

## CM PTA General Meeting 11.10.2020

Call to Order, 10:03

**Attendees:** Meghan Russo, Amanda Patania, Manisha Patel, Rosalie Witt, Dr. Falcone, Dr. Smith, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Cox, Betsy Rafferty, Marisa Rosado, Sabeth Albert, Tammy Thornton, Michelle Krupa, Chandra Ring, Elizabeth Brown, Jennifer Acerra-Markey, Jennifer Carvajal, Neelam Soin, Nicholas Tong, Olga Zargos-Traub,

### **President's Report:**

Concern over the increasing cases in Cider Mill; staffing concerns with teachers being out of the building; what does it mean if we switch between models; sub pool is low; recess is concern for parents: lack of activity for the kids, however balls might come into play; drop off pick up was crazy this morning: traffic pattern changed again; Wednesday schedule change

### **Dr. Smith**

"Presume positive intent."

There is a lot to celebrate in comparison to March; grateful for all that the parents are doing to make this year happen

Covid: October was a good month, transmission was very low within Wilton and our schools; routine was established having kids back in school 4 days a week; schools are some of the safest places that kids and adults can be due to the controlled environment; transmission seems to be happening outside of the schools. November: different story, dramatic turnaround from October; in very regular contact with Barry Bogle and Macken; there is a concern over the increasing cases; looking at community spread and what is happening in the schools. DoPH helps the schools making decisions; 10-25 cases a day: assess strategies; avg 25 or more a day of cases: schools should strongly consider remote learning

2 themes: youth athletics & family transmission; we are not seeing evidence of transmission within the classroom; if we start to see in our schools that it is spreading within the schools then that is when we would consider flipping to another model. We have to reinforce our mitigation strategies and do them outside of school

The more adults that we have to quarantine the less we have to run a school; absence of staff would be what could lead us to remote learning; trying to have as many kids in school as possible, perhaps a class would go remote depending on the staff that is quarantine

Concerns as of 11.10: colder weather is upon us, more indoor activities, college kids returning home, family over the holidays reinforce the worry of the spread of the virus. Adults need to make good decisions for the family. Pandemic fatigue is real, we need to continue to make hard choices

Surveillance testing: can we adopt an infrastructure to test? CIC Health CEO meeting: individual PCR testing or matrix testing (pool testing); cost prohibitive for \$50 a test; a pool test \$25 per test; costing it out; testing as many people as possible once a week; low side cost \$13K per week; over 30 weeks for one school \$800K; is there any value to sampling a group of teachers or kids what would it tell us?

**Question:** why are we seeing more in CM than Middlebrook? **Dr. Smith Answers:** Two things: there are 6 students in MB consider positive; 5 of the 6 are in sports; because of the hybrid model at MB the mitigation strategies are 6 ft apart

Barry Bogle has his sights set on the youth athletics as a cause of spread

**Arrival/Dismissal: Dr. Falcone:** just sent new map that has the directions to the officers that cover so that everyone is on the same page; **Mrs. Bird:** arrival dismissal at max takes 25 minutes; have been able to maintain our instruction time

**Recess: Dr. Smith:** town of Wilton has taken a very conservative approach; MB was playing ball with gloves would Barry permit this: yes! No use of playground equipment

**Question:** using paint, chalk would PTA entertain raising funds for that usage during recess

**Dr. Falcone:** working on communication to have parents provide gloves; pta is working on purchasing balls

**Volunteers: Dr. Smith:** still not able to have volunteers in the building; we can write up a proposal for a specific event and send it to Barry Bogle

**Dr. Falcone:** we had outdoor volunteers for picture day; possibly to have something similar for book fair

Rosalie DeWitt will regroup with Dr. Falcone on free play task force for recess

**Dr. Smith:** Thank you to the PTA for their support; our teachers are remarkable

**Dr. Falcone:** blown away with the mindset of our teachers, flexibility, adaptability is incredible; anything we can do to show our support and gratitude, the teachers want the kids at school! Just keep the communication going with administration and the teachers

**Dr. Falcone:** shift in schedule on Wednesdays due to a district expectation for our teachers; union agreement for teachers to provide an hour to work on curriculum; to allow this, they moved staff meeting to the morning

Need to focus on math; using ixl in the morning on Wednesdays, using the diagnostic information to pinpoint instruction for teachers; preserves instructional 30 minutes during math class; kids working independently

**Question:** concern regarding schedule, is it possible to start the day later rather with the teachers? **Dr. Falcone Answer:** we have freed up instructional time during math so that they are doing ixl independently which they would have to do anyway; it is not optional, there is an attendance task first and then move into ixl

**Question:** What is the homework policy, any changes? **Dr. Falcone Answer:** Just asking kids to read and the reason for that is screen time; start to see some math practice problems coming home in the next few weeks

**Quick updates:**

**Fundraising:** walk a thon moved to spring

**Membership:** please consider joining

**Treasurer:** financials on the PTA website

**Secretary:** approving our minutes from 10.6 meeting

**Turkey Trot:** \$1850 raised so far; kids are running this week during PE

Giving Tree for our teachers; creating Amazon wish lists for the teachers 😊

CM Facebook page has Michelle's notes from BoE meetings

**Danielle Bottinger:** book fair will be in person; student visit only no parents; parents can set up an online account; contactless book fair in the hallway moving through in one direction only; full remote 360 virtual fair; email with details will be sent out

Teachers will have wish lists; PTA has donated 100 books to the teachers library; 19,20,23,24 will be the dates of the book fair on the 4 half days

**Gifts & Grants:** still doing grants will run through 12/1; only have 19 teachers that have submitted receipts: deadline is approaching

**Hospitality:** gearing up for a holiday plan for the staff!

**Spirit Wear:** still selling items!

**Lost & Found:** on the 28<sup>th</sup> there was an event, handful of parents came by; the rest went to the Turnover shop

**SEPTA:** this Thursday at 1:30 there is a parent forum for kids with IEPs, link is on the SEPTA page; gifts & grants available to SE teachers

**Jennifer Carvajal:** yearbook updates, cannot get into schools to take pics; Shutterfly account for parents to upload pics school related; also looking for teachers help with this; no class photos this year, hoping to do a class photo over zoom

Will update *CM* Facebook page with information to parents, also could use a few volunteers to help organize, perhaps one per house; a letter will go out to parents with information

**Adjourn, 11:45**