

Minutes from September 1, 2009

Columbian Elementary PTO

Board members present: Patty Gilinsky, Kathy Nelson, Heidi Newman, Priya Srinivasan, Melissa Garner, and Erin Faber.

Members present: Melissa Jackson, Shawn Bonge, Amy Mayberry, Judy Willour, Deanna Moisset, Tamara Pietrzak, Christine Aranda, Sally Brueske, Linda Leonard, Kathy Malber, Renee Reimer, Andrea Serflaten, Samantha Dull, MariAnne Hartmann, Jennifer Imes, Christy Carpino, Janice Japp, Paul Martin, Mike Tewhill, Jenny Kluver, Meg Whaley, Nancy Williams, Kelli Clayton

Patty started the meeting by having all present introduce themselves and tell about their children.

Officer Reports:

Vice President: Mrs. Nelson told us of the new staff this year. Danielle Hudson is the new ESL teacher. Jonny Niemeier is teaching 3rd grade. Rebecca Ammerman is the new Pre-K para-professional. The new night custodian is Jason Avril. We will be getting a new building engineer sometime this year because Mr. Mangiamelli has received a promotion to a central warehouse job.

This year Columbian has 350 students. Curriculum changes this year include: new reading program in 3rd – 6th grade; new spelling program in 1st – 6th; new Nebraska State test in reading for 3rd – 6th grade; performance and acceleration grouping for 3rd – 6th grade math; pre-algebra in the 6th grade; and electronic report cards.

Upcoming events: September 11 – Patriot Day everyone is invited to join for the Pledge of Allegiance around the flag pole

September 17 – Open House from 6 – 8 pm

September 24 – Carnival from 6 – 8 pm

September 25 and 28 – No School

Mrs. Nelson is looking for a mom or dad to sit on the OPS Citizens Advisory Committee. Our current representative is MariAnne Hartman if you have questions. There are 4 meetings per year held at Lewis and Clark Junior High School.

Columbian is the recipient of an \$110,000 grant from the Sherwood Foundation to be used toward a new playground.

Treasurer Report:

The current bank balance as of August 31, 2009 is \$16,239.98. The major expenditures for June, July and August were for the PTO Executive insurance, Book Fair, and School Memory Album. Melissa Jackson indicated that there was an error in the Hospitality budget. The Meals line item should be lower by \$259.37 and the Staff Appreciation line should be increased by \$259.37.

Major changes to this year's budget from last year's budgets include the teacher's fund and the GROW budget. New items to this year's budget include: Dancing Classrooms, OPS 150th Year Activities, All-School Fundraiser, and ArtWares.

It was proposed to increase this year's teacher funds to \$100 for full-time teachers and \$50 for part-time teachers and specialists.

Melissa Jackson requested more money in hospitality. She indicated this committee is responsible for purchasing all the cups and silverware for all of the PTO activities. \$450 was felt to be an appropriate amount.

Mrs. Nelson mentioned there was an increase in the Fun Day budget to pay for inflatables.

The Safety Patrol budget was decreased to \$400 because of decreased monetary requirements.

It was asked if there were any budget items that might be decreased to provide more money for matching funds towards the playground. Shawn Bonge indicated the yearbook is currently a wash and that a slight increase in cost might produce an increase in funds for the playground. No changes were made to the yearbook budget at this time.

Priya made a motion to approve the 2009/2010 budget with the proposed changes. It was seconded by Heidi Newman. The 2009/2010 Columbian PTO Budget was approved with no opposition.

Priya asked that committee chairpersons and members please fill out cash disbursement forms and cash received forms for reimbursement and deposit.

Recording Secretary:

Melissa moved to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2009 meeting. It was seconded by Shawn Bonge. The minutes were approved.

New Business:

School House Planning has indicated that a new black-top playground will be constructed and the old black-top will become more parking. The old metal equipment will be removed.

The new playground will have rubber ground cover as tiles or trowled rubber. 40-50% of the cost of the playground will be installation. The goal will be to install the playground in time for the 6th graders to use.

Patty indicated a committee would be put together to plan and design the new playground. The kids will have a lot of say in the design.

Kathy indicated that a separate grant application would be made for a walking path.

Direct Donation Fundraiser:

The counting committee will meet on Friday mornings to count the donations and issue receipts for tax purposes. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.

Letters requesting donations will be sent to local corporations.

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Carnival:

The event will have inflatables, indoor stations, popcorn and cotton candy, and a cake walk. Priya indicated the need for volunteers and cakes.

Wenninghoff Farms:

Wenninghoff will host an Adopt-A-School night. Admission is \$5 and 30% will be returned to the school. The event will be available to the general public. A hot dog stand will be present.

GROW:

GROW needs a new chairperson. Fall garden clean-up is current activity. Concerns include how to proceed with the program. The new committee will need to decide the direction of the GROW program.

Foreign Language:

The foreign language program is 10 weeks long. Deb needs help with daily communication and information letters. She is looking for an assistant and possibly someone to take over the committee.

Rosetta Stone:

The district will not have a use license this year. Each license is \$100. It was decided to offer Rosetta Stone at a cost of \$120 dollars. This offer is contingent upon the presence of 25 students. Registration would be in October and classes would begin in January.

The next meeting will be on October 7, 2009 at 9:00 am in the teacher's lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Garner