1. Ms. Karina Felix, PTO Co-president, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming out and acknowledged the presence of all the kids in attendance. She then introduced Dr. Burnett, Conerly Road School (CRS) Principal for the Principal’s Report.

2. Dr. Burnett asked parents & guardians to do their best to check the CRS website to help them keep up to date with the latest happenings at CRS. A lot of information is shared on the website to keep CRS families as informed as possible.

3. Following Dr. Burnett, Ms. Susan Machover (1st grade homeroom teacher and teacher/PTO liaison), presented the Teacher’s Report. She announced that the CRS PTO received a check for $800.40 from the last year’s Box Tops for Education fundraisers.

4. Ms. Felix continued with a briefing on the CRS PTO current finances. She emphasized the goal of transparency with the monies that come in and out of the PTO. A summary of the CRS PTO financials included:
   a. $100.00 – Sale Profits School Night with Zoup
   b. $800.40 – Box Tops earnings (March 2017 – November 2017)
   c. $1,154.80 – Candy Cane Holiday Shoppe Sale Profits for CRS PTO
      $4,434.00 - Total Sales
      $3,279.20 - Payment to Candy Cane Holiday Shoppe
   d. $903.19 – Funds raised from Coin Challenge
   e. PTO supplements towards field trips:
      - 3rd grade field trip transportation deposit ($200)
      - 4th grade field trip deposit ($50)
   f. Sweetheart Dinner & Dance ($49 Deposit for DJ)

5. Ms. Felix presented Dr. Jeff Dowd, CRS PTO Co-president, who shared highlights from the Feb. 3rd Presidents’ Council meeting where Dr. John Ravally, Superintendent of Schools, was in attendance. Items discussed included the late Sept. 20th school start for the 2018-2019 school year. He stated that the late start was not only due to the completed construction of the new Claremont Road elementary school but also to allow for the completion of other renovation work at 7 of the 10 elementary schools including Conerly Road School. CRS is schedule to have new windows installed
over the summer. Understanding the impacts that the last start will have on families, the Franklin Township BOE will be partnering with the Franklin Township Recreation Program to provide a ‘summer camp’ for the 1st two weeks of September (and possibly an additional two weeks in August). The program would take place at 2 sites (maybe 3) for all children. More information will be provided at scheduled town hall meetings before the end of the current school year.

6. In attendance was Mrs. Karen Adams, FHS 9th Grade Vice Principal, who share updates on the recent work of the CRS PTO and Dr. Burnett to get FHS students to provide tutoring to the CRS students. Mrs. Adams stated the advisors of the FHS Honor Society responded positively to our proposal to have FHS students volunteer to provide tutoring to our CRS students (Little Warriors.) She also stated that she had also reached out to the Franklin Township Youth Council and is expecting to hear back soon. Ms. Felix added that it was very exciting to hear such news and that CRS along with Dr. Burnett are ready to work with the appropriate parties to make this happen because of the logistics involved. It would be great to have something in place before the end of the current school year, almost like a ‘test pilot’ with possibly having FHS coming to CRS once a week under the supervisor of a designated HS faculty member. It was not the intent that the HS students would be the responsibility of the C.A.R.E staff at CRS.

7. Ms. Felix then introduced Mr. Point-du-Jour, supervisor of the C.A.R.E program and thanked him for coming out to meet with CRS families. The C.A.R.E program had been a major talking point at the PTO meetings since the start of the school year. Dr. Dowd presented a brief update on the recent C.A.R.E survey sent out to parents & guardians. The intent of the survey was to gauge the level of satisfaction of the existing C.A.R.E program, find out what parents & guardians seek from the program and if families were open to ‘invest’ more to get more out of the program.

8. Mr. Point-du-Jour thanked the CRS PTO for inviting him, stated that he had reviewed the survey and found it be a good and comprehensive survey. He began to discuss future changes with the C.A.R.E program starting next year highlighting a partnership with the Franklin Township Recreation Program to further enhance the C.A.R.E program and offer more to families and students as the Recreation Program has better access to outside vendors that the C.A.R.E program does not.

