

**Colfax PTO Meeting**  
**September 10, 2014**  
**General Board Meeting - Colfax Cafeteria**

**Executive Board Members in Attendance:** Abbie Campsie (President), Julie Wilson (Communications), Alan Crawford (VP Fundraising), Tiffany Stuckey (VP Volunteer Coordinator), Ray Obenza (Treasurer), Marylou Robinson (Assistant Treasurer), Amber McCann (Secretary), Joie Conroy (Faculty Representative), Raffaella Greco (Middle Level Teacher Representative), Jamie Kinzel-Nath (Principal)

Meeting began at 6:44pm after the PSCC Meeting.

**Areas of Discussion:**

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Abbie welcomed all families to the meeting and introduced the PTO Executive Board. New families were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.
- **Update on Musical Theater Department:** The PTO was able to purchase a new stage curtain which was included in last year's budget. It will be installed in November and will be used for our stage productions and talent show. We have rehired Bridget Purdue to direct our middle level musical in the spring.
- **Playground Equipment:** There is a piece of playground equipment that is broken. Shannon Ewing's husband will be responsible for fixing it.
- **Memory Tiles:** The tiles purchased last year will soon be installed. Tiles are \$26 and the sale goes on all year.
- **Fiesta:** Fiesta is our start-of-the-year kick-off potluck and is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 18 from 5:30pm - 8:00pm. We are still in need of someone to run this event. If anyone is interested, please contact Abbie at [abbieshops@msn.com](mailto:abbieshops@msn.com). Parents bring a dish to share, the PTO sells churros, music is available and it is a great opportunity to meet other families.
- **Run Shadyside:** This will be the 3rd year that Colfax is involved with the Run Shadyside event. Last year, the PTO made \$2300 from the run and 100 students participated. Please register under "Team Colfax" and this events counts towards the totals needed for the 100 Mile Club students. Information about the run went home with students on Tuesday, Sept. 9. Lara Bruhn offered yard signs.
- **Box Tops:** Last year, the PTO raised \$1500 through boxtops. Parents are encouraged to clip in the boxtop coupons and can labels and send them into their children's homeroom teacher.
- **Communications Update:** If you are signed up for the PTO Yahoo group, you should be receiving a weekly update email on Sunday nights. If you have ideas of things that should be added, please email Julie Wilson, VP of Communications, at [communications@colfaxpto.org](mailto:communications@colfaxpto.org).
- **VP of Special Events:** In addition to needing someone to chair the Fiesta event, the PTO is in need of a volunteer to serve as VP of Special Events.
- **Fundraising:** Alan Crawford, VP of Fundraising, offered an update on our current efforts (in addition to those already mentioned: Boxtops, Run Shadyside). If you would like to assist with fundraising, please email Alan Crawford, VP of Fundraising, at [alan-crawford@hotmail.com](mailto:alan-crawford@hotmail.com).
  - **SpiritWear:** The Spiritwear sale is currently running through Sept. 26. We are selling t-shirts, hoodies, pullovers, etc. Students need have their orders in on time. Last year, the PTO made \$900 with this sale.
  - **City Dining Cards:** This sale is coming up and should launch at Fiesta. For \$20, purchasers receive a deck of dining cards, good for discounts at local restaurants. The PTO receives ½ of the cost to purchase the deck. It was requested by a parent that the list of included restaurants go out in the weekly email or on the website.

- **Restaurant Night:** We are working on planning a Restaurant Night in October, possibly with Burgatory at the Waterfront.
- **Shopping Night at 10,000 Villages:** This event will be held on Dec. 8th or 9th. We get a percentage of all purchases between 5:00pm and the store closing. The more is purchased, the higher the percentage of the money that is donated to the PTO.
- **Shoe Collections:** We will again be collecting shoes. The collection bins will arrive once the weather cools as the organization is not in need of sandals or open toe shoes. Please only send shoes that are in good condition with no holes. There were a large number of shoes last year that needed to be discarded due to being in poor condition. We get \$.25 per pair of shoes and last year, the PTO raised \$285.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Marylou Robinson, Assistant Treasurer gave her report.
  - Party for Play is our biggest annual money maker. For the 2014-15 year, we have budgeted to bring in \$18,000 but we typically take in closer to \$20,000.
  - Our next largest income maker is our Ask Campaign. We will send home a letter in November asking for donations to the PTO. This, combined with the Party for Play event, make up 75% of our income.
  - Where does the PTO money go? We fund the Principal's Discretionary Fund, technology for the classrooms, field trips and events, our partnership with Grow Pittsburgh, teacher grants for supplies and other projects, as needed. Ms. Dawson offered a huge thank you from the faculty for the money provided to them to obtain what they needed for their classrooms.
  - Marylou updated the cash on hand figure that was printed on the Approved Budget handout. The handout lists \$74,393.70 as the Ending Checking Account Balance at the end of FY 13-14 but in actuality, it is \$57,119 in the general fund (due to checks that were uncashed at the time of making the handout) and \$16,066.51 in the money market.
  - The PTO budget is developed with lower projections and revenue and higher projections on expenses so that the PTO can say "YES" when a need arises.
  - We are currently projecting a deficit of \$37,100. This is so we can dip into our saving because we have a significant there, which needs managed as a non-profit. We are always thinking of great projects to support and make available to the children.
  - There were some parents questions in regards to how Title 1 funding impacts what the PTO covers, specifically as it pertains to transportation. In the past, we've used funds from the Principal's Discretionary Fund to pay for this. Ms. McKenna reported that the Transportation Department is paying for a bus 3 days a week for the Title 1 after-school program.
- **Middle Level Report:** Jenny Ganger, Middle Level Representative, gave a report on the Middle Level Trip and fundraising. 92 students are currently signed up and the Kids Stuff fundraising program has already started.
- **Volunteer Report:** Tiffany Stuckey, VP of Volunteer Coordination gave her report. She expressed that she came to her current position due to a positive experience as a parent volunteer last year and she encourages all parents to get involved. There are plenty of opportunities and if you'd like to get connected, please email her at [tcstuckey18@me.com](mailto:tcstuckey18@me.com). If you would like to volunteer, please make sure your clearances are current.
- **Directory Forms:** We have been receiving a large number of directory forms and there is still time to get them in. The class that returns the most forms will receive a prize.
- **Yinzercation:** Jessie Ramey gave an update on Yinzercation. She brought fliers for new families with information about the movement.

- They had a major WIN with the recent decision of the school board to decrease the amount of time spent by students in testing. This was a result of parent participation and community conversation.
- On Oct. 9, NYT columnist Bob Herbert will be having a book signing at CMU, which includes highlights of the work of Yinzeration. All are invited.
- On Oct. 22, there is a parent meeting with Allegheny County legislators to discuss the state budget and parent concerns. This event will be held at the Homewood Library.

Meeting was closed by Abbie at 7:34pm.

Submitted by Amber McCann, Secretary