

General PTO Meeting January 25, 2017

PTO Board Members In Attendance: Rachel Feitlinger, Natalie Kearns, Nichole Stine, Ali Johnson, Rachel Washburn, Michelle Johns, Michelle Caldwell, Ann Newman, Michelle Miller, Emmie Cardella, Michelle Trca, Kathleen Baldus, Jacqueline Karam, Kim Morander

Welcome – Principal Stombres

- Welcome to the PTO Board and President, Rachel Feitlinger.
- Welcome to all parents.
- Welcome to Dan O'Brien, SUSD Chief Financial Officer.
- Welcome to Pam Kirby, SUSD Board Vice President.
- This meeting is:
 - A general PTO meeting.
 - A meeting for the parents.
 - An opportunity to review current events.
- CTS PTO:
 - Volunteer committee of Cheyenne parents.
 - Raises money to support Cheyenne.

PTO Updates – Rachel Feitlinger

- Amazing Race – OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
 - Co-chairs:
 - Sharon Fisher (sharonuofa@aol.com)
 - Monica Petlowany (monica.petlowany@gmail.com)
 - One of CTS largest fundraisers!
 - Friday, 2/17/17 @ 4:00 pm
 - Register ONLINE by 2/6/17.
 - Register child.
 - \$40.00 (race; dinner; t-shirt; on a team)
 - PRIZES!
 - Register spectators as well.
 - \$5.00 (admission fee)
 - Online registration: <https://cheyennetradiationlpto.org/cts-events-2/amazing-race/>
 - Dinner tickets available online.
 - Fundraise using Pledgestar.
 - To sponsor your student to run.
 - Email your child's link to friends and family.
 - Pledgestar: <https://pledgestar.com/cheyenne/>
 - Fundraising Levels
 - Level 1 = CTS Water Bottle
 - Level 2 = Stuffed Roadrunner
 - Level 3 = Beanie or Headband

- Level 4 = Towel
 - Grand Prize = Remote Drone or Pinspiration Gift Card
 - CTS is the only school allowed to do this event at Phoenix Zoo!
 - Volunteer!
 - Still need volunteers!
 - Before event.
 - Set-up.
 - At event.
 - Giving clues.
 - Volunteers typically run with their children at the event.
 - Email the Amazing Race co-chairs.
 - Sharon Fisher (sharonuofa@aol.com)
 - Monica Petlowany (monica.petlowany@gmail.com)
- Golf Tournament
 - Adult-only event.
 - Friday, April 7th
 - Westin Kierland Golf Club
 - Dinner & Silent Auction after golf.
 - Raises a lot of money for Cheyenne!
 - Volunteer
 - Looking for volunteers!
 - Contact Rachel Feitliner (ctsptopresident@gmail.com) to volunteer.
 - Co-chairs:
 - Tini Stalzer (tinistalzer@gmail.com)
 - Liz Blutstein (tinistalzer@gmail.com)
- Not My Kid
 - Parent Presentations (2 this year)
 - Internet Safety Thursday, 3/30 @ 8:00 am (at General PTO Meeting)
 - Substance Abuse Wednesday, 4/5 @ 8:00 am
 - Student Presentations (during school; dates TBD)
 - 5th Grade = Bullying
 - 6th Grade = Substance Abuse
 - 7th Grade = Bullying
 - 8th Grade = Internet Safety
 - Not My Kid: <https://notmykid.org/>
- Talent Show
 - Friday, March 31st @ Desert Mountain High School
 - Great school event to showcase student talent!
 - Co-chairs:
 - Lori Markson (lorihillary@gmail.com)
 - Angela Handley (angela777@cox.net)

- Auditions
 - Looking at end of February.
 - Watch PTO newsletter for dates.
 - Looking at two days of auditions.
- PTO Online Account
 - All events will now have online registration.
 - Amazing Race is next event. All set up!
 - Register student.
 - Register spectator.
 - Sign up to be a sponsor.
 - Purchase dinner.
 - By now, parents should all have an online PTO account set up.
 - If not, email CTS PTO/Jacqueline Karam for assistance.
 - CTS/PTO email: (admin@cheyennetraditionalpto.org).
 - Online CTS store being transition into PTO online account.
 - Can order directly from PTO online account.