9. While many parents in attendance were glad to hear about the future improvements in the C.A.R.E program, many felt it was imperative to discuss some of their concerns with where the C.A.R.E program is now.

   a. Mr. Jamil Brown (father of a CRS Kindergarten student and C.A.R.E student) emphasized that snacks need to be healthier and that it did not make sense for snacks like ‘Doritos’ were provided at C.A.R.E when it would not be provided at school during lunch or allowed by his son’s homeroom teacher.

   b. Mrs. Kara Wong (mother of a CRS 2nd grader and C.A.R.E student) made the comment that her boys never liked going to C.A.R.E but that she and her husband have to send them to
C.A.R.E because they both work. She was open about her disappointment in the C.A.R.E program but offered some great suggestions to Mr. Point-du-Jour on activities for the students.

c. Another CRS parent (mother of a CRS 2nd grader and C.A.R.E student) questioned why the kids are not allowed to play outside on ‘nice’ weather days.

d. Several parents, including Dr. Dowd (father of a 2nd grader and C.A.R.E student), questioned why the TV should be on at all during C.A.R.E.

10. Mr. Point-du-Jour attempted to assure parents that there are occasional activities for the students, bottled water is now offered as an alternative to juice, and the decision to allow the students to go outside and play is made by the individual C.A.R.E staff. Not everyone was satisfied with these answers and we agreed that more work needs to be done to improve C.A.R.E for all students.

11. The idea of having FHS students come to CRS to provide tutoring was presented to Mr. Point-du-Jour. He was very much open to the idea with the understanding that it would be students from the FHS Honor Society and other top HS students. The details, logistics and supervisor need to be well thought out to ensure the successful outcome to this idea.

12. Using the results of the C.A.R.E survey and following up with CRS families with students in the C.A.R.E program, the CRS PTO Co-presidents with the help of Dr. Burnett, will put together a ‘wish list’ memorandum to Mr. Point-du-Jour. The ‘wish list’ will highlight the things parents are seeking from the C.A.R.E program (including the activity suggestions from Mrs. K. Wong that place emphasis on Academics, Recreation and Enrichments); things that are advertised in the C.A.R.E website. Everyone understood that it’s a collaborative process to enact the improvements parents would like to see. Mr. Point-du-Jour also discussed sharing the C.A.R.E survey (at CRS) with other elementary school PTOs.

13. Following the discussion on C.A.R.E, K. Felix introduced Mrs. Pamela DeWaal, as representative from TREPS. Mrs. DeWaal gave a brief presentation on the TREPS Entrepreneur program that Mr. Kevin Davis (3rd grader CRS homeroom teacher) would like to bring to CRS. The TREPS program is an award-winning entrepreneur education program that teaches students in grades 4 – 8 how to start and build a business in 6 – 8 weeks. Students learn entrepreneurial skills in a series of weekly after-school workshops and apply them at home while building an actual business. At the conclusion of the program, the young entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to launch their businesses in front of the entire school community as they partake in an in-school ‘TREPS Marketplace’.

a. Participation in the program requires the purchase of a TREPS Start-up Kit valued at $599 and participating students will require TREPS workbooks (at $12 per workbook) for the weekly workshops.
b. K. Davis stated that he was seeking the participation of 25 – 30 4th graders and that the cost of the $599 Start-up Kit will be covered by a program ‘registration fee’ from the participating students.

c. K. Davis had previously approached the CRS PTO for ‘financial support’ and the CRS PTO Executive Board is willing to cover the cost of the student workbooks for up to 30 students.

d. With the backing of the CRS PTO, K. Davis stated he will be drafting a program introduction letter to all parents & guardians of CRS 4th grade students. He hopes to enlist the help of several parent ‘volunteers’ to assist with the after-school workshops.

NOTES:

*Due to time constraints many items on the agenda were not discussed including (1) the teacher’s request for “Indoor Recess” equipment and games, and the 4th Grade ‘Moving On’ Ceremony for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Since the PTO meeting, the CRS PTO has commenced the selection and ordering of the agenda planners for the 2018-2019 school year. Although, the agenda planners sure a good purpose, it should be discussed and agreed (by all parties i.e., CRS Principal, teachers, the CRS PTO and CRS families) if in fact the CRS PTO (CRS families) should be the responsible party(ies) to cover the future costs of the planners.