

Friends of Coonley Board Meeting

Jan. 7, 2020, 7 p.m.

Board Members in attendance: Kristin Morris, Brooke Odem, Brooke Roark, Christina Kreidler, Stephen Laslo, Inka Cherry, Kathy Alvarez, Erin Van Awken

Honorary Board Members in attendance: Esther Storrie

Guests in attendance: Jenna Kelsey, Sandy Morris, Renee Schneidewind

Call to order (B. Roark): Called meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (B. Roark): Dec. minutes have been emailed out and will be approved over email vote.

Treasurer's Report (K. Alvarez): A couple checks from Appy aren't going through. Working with Fifth Third Bank to resolve it. Received a \$100,000 grant from a charitable foundation. School admin considering options for putting it to use. Raised \$18,200 for teacher holiday gift card funds. Total committed accounts are \$352,086. Total balance is \$916,753. Available funds are \$564,676. K. Alvarez made motion to approve Dec. check reimbursements. I. Cherry seconded. All approve. B. Roark made motion to seed Best Buddies fund with \$5,000. Will take \$2,000 from community fund with other \$3,000 funded by free cash for Coonley. K. Alvarez seconded. All approve. K. Alvarez made motion to approve Dec. financial report. I. Cherry seconded. All approve. 2019 taxes info has all been filed for the audit.

LSC Report (E. Storrie): Did a presentation at meeting of SRQP data -- growth and attainment data from last school year -- and how it informs our goals for the CWIP... The next technology committee meeting is Tues. Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. Will have a conversation about where are current use is now and goals going forward... Had a representative from Matt Martin's office attend the LSC meeting -- Michael Sewall, director of constituent services and community outreach... CPS holding School funding engagement workshops. Explaining how schools are funded and getting feedback from parents. Closest one to us is Wed. Jan 29 at Amundsen. There are five other sessions... LSC elections are this year. All seats are open every time. 6 parents and 2 community spots voted on by parents. Candidate forum will be on March 24 at 6 p.m. April 14 is the date for candidate fliers to go home.

School admin report (S. Laslo): Getting ready for the Celebration week. We do it every year in conjunction with Special Olympics send-off. Going to purchase bracelets promoting inclusion for all Coonley students. The bracelet people aren't a Best Buddies Illinois \$840 will purchase enough bracelets for entire school. B. Roark motions to approve. I Cherry seconds. All approve. Washington DC: 14 students in need got \$300 in funds. 41 people forgoing all funding. Requesting \$200 for all other students (30) who would like some assistance \$5,700 total. There is already \$300 in the account from a student who canceled. S. Laslo makes motion for \$5700. K. Alvarez seconds. All approve.

Spring Fling (B. Odem): Banners soon going up -- probably this week. Invites going in folders next Tuesday. Ticket sales will go live then. Set early-bird price \$100. Can also do \$150 for an additional write-off. Also a \$50 option for those who feel more comfortable at a lower price point. May limit quantity if it becomes too popular. Teacher price is \$40 for them and their guests. Deciding on food and beverage this week. Exciting changes – less setup/teardown. Not bringing any items there. Donations committee will distribute items on a date after the event. Still looking to admin to let us know a fund-a-need “need.”

Pride Stride (B. Roark): It’s a wrap! X Factor talent show went well. Thanks to all the teachers/staff who performed.

Free cash for Coonley (C. Kriedler): \$191.94 for Quarter 3 from Amazon smile. 53 purchases in last 7 days. Box Tops check should have been cut mid-Dec. Should arrive soon. \$1,287.30. That covers last collection from last year and first one from this year. Also included a \$199.90 credit from Ziploc. Have made about \$78 on the app since Oct. and the last collection.

Speaker Series (B. Roark): Was well attended. Discussion post-movie went well. Original movie will be shown Tuesday the 28th.

3-5 Dance (I. Cherry): Only 2 volunteers so far to help Renee and Elisha organize. Will be a valentine’s theme. Need people for food, decorations. Need to make clear in a nice way that we need volunteers to run the event. Was one email sent home but may have been missed post-holiday.

Teacher appreciation (E. Van Awken): Parents generously donated \$18K in our first-ever holiday gift fund collection. Every staff member got a gift card for \$175. Staff was very appreciative. Was a challenge purchasing so many gift cards but organizing/distributing went well... Today was the first load the lounge. Signup filled quickly. 1st, 4th and 8th grade this round. Will be two more. There’s a framed note saying which grades provided the snacks/drinks. There’s a toaster oven in the lounge that looks like it could be in need of replacing. Will talk to staff about that possibility of us funding it.

Movie night (J. Kelsey): Coming up on Jan. 24. Choices are narrowed down to 10 right now. Classes will vote on which movie they’d like to watch. Top vote getters will be shown. Signs will be ready at end of the week. Getting a deal on D’Agostino pizza. Considering selling whole small pizzas to family. May or may not work out. Encourage people to bring cash and tell them what door to enter through. If it snows may want to consider a plan for keeping wet boots off gym/multipurpose room floor. A sign-up genius is ready to go for volunteers. Will need 14-15 volunteers. Everyone will get a free popcorn ticket. Candy will be \$1. Pizza will be sold close to what we purchase it for to cover our costs.

Coonley Cares (B. Roark): Jenny Schaffer works with group called Embarc. An organization that exposes kids to activities/places they may not usually experience. Planning a networking event for embark students to teach them how to talk to adults/Interview skills. Date would be Thurs. Feb. 27 during the school day. Would be during school hours.

Insurance (B. Roark): Our insurance guy is working with us to settle our differences with the underwriter on meeting their compliance needs for the volunteer background checks and waivers for doing FOC business. We strongly feel that cross-checking with CPS volunteer list is enough to cover our end. We will honor their request that only board members will drive on our behalf (Costco runs/storage locker pickups, etc.) Or people can provide us a driver's license/insurance card to keep on file and a hold harmless waiver. Will have to also provide hold-harmless waivers to volunteers to prevent potential lawsuits if something happens to them while volunteering. Waiting to get final word from our attorney on how this will work and when we can implement it.

Playground refurb. (B. Roark): Should we approach the Cubs about partnering up with another school that needs the money/help as much as we do? Would have to ask the Cubs how to approach the actual writing of the grant to reflect the school's separate needs. Reaching out to people to help write the grant.

Green team (B. Roark): Teachers Heineman/Thompson put in request for bins for pen/marker/crayon recycling. \$88 for a box/services for the pickup. Need two (for markers and pens). Crayola sends one for crayons. Company is called Terracycle. Can put by the parking lot door recycling area. Kids would bring down those with other things we already recycle.

Board opening (B. Roark): Have an opening on the board that needs to be filled. If anyone know someone who is interested, have them email friendsfoconleygmail. We will have further openings next year.

Adjournment: B. Roark moved to adjourn meeting at 8:54 p.m. C. Kreidler seconded. All approve.

Minutes prepared by K. Morris. Next FOC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2020.