

PTO Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 2009
Colfax Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.

Convened at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting was led by Mike Dickey.

Executive Board Succession

Continuing: Katherine Cosentino; Tom Juring as one co-president

Secretary: Leigh Winston

Fund Raising: Elisa Long

Co-President: TBD

Communications: TBD

Volunteer Coordinator: TBD

Special Events: TBD

At the next meeting we will be voting on the slate of candidates.

Teacher Appreciation Week

- Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May.
- Tuesday, 5/5 is national Teacher Appreciation Day.
- There will be a special meal on Tuesday, 5/5 for Teachers and Staff; other activities will occur throughout the week for the teachers.
- Contact Maggie Cham (madcham@yahoo.com) to help. There are many tasks to be done including making signs, delivering treats throughout week, setting up for the meal, etc.

Special Events

- Mosaics Night needed to be rescheduled due to the Passover holiday. Currently rescheduled for Wednesday, April 29 – more details to come.
- Carnival is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10. Flyers will come out soon. Chairpersons are needed for set up and cleanup. Carnival requires a ton of volunteers!!!! A movie night will be scheduled for May.

End of Year Trip

- Last year the trip to the JCC's Family Park in Monroeville was a year end reward activity.
- This year will be extended to whole school.
- It will be held over two days for and will be held either June 12 and 15, or June 15 and 16 (the later dates if we add on school days due to snow days).
- The cost is \$5 per child. Because the whole school is involved, it is proposed that the PTO be involved in funding the activity.

- Since the total cost for the PTO would be approximately \$3,350, it must be announced and voted on at a PTO meeting (all expenditures over \$1,000 require a pre-announcement and a vote by the PTO).
- Mr. May-Stein will make sure the cost for the busses is covered.

The Big Dig – Saturday, April 4

- Leigh Winston has been involved to get the Edible School Yard set up. Turning over grass, building flower beds 4/4 @ 8:30 a.m. Food and snacks provided.

The Playground Wall

- The school district will vote on the retaining wall at its 4/15 meeting.
- The PTO has already given the district its \$10,000 portion. The remainder will be covered by district, if approved. This is a safety issue.
- The total cost for the wall is approximately \$80,000.

Fund Raising

- The plant sale is being coordinated by Evelyn Castillo. Delivery will be during teacher appreciation week. Families can purchase plants for teacher appreciation.
- A coffee sale will be made available soon. People can purchase whole beans or ground coffee from Crazy Mocha. They will be giving all the profit to the Colfax PTO.

Treasurer's Report (refer to the financial report)

- We received \$641.05 from Box Tops in March.
- Cartridge recycling continues.
- We received some general donations.
- Newsletter advertisements funds were received.
- The Read-a-Thon did very well.

Principal's Report

Gifted pilot update

- A meeting was held 4/1 with the consultants who will be helping to run the run pilot at Colfax.
- Total school cluster grouping will be used. Mr. May-Stein is excited about this program and is getting to know the model.
- The idea is that every kid has the opportunity to participate in high ability classrooms.
- Regroupings can happen easily in self contained classrooms.
- For classes that move, they will soon begin building groups for next school year (on paper).
- A student will not have to have a GIEP to be in a high ability group. Groupings will be by PSSA, teacher assessments, etc.
- For those with GIEP and those without who can manage this type of project, there will be long term projects per semester or report period.
- Students will have a greater opportunity to shine because they will be with kids of similar abilities.
- The model will give kids who do not have a GIEP the opportunity to push ahead.

- Gifted will be every day not just one day.
- Colfax students will no longer go to the gifted center when the 2009 – 2010 school year begins.

Think-a-Thon

- Colfax's middle level team took 1st and 2nd place! Colfax placed in nearly every event. The spirit of children was amazing.
- Gifted and non gifted students were apart of the Think-a-Thon. There was increased participation this year.

Budget

- Mr. May-Stein submitted budget cuts that would eliminate Spanish and two paraprofessional positions. This was based on student projections by the district saying there would be 650 students at Colfax next year.
- Parents wrote letters to central office personnel asking for budget reconsideration and about the student projections.
- Mr. May-Stein received push back from central office about cutting Spanish but he was concerned that we could not deliver Spanish the way it should be delivered.
- He was informed two days before the meeting that central office met specifically about Colfax. They are adding two teachers to the budget. They are not changing student projections but adding two teachers.
- We will keep one Spanish teacher. We will eliminate 0.4 Spanish person.
- There will be four 2nd grade classrooms next year.
- Spanish will likely be for grades 4 – 8. Considering after school or lunch time Spanish for younger grades.
- Mr. May-Stein can provide the per student allocation information if people are interested. There are different amounts allocated for Elementary, Middle Level and High School. There is also a high need allocation.

Other

- An emergency weather drill will be held on Friday 4/3.
- A wrestling club was started; it will be a team next year. This is a middle level program.
- There was a Science Fair at the Gifted Center – there was a great showing by Colfax students
- The survey about after school child care was misleading. This program has not been approved, selected or changed. Mr. May-Stein indicated that he is looking to offer some type of after school care for the 2009 – 2010 school year and is considering a number of options.

Meeting concluded at 8:40.