive in checking out what is needed and marking a calendar to keep you from missing deadlines
    - ACT is given for free two days during school
      - + Mrs. Huffman will get them registered
      - + Seniors take it for free at school in the fall and Juniors take it for free at school in the spring
    - Otherwise ACT test dates on are Saturdays and students must register and pay in advance
    - CMS is an ACT test site, but they are assigned which specific dates they will host it
      - + CMS students will be more comfortable, and therefore do better, if they take the ACT at CMS
    - End of sophomore year is a good time to take the ACT for a baseline



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- + Continue to retake to increase score throughout junior year and then first semester of senior year
    - The average ACT score at Central is 31
  - ACT CERT – helps prepare for ACT
    - Test given to students three times a year during the school day
    - Students are given their scores and shown how to remediate to improve the next time
    - CMS has started a new incentive program to encourage students to study and improve
  - Case Assessment
  - Benchmark - county from state
  - Midterm - high school students
  - You Science – Assessment for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders to see about interests for jobs and course placement
- 
- Mrs. Huffman encouraged parents to look at and use the school calendar on the website

## Concluding Remarks

- CMS PTO President thanked the administration for speaking and sharing all the information
- She thanked all the parents who joined us for our first General Meeting of the year and asked them if they had topics they would be interested in for discussion at our next meeting to please email PTO.
- Our next General PTO Board Meeting will be on April 24, 2023 at 6:30PM

**PTO General Board Meeting ended at 7:45PM**