1. Dr. Burnett, Conerly Road School (CRS) Principal, opened with the meeting with the Principal’s Report. She first ‘thanked’ those in attendance (CRS families and teachers) for coming out. She discussed that the bus arrival times to school for morning drop-off are improving. There is no ‘supervision’ for students that arrive before 8am in the morning. The first bell rings at 8:35am to start the school day. Parents must strive to get their students to school between 8:35am – 8:50am, 8:35am is preferred so students can participate in the morning activities in their homerooms. She emphasized that students need to be in school by 8:50am. Students arriving AFTER 8:50am are considered late and require a late pass to get to class.

2. Following Dr. Burnett, Mrs. Best (kindergarten homeroom teacher and teacher/PTO liaison), presented the Teacher’s Report. She began by thanking (again) the CRS PTO for this year’s donations of ‘Back to School’ supplies to all the homerooms and for the ‘CRS Faculty & Staff Welcome Back Breakfast’ held in September. She discussed the start of the ‘Box Tops’ contest and urged families to participate in this fundraiser as it has yield lots of money for CRS. Mrs. Best followed with a discussion of the ‘CHOICE PLAY by Learning’ initiative for Kindergarten students. Due to changes in the district many of the items previously used for CENTERs in the Kindergarten classrooms (i.e., play/doll houses, dolls, etc.) have been omitted. In its place is the idea of ‘CHOICE PLAY by Learning’ whereby students now have interactive board games, puzzles, etc. that emphasize learning in lieu of the aforementioned center toys, and the need for more of those kinds of items for the CRS Kindergarten classes as well as other elementary Kindergarten classes. The CRS PTO will help in this endeavor by putting out a call for donations of the desired ‘CHOICE PLAY by Learning’ items to its CRS families. The goal is to provide CRS Kindergarten students with these items and also donate to our fellow elementary school Kindergarten students.

3. Ms. Felix, Co-president of the CRS PTO, continued the meeting. First, she ‘thanked’ all the CRS families & teachers for coming out and for their support. She announced that there was one (1) open position on the CRS PTO Board for anyone to volunteer for; Recording Secretary and gave a brief description.

4. Ms. Felix continued with a status report of the PTOS desire to apply for 501c3 status with the IRS. She mentioned her work along with the CRS PTO Treasurer, Mrs. Kimberley Davison in discussing the process with a CPA and mentioned that the cost would be approximately $415 to retain the CPA (Mr. Charles Holmes), complete and submit the application before the end of this year. But one item that was critical to the success of this endeavor was the need for a committee of parents/guardians and teachers to work collectively to seek out grants, prepare and submit proposals for these grants as well as network with businesses in the community for donations and sponsorship of the many ideas that we want to bring to CRS and our students. Without a set work plan, it would not be advantageous to pursue 501c3 status. She asked for a vote (of the members in attendance) to approve the use of PTO money for this item with the condition that a committee would be in place to support it. With an overwhelming support, the CRS PTO will pursue 501c3 status, use PTO funds to cover the cost and a committee will be established during the application process. Ms. Felix will follow-up with Ms. Machover and Ms. Best to seek out teachers that would like to be part of this committee.

5. Ms. Felix continued with a run down of the school activities set for the month of October and the need for volunteers. As well as the Otis Spunkmeyer cookie fundraiser coming up in November.

   - Fall Picture Day set for Monday, October 22, 2018
   - Scholastic Book Fair set for Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – Friday, October 26, 2018
6. Dr. Burnett provided clarification on ‘after-school events’ and the new ‘no-food restriction.’ The no-food restriction is for classroom parties only. There are no restrictions for after-school events, where parents and guardians of students/children with food allergies are present and able to monitor their children. The CRS PTO can plan after-school events like Autumn Fest as they have done before.