Campus Improvements – Dan O’Brien, SUSD Chief Financial Officer

- Updates for bond money:
 - Last week, the SUSD Board approved money to be spent in Year One for Cheyenne! Approval includes:
 - A gymnasium.
 - Parking lot updates (i.e. drop off/pick up lanes).
 - Front office remodel (i.e. security improvements).
 - Additional classroom space (i.e. science labs).
 - Bond sale:
 - Should be happening in next couple of weeks.
 - Target date 2nd week in February.
 - Architect firm decided for Cheyenne.
 - Orchutt-Winslow
 - SUSD need to meet with them for planning.
 - SUSD will then work with Principal Stombres and CTS parents, etc. to plan details for building.
 - Building permits will be obtained after final decisions for gym, etc.
 - Hoping to start construction relatively quickly.
 - Will take at least 6-8 weeks to secure contracting.
 - Check online for bond project updates.
 - SUSD website (<https://concrete.susd.org/susd-bond-projects/>)
 - CTS Gym (more information)
 - SUSD has voted to use bond money for a gym at CTS!
 - A gym will be built, all at one time. No phasing.
 - Will work on gym while students in school (i.e. active site).
 - Contractor will have experience working on active site.
 - Two spots identified for gym.

- SUSD will talk to architect and Principal Stombres for final decision of gym location.
- Building Services
 - PANDA playground will be removed by SUSD building services.
 - SUSD is addressing the concerns expressed by CTS.
 - Planning for removal in the next couple of months.
 - Playground is not used and has safety hazards.
- Q&A (Questions by parents. Answers by Dan O'Brien.)
 - Are there any more details about the gym?
 - None at this time.
 - TBA for further details as the planning progresses.
 - When will the gym be done?
 - Tough to answer with so many factors.
 - Design process is about 6-8 weeks alone.
 - Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contracting will be used, which is more efficient regarding timeframes and completion.
 - Targeting summer to start building.
 - The classrooms.
 - Walkways (i.e. sidewalks) ideally done by August.
 - Safety and staging ideally done by August.
 - Shooting for 12-14 months to have both gym and classrooms done.
 - Timing does depend on city and building permit process.
 - Hopefully, have the gym done by next school year.
 - Has the identified architect designed middle school gyms before?
 - Orchutt-Winslow is identified architect.
 - The firm has K-12 design experience.
 - Have over 20 years' experience with school buildings.
 - Have experience with CTS needs. (classrooms; gym; etc.)
 - Will the gym be added to the cafeteria or a new building?
 - A whole new separate building.
 - Most likely, in the site identified by the fields.
 - Will the science labs will be existing classrooms or new?
 - A whole different building.
 - Most likely over by middle school and PE rooms.
 - Portables will probably be removed.
 - Will there be construction when the students are on campus?
 - Yes, CTS will be an active construction site.
 - Some building will occur with students on campus.
 - Some building will occur around student hours.
 - Safety assessments will be completed.
 - Building with safety risks will after/around student hours.
 - Weekend construction, after school hours, etc.
 - Screening will be put up around construction areas.
 - Walkways will be secured for safety.

