

**Pittsburgh Colfax PTO Meeting  
Minutes for Wednesday, February 4, 2009**

*Meeting began at 7:08 p.m.*

**Executive Board Present:**

Beth Tiffany, Co-President  
Mike Dickey, VP Fund Raising  
Paul Foster, VP Communications  
Darcy Gordon, Co-Secretary  
Ida Simpson, VP Special Events

David May-Stein, Principal  
Randi Sarkin, New Teacher Liaison

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Announcements – Beth Tiffany**

- a. The Executive Board meeting was held 2/3/09. At the meeting the EB voted to allocate \$600 for Think-A-Thon t-shirts for the participants. The Think-A-Thon is for children in 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year Colfax won the younger and older divisions. They were the only school not to have t-shirts. This year they will.
- b. 100 students have entered the daily drawings for the Read-A-Thon. Log and ticket sheets are now posted on the website ([colfaxpto.org](http://colfaxpto.org)).
- c. Party for Play is Saturday, 21 from 7 – 10 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Golf Club at Schenley Park.
  - i. Auction: Donations of items for the auction are needed – contact Beth Tiffany at 412-225-7082 to coordinate your donation. Baskets are also needed to package the items. There are grade level baskets being created. In addition, there are student art projects that will be available in the auction.
  - ii. Tickets: Until 2/13, tickets are \$35 each or \$60 for 2; after 2/13, tickets are \$35 each. Tickets can be purchased online with a credit card ([colfaxpto.org](http://colfaxpto.org)). The Colfax teachers are being given a special ticket price – this cannot be purchased online (teachers should see Ms. Condie to purchase their tickets).

**3. Funding for an all school end of year field trip – Ms. Sarkin**

- a. Ms. Sarkin is planning an end of year finale field trip for whole school. Last year a reward activity was to take children to the JCC Family Park in Monroeville. This year will be opened up to whole school. Since it is a full school activity, the PTO is being asked to support the funding of the trip.
- b. Ms. Sarkin is working with the JCC determine the cost. The JCC has approved hosting the field trip. Last year the cost was \$5 student.

- c. It will be a 2 day program (one day for the lower grades, the other for the upper grades).
- d. This will be discussed further at the next PTO meeting. A vote is required to approve the expenditure.
- e. Colfax has 3 lifeguards that will be used those days.
- f. Potential dates are June 11 and 12.

#### **4. Fundraising – Mike Dickey**

- a. Party for Play and Read-A-Thon are the PTO's two largest fundraisers for the year. Please participate!
- b. Box Tops has sent us a check for nearly \$500 (check has not been received). A second check will be coming that totals more than \$600.
- c. The annual Flower Sale (annuals) will begin in April; delivery will be in May, right before Mother's Day. The flowers that come are beautiful.

#### **5. Special Events – Ida Simpson**

- a. Ice skating was canceled last week due to school cancellation. Awaiting a new date from Schenley Ice Rink.
- b. February 10 – Family reading night on Tuesday 2/10 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Celebrity readers signed-on so far: Mr. May-Stein; Mayor Luke Ravenstahl; and County Council President Rich Fitzgerald. Beth is looking for at least 3 more readers. There will be a bus provided to and from Homewood and Point Breeze. The schedule will be sent home with the children who ride buses to Homewood/Point Breeze.
- c. March 18 @ 6:30 – Extravaganza Uno.
- d. April 15 @ 6:30 – Mosaics.
- e. May – TBD, possibly a movie night.

#### **6. Carnaval – Ida Simpson**

- a. This is a major event to celebrate the end of the year. It is a community event. There is food, games and tons of fun provided.
- b. Scheduled for June 10 at Colfax.
- c. Many volunteers are needed to coordinate and pull off Carnaval.
- d. There are already coordinators for prizes, games, community and cultural events. Lisa Schlar is in charge of the cultural tents.
- e. We have a lot of room to have many participate in Carnaval in 2009.

#### **7. Communications – Paul Foster**

- a. January's Colfax Communicator came out January 23.
- b. Website has newsletter archives.
- c. Website has a link to purchase Party for Play tickets (through Pay Pal).
- d. Read-A-Thon forms are posted on the website.
- e. February newsletter deadline is 2/9/09.
- f. **Visit the website: colfaxpto.org.**

#### **8. Principal's Update – Mr. May-Stein**

- a. The PSCC meeting will be 2/17/09. The meeting will be convened by Mark Beck. The topic will be student achievement. Will review the latest student achievement data; gaps that exist; how gaps are changing; prediction on latest assessment about how Colfax will do on PSSAs and if we will achieve AYP.
- b. PSSAs for grades 3 – 8 will begin March 16; Terra Novas are for grades 1 and 2 and will be in April. PSSAs are a part of determining AYP.
- c. Kindergarten sign-up begins Monday, February 9. A kindergarten information night will be held in March. Kindergarten orientations will be held in May (separate for parents and children).

**9. Next PTO Meeting 3/4/09 – 7 p.m.**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*