7. Before concluding the meeting, the floor was open to questions from parents & guardians. One parent asked about the morning clubs and if there were open to 3rd grades or just the 4th and 5th grades. Dr. Burnett clarified that the morning clubs, that run 7:55am – 8:45am, are open to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders but that advisors are still needed to help facilitate them. Currently, there is a Band, Choir, Dance, French and Lego’s (Building) club at CRS. Band, Choir and Dance are clubs for 4th and 5th graders only. Furthermore, clubs are held on the selected “LETTER” day and not a set standing week day (because many of the teachers that facilitate the clubs travel among the various schools.) The parent also asked if parents can make suggestions for additional club ideas. Dr. Burnett stated that she would follow-up and provide clarification.

Follow-up after the meeting: Dr. Burnett provided clarification to Ms. Felix that with regards to the morning clubs, the clubs are provided by the individual schools. Any parent can submit to Dr. Burnett an idea for a club. She would in turn follow-up by seeking teachers who would be open to run those clubs, as teachers are paid through a stipend. Furthermore, any parent who wishes to head / run a new club would still need to contact Dr. Burnett and they would need to submit to (1) a background check, (2) be approved by the FTBOE and (3) would need to partner up with a teacher to facilitate the club with them.

8. Another CRS parent discussed their attendance at the last Board Long Range Plan Facilities Committee meeting and asked how parents & guardians can make suggestions for facility improvements, referring to the need for improvement to the air-conditioning situation in the CRS gym and CARE common space. The CRS PTO membership would like the opportunity to bring forth this issue to the FTBOE and see if facility improvements, like improving the air conditioning in the gym / CARE common space, can be made. Dr. Burnett state that she would follow-up and provide clarification.

Follow-up after the meeting: Dr. Burnett provided clarification to Ms. Felix, from the FTBOE Central Office, that parents and guardians are encouraged to submit facility improvement suggestions to the Board Ad Hoc Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee at lrfp@franklinboe.org.

9. One CRS parent asked about the Gifted and Talented program, if information had been provided to families and if the program had already begun at CRS. It was discussed that families had been notified (via a welcome letter) before the start of the school year if their student was selected to participate in the program. The program was in full swing at CRS and being facilitated by the CRS science teacher, Mr. Neely and that questions can be forwarded to him for more information.

10. Another question was posed by a CRS parent with regards to the new student recognition program being highlighted on the bulletin board in the main lobby of the school. Dr. Burnett stated that this was a new program ‘Six Pillars of Character,’ used mainly at the middle schools was very similar to the ‘Student of the Month’ recognition introduced during the 2017-2018 school but was more geared to recognizing students that showcase the six pillars of characters; Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. The teachers will nominate & recognize 32 students every month. The students' pictures will first be showcased on the ‘Six Pillars of Character’ bulletin board and subsequently their pictures are added to a second bulletin board, across the library, as the school year progresses. The second bulletin board will showcase ALL of the recognized students throughout the school year. Ultimately, ALL recognized students will sign their names on a “Wall of Fame” bulletin to further showcase their achievement. This was a program brought to CRS by the new guidance counselor Ms. Avellino, and more information will be providing by Ms. Avellino on the CRS website. Once that information is posted, the CRS PTO will direct families to it.

11. Mrs. Peters, guidance counselor at the Middle School Hamilton campus discussed instituting a ‘Safety Patrol’ program as an initiative to encourage leadership among the 5th grade students. In addition, she announced two upcoming district-wide events in early November and December:
November 2, 2018: Family Movie Night screening of ‘The Pact’ at Franklin Middle School – Hamilton Campus from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. The Pact is a story of three doctors who grew up in humble beginnings to become successful professionals who continue to pay it forward. The movie screening a prelude to the December 8th event noted below.

December 8, 2018: Family Night ‘Positive Peer Challenge & Holiday Health Basketball Benefit’ Game at Franklin High School (500 Elizabeth Ave, Somerset, NJ 08873) from 1pm – 3pm presented by FTPS PBS in partnership with The Three Doctors Foundation.