- Students and contractors will have safety reviewed.
- SUSD will work with contractor and Principal to schedule construction, based on school hours.
- Safety meetings will occur to ensure safety.
- Contractor has experience with active site issues, planning and building.
- CTS to keep parents/students involved regarding safety.
- Will the contract workers be background checked?
 - Yes, all are required to have background check and clear fingerprints, per the state statute governing working on an active school site.
 - Per SUSD contract, SUSD requires a folder onsite that has all this verified information about each contractor.
 - SUSD will hire contractors that have experience working on school campuses so they know the rules and regulations.
 - SUSD will also set up a separate entry for contractors and specific time they arrive/leave.
- What are the front office enhancements?
 - To clarify, the front office is a renovation, not a tear down/rebuild.
 - Front lobby area will be renovated to create more secure area.
 - Will eliminate walkway directly through office to the campus.
 - Check in area mainly will get renovation.
 - Maybe a few office areas.
- Is a computer lab included in the classroom additions?
 - A computer lab can be built with bond money.
 - SUSD has determined more classrooms are being built.
 - CTS will determine what programs go into the classrooms.
- Is there status on the capital override spending decisions?
 - Capital money is released July 1, 2017.
 - In terms of curriculum, Dr. Birdwell and her team is committed to paying for all CTS curriculum.
 - Includes Spalding.
 - Dr. Birdwell has directed to pay for all of CTS curriculum!

All About Cheyenne – Principal Stombres

- Special invitation to 4th and 5th grade parents to attend today.
 - Want to feature all the great things about CTS middle school!
 - Some parents start to consider a different middle school.
 - CTS has an incredible middle school program.
 - Middle school experience begins in 5th grade.
 - Changing classrooms.
 - Increased accountability.
 - Getting high school prep from 5th to 8th grades.
 - CTS middle school:
 - Honors Level Curriculum for ALL Students.

- General curriculum is so strong many students do not opt for (real) honors program.
- Language Arts with Honors Option
- Humanities
- Social Studies
- Science
- Mathematics
 - Gifted students automatically placed in advanced math.
 - Algebra class gets high school credit.
 - Geo/trig honors earn high school credit.
- Spanish Language
 - CTS students are conversational in Spanish by 8th grade.
 - Earn high school credit for Spanish at end of 8th grade.
- Electives – offer well rounded experience.
 - PE
 - Choir
 - Band or Orchestra
 - Visual Arts
- Former CTS Graduates’ Testimonials
 - Current President of Desert Mountain Student Government (read by CTS Student Government President, Elsa D.)
 - Excelled at English and Spanish at Desert Mountain.
 - Took Honors and AP classes at Desert Mountain.
 - Toastmasters was an incredible experience.
 - Teachers were an incredible support.
 - CTS character building gave confidence to be a student leader, have courage and gain leadership skills.
 - Leadership skills gained at CTS are the reason for being President of Student Government at Desert Mountain.
 - Current Vice President of Desert Mountain Student Government (read by CTS Student Government Vice President, Hayden H.)
 - “CTS molded me into the person I am today.”
 - Way ahead in education at Desert Mountain.
 - Already knew things teachers were teaching at DMHS.
 - Toastmasters very beneficial to public speaking.
 - CTS (being a smaller school) allowed leadership opportunities.
 - CTS has the best of the best for teachers.
 - Teachers taught students:
 - Find passion.
 - Tell the truth.
 - Treat others well.
 - Find success.
- Curriculum & Program for CTS Middle School
 - Community Service Hours = 4 per semester.
 - NJHS do more community service hours.

- Spalding curriculum for K-8.
 - Math
 - Saxon for K-4
 - AMP (accelerated math program) for 5-8
 - Math presented in real-world
 - Graphing calculators provided, to learn how to use them.
 - Student Leaving CTS:
 - Take honors programs.
 - Are in NJH Society.
 - Are in Advanced Placement College Board (AP) classes.
 - Are on International Baccalaureate (IB) track.
 - Are taking college level classes by sophomore year.
 - Frances Lax, School Counselor, provided numbers from last year:
 - 75% went into honors programs.
 - 22% went into IB programs.
 - At high school graduation, CTS graduates are attending such top tier colleges as USC, Penn State, Purdue, etc.
 - Shows how well prepared CTS graduates are for high school.
- Questions about whether to stay at CTS for middle school?
 - Please contact Principal Stombres.
 - Email (GStombres@susd.org).
 - Consider staying here at CTS:
 - Safe
 - Challenging
 - Outstanding prep for high school.
 - Our students soar in 9th grade while others struggle.
- Parent Testimonials about CTS Middle School
 - Janine:
 - School of choice.
 - Believe in 9 cornerstones.
 - Son is CTS graduate and now attend Brophy.
 - SHEP participant.
 - Honors biology.
 - Honors chemistry.
 - 8th place in school poetry competition.
 - Success at Brophy attributed to:
 - High rigors at CTS.
 - Toastmasters.
 - And curriculum public speaking experience.
 - Spalding curriculum.
 - High academic achievement at CTS in math and science.
 - High CTS expectations.
 - Well-rounded CTS experience:
 - Academics

