

Columbian PTO

October 7, 2009 Minutes

Board members present: President – Patty Gilinsky, Vice-President – Kathy Nelson, President-Elect - Heidi Newman, Treasurer – Priya Srinivasan, Corresponding Secretary – Erin Faber, Corresponding Secretary – Melissa Garner

Members present: Kelli Clayton, Samantha Dull, Jill Schwarzenbach, Marcy Browning, Angela Boychuk, and Janice Japp

Officer Reports

President – Patty thanked the following people:

Heidi Newman for Back to School Night

Melissa Garner for Spirit Sales at Back to School and Open House

Jennifer Washer for Open House and the 4PC bake sale

Sue Violi for Directory production

Jane Parry for PTO Membership

Priya, Erin, Heidi, and Kathy Nelson for the Carnival

Erin and Heidi for Scholastic Photo Day

Erin Faber, Heidi Newman, and Jill Schwarzenbach for the Fundraiser

Vice President-

Author Jerry Perota will be visiting the school on November 10. All of the students will have the opportunity to hear Mr. Perota talk about the creative process and have copies of his books signed by the author. Funds for the visit have been provided by the Sherwood Foundation. Parents are welcome to attend if they wish.

Parent – Teacher conferences are being scheduled. If you haven't already scheduled yours, please talk with Mrs. Meisinger in the main office. Last year we had all but 1 family attend conferences. This year we would like to make it 100%.

All our students are currently taking beginning of the year assessments. Kindergarten through 2nd are taking basic skills tests and the 2nd graders will take the CAT tests in the spring. Third through sixth graders have taken the ACUITY test online. This is a test for baseline knowledge that will be retaken in February as a predictor for the new state assessment test that will be taken in April. Fourth through sixth graders are taking a fall CAT math pretest for assessment only. The state writing test will be given in April. Next year the math and reading tests will all be online. Paper and pencil tests will be available for those children who need it.

Fire, weather, and lock down drills have all been performed this fall. An evacuation drill will be performed next week. If an evacuation were ever needed, the children would be removed to the Jewish

Community Center until they could be reunited with parents. Another safety measure at school is to keep all doors locked except for the front door.

OPS is celebrating 150 years this year. There is a carnival at Northwest on October 24 from 10am – 4pm.

The dancing classroom showcase will be the afternoon of November 19. They will repeat the showcase at 9:30am on November 20 for the rest of the school.

On October 27 at 9 am Beveridge Back Beat will be performing for the students. Back Beat is a musical dance group.

Treasurer

Total receipts for August and September were \$20,136.26 and expenses were \$9,405.93. Notable expenditures were \$1250 for Dancing Classrooms, \$1080 for teachers' funds, and \$801.80 for Spirit Sales.

Total receipts from the PTO Direct Donations were \$8,935. The fundraiser has receipts of \$6,395 and the playground has receipts of \$2,450. Expenses for the PTO Direct Donation were \$317.43.

Receipts from the Carnival were \$5,271.50 and expenses were \$3061.46. Receipts from 4PC were \$2,774.76 and expenses were \$646.79.

Notable expenses yet to be paid are for Field Trips, Room Parties, Foreign Language and Columbian Directory.

Please use the approved forms to submit funds to the PTO or to request a disbursement. Let Priya know if you need assistance.

The treasurer report was approved by the members present.

Recording Secretary

The minutes from September's meeting were approved as presented on the website.

Corresponding Secretary

Thank yous will be sent to Bergman Incentives for their donation of the prizes for the carnival. Many of the teachers have sent thank yous about the extra money they received this year.

Committee Reports

Spirit Sales

Last year Spirit Sales ended \$373.33 in the negative. So far this year, the account is sitting at a positive \$368.20. All sales of shirts or sweatshirts from this point on will be profit. It was decided as a group that we would not order any more shirts or sweatshirts of the current design. We will consider a sale of existing product in the spring, possibly at Kindergarten Round-Up.

At the next PTO meeting in November, we will discuss options for future Spirit Sales items. We will also consider having a design contest among the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders for next year's shirt design.

Fundraiser

The fundraiser committee meets every Friday to count donations and issue and mail tax receipts. Anyone is welcome to join them and help. The current tally for the fundraiser is \$10,005.

Andrew Kluver who has a son in kindergarten, is a professional fundraiser and has offered to help solicit funds from local businesses. He is setting up lunch dates and meetings to speak with these companies about donating.

Artwares

With help from Mrs. Schoening, each of the classes has produced a special art piece to be placed on different types of items for purchase as gifts. These items can also be purchased with art from other children in the household. There is a profit of 30% that comes back to the school.

Reading Connection

125 new purple nylon bags were purchased for the committee. The bill for the bags was \$299.57. This amount was \$49.57 over the budgeted amount of \$250. A motion was made to allow this overage. The motion was passed. Another motion was made to withdraw the first motion. This was approved. A new motion was made to increase the current budget to \$350 for this year only. The motion was approved and the budget increase was put into effect.

Directory

The directory was put together by Sue Violi this year. The expected directory delivery date is October 14. There will be 250 copies available. There are 247 members in the PTO.

Carnival

The carnival this year went well. The weather was good and everyone had a good time. Fall was felt to be a better season for the carnival than spring. However, next year the carnival will start earlier because of the early sunset. Another concern was the cost of food. Many felt the price was too high for the food that was provided. Options for next year include hot dogs, chili dogs, walking tacos. It was also thought that the food should be on a first come, first served basis rather than reserved.

Wenninghof Farms

Wenninghof night is October 13 from 5 – 7pm. No reservations are required. There is a hay rack ride, a corn maze, games, pumpkins, and food.

Room Parents

Head parents are needed for the holiday parties. There are plenty of volunteers, but people are needed to be in charge.

Playground

The playground committee met last week. They will be asking the students for their input on the design. The goal is to have a company picked by Thanksgiving and have installation started in the spring.

Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone will be offered to 3rd – 6th graders for a price of \$125 for 4 months of in-school access and use of a facilitator. A minimum of 10 students will be necessary to offer the course this year. Languages being offered will be Spanish, German, and French.

Junior Great Books

Based on current supplies, to have enough books for 20 children in each grade, it will be necessary to purchase new books. These books will cost \$509.95. The budget currently stands at \$400. Options are to increase the budgeted amount or ask for more money from the participants parents in deposit money. The current deposit is \$13. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Garner