Diverse Learners Liaison – Role Description

The goal of the Cornell Elementary School PTA is to promote the welfare of all Cornell children, including students with disabilities, in school and in the community. To that end, the Cornell PTA seeks to further the partnership between home and the school so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth, including those with disabilities. As such, the Cornell PTA endeavors to support Cornell Elementary School in its mission to create a community of lifelong learners who are cooperative, respectful, and responsible, whether or not they require additional supports to achieve self-sufficiency, and wherever students may lie in the self-sufficiency spectrum.

To further this mission and vision, the Diverse Learners Liaison will:

· Apply an accessibility lens to all Cornell PTA activities
· Raise awareness about issues related to Special Education
· Coordinate activities with district organizations such as the Albany Disability Squad
· Incorporate best practices for diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging in relation to students with disabilities and their families

The Diverse Learners Liaison shall:

· Collaborate effectively with parents, teachers, administrators and the community to build, support and sustain engagement with and for families of students with disabilities
· Address the impact of low expectations placed on students with disabilities and the insufficient supports those students receive as a result of such low expectations
· Engage teachers, staff, site administrators, district administrators, the board of education, and community groups to create a truly inclusive school environment for students with disabilities

Responsibilities:

· Serve as a reliable resource for families of children with disabilities, whether the students have an individualized education plan/program (IEP), 504 accommodations, or need one or the other
· Promote Special Education related activities hosted by the district
· Encourage participation in events hosted by the Albany Disability Squad and other organizations serving families of students with disabilities
· Stay informed on current developments in Special Education

· Facilitate challenging but positive discussions on the needs of diverse learners

· Ensure that enrichment and support programs, as well as fundraisers and community events, always consider the needs of diverse learners