- Sports
 - Arts
 - 2 younger children still at CTS.
 - CTS has 20 years of producing outstanding students!
 - Helped put together a CTS graduate video:
<https://cheyennetradiationalpto.org/about-us/about-cts/cts-video/>
 - These students are now:
 - Harvard graduate.
 - Job with Boston Consulting Group
 - ASU graduate with two degrees.
 - On scholarship.
 - EMT certified and job while in school
 - University of Michigan
 - Business school (top in country).
 - Job offer from Morgan Stanley, as a junior.
 - Intern with Morgan Stanley this summer.
- Jill:
 - 12-year parent at CTS.
 - One child still here.
 - One at Desert Mountain.
 - Honors track.
 - In AP.
 - CTS middle school curriculum is wonderful!
 - Breaking English into Humanities and English (2 separate classes) was a great idea.
 - 5 “C’s” for why CTS Middle School is so great:
 - Consistency
 - Linear sequential teaching methods. (building block/spiral back methodology)
 - Conduct
 - Clear expectation with conduct.
 - Accountability.
 - Uniforms.
 - Compassion and Comfort
 - Love and know our kids.
 - Want them to succeed.
 - Kids comfortable with teachers.
 - Kids have comfort in smaller school.
 - Kids still see elementary teachers.
 - PTO, admin and parents working together.
 - Parents have become lifelong friends.
 - Confidence
 - For students.
 - Given foundation and tools to go out into the world.
 - Lifelong success.

- Kathleen:
 - 2 girls (twins) in 7th grade.
 - 9th year here.
 - Teachers knew her girls and always placed in well matched classroom.
 - 5th grade rotating classrooms prepared for middle school rotations.
 - Expectations practiced in 5th grade.
 - Prepared for middle school transition.
 - Flourishing in middle school and expect the same for high school.
 - Many friends have school anxiety with middle school.
 - Managing it all, workload and extra-curricular activities, family and friends.
 - Teachers keep things organized and thus the students.
 - Sense of community is key.
 - Volunteering and being involved in our CTS community has given opportunity to know administration, teachers, make lifelong friends.
 - High school prep for such tracks as IP, AP, Honors, etc. are totally prepared academically at CTS.
 - With Cheyenne middle school and preparation, no worries about high school.

Closing Remarks – Rachel Feitlinger

- Thank you to the PTO Board!
 - Amazing help and support!
- Minutes, presentation and agenda will be posted on the PTO website.
- Please contact Rachel with questions or more information on anything discussed. If you have friends or know of parents that were not able to attend today and would like more information about this meeting, I would be very happy to meet them or talk. They can reach me at ctsptopresident@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

- 6th Grade Greek Day 2/3/17 (all day)
 - Still looking for volunteers!
 - Especially need dads to help!
 - Watch for e-blast going out today with volunteer request information!
- 5th Grade Colonial Day 1/26/17 (all day)
- Room Parent Meeting 1/31/17 (8:00 am in cafeteria)
- Have a Heart Dance for 7th/8th Graders 2/10/17 (in cafeteria)
- Amazing Race 2/17/17 (at Phoenix Zoo)
- Used Uniform Sale 2/22/17 (afternoon) and 2/23 (morning)
- Field Days 2/28/17 through 3/2/17
- Student Talent Show 3/31/17 (at Desert Mountain High School)
- Golf Tournament 4/7/17 (at Westin Kierland Golf Course)