

Colfax PTO General Meeting
Jan. 15, 2014
Colfax Cafeteria - 5:40 - 7:50 PM

President - Abbie

People have started soliciting donations for Party for Play; now is a good time to seek donations!

Up Modern Kitchen agreed to donate 20 percent of Sunday night receipts to Colfax. Abbie shared the menu.

Apples for Students - Giant Eagle - register your card! Points are used to purchase educational tools for the school.

Tomorrow night is the talent show for 3-8 grade performers - 35 acts. Tasha Terry is running the show this year. \$3 for adults, \$1 for children. There is a bus available for East Hills, Homewood, and Point Breeze.

Thanks to all who donated to the ask drive. Thanks to Sivan and all who contributed to the faculty/staff luncheon.

Communicator articles are due on the 29th. Don't forget about shout-outs.

At the April meeting, the Pitt school of pharmacy will come to talk to parents about prescription drug abuse. They will include dinner.

Fundraising - Mary Lou

Ask Drive goal was 15K. Looks like we are going to net close to 20K. More new participants, but some from last year did not contribute.

Dining Cards are also wrapping up. Netted around \$600.00.

P4P is big push going forward, but another restaurant night will be scheduled after that event.

Treasurer - Ray

Audit complete for 2012-June 2013. The audit highlighted some areas for improvement, but overall found that the PTO was managed in alignment with best practices. Suggested that people handling \$ be bonded, keep track of inventory, and formalize agreements with outside parties.

Went over budget as of 1/6/14. Budgeted to have spent approx. 57K this year, and so far have spent about 12K. Budgeted 43K for income, and have raised 23K.

Fun run money came in. We expected approx. 1200 and it brought in 2100. Thanks to Annmarie!

Abbie noted that the amount spent/raised is in accordance with past years -- several expenses are yet to be paid (Frick program, spring musical, etc.). This is the normal flow pattern. We have approx. 3370. in technology funds, so teachers and administration should let the PTO know if they have a funding request.

Kipp discussed the Shakespeare program. 2/13 Colfax 7th and 8th graders are going to compete at Pgh Public Theatre in the Shakespeare monologue contest. PTO has paid for a coach. Student Council will likely also be asking for money towards a Valentine's day dance. Kipp thanked the PTO for the funding.

New Business

Ms. McKenna discussed new PBIS (positive behavior incentive system) in the middle school. Currently use a "golden ticket" system. This is great for the younger kids, but wanted to change the system for middle schoolers. Might start a school store. Surveyed kids about what they want to be able to buy with their "Cobra Cash" at the Cobra Store. Details are being worked out but each teacher will have a bin of Cobra Cash.

Store will be in Mr. Wolf's room; will be open Fridays at Lunchtime. Potentially will be staffed by student council.

Middle School Team came up w three categories for "cash" award: attendance; participation/group work, etc.; doing something above and beyond.

Will start on 1/23. Donations accepted!

Golden ticket system will change slightly for K-5 level. 5th grade will take over managing the system. Winners will be announced daily and prizes will be awarded weekly, rather than twice a month.

Annmarie spoke about Garden Committee. Met Monday night. Garden Club has been successful, divided into two groups of 3-5 graders. PTO already gives 6500.00, but are looking for grant money. Will keep trying! Club would like someone who is familiar with grant world to contact Annmarie at amkuchera@yahoo.com. 4/27 will be the "Wake up the Garden" event. Next meeting Feb. 17th, 6-7 PM.

Farmer Jim is an Americorps volunteer with Grow Pittsburgh, and Farmer Jim is almost at the end of his term. He has been so helpful and motivated with his role at Grow Pittsburgh and with Colfax. Encourage everyone to e-mail Grow Pittsburgh with a good word about Jim.

On 1/28, in the gym from 6-8 PM, Family Fun Night by the Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen program - "World of Wellness." Info coming out tonight. Colfax is the pilot school for this program. Free program, buses will be available.

Dory spoke about P4P. Looking for suggestions, and feedback about what the \$ might go to. EB had discussed enrichment programs/technology, such as adding Frick Environmental Stewardship program next year; architecture program for 6th graders next year; coding club has already been added; etc. Any technology piece too.

Adam mentioned that overarching theme might be programming and clubs that are directly made possible by Party for Play.

Dory has some people willing to sponsor, for activities, such as a caricaturist and a professional photographer.

Jessie spoke about Yinzeration activities and funding issues. PPS announced that another round of cuts is coming, that will affect things like middle level swim team, as well as school closures that could affect enrollments at CX.

Jessie has available a community response to some of these issues. Corbett will announce budget in about 3 weeks.

Yinzeration will sponsor a gubernatorial debate on education on 4/8 Tuesday. Students will host and moderate. Have commitments from candidates to appear. Then, 4/8-11 a team of Pittsburghers, including the Mayor's office, are going to Cincinnati for a conference on community schools.

Network for Public Education is having its first conference in Austin, TX 3/1 and 3/2. Kipp and Jessie are going to conference. Anyone interested in going to Cincinnati or Austin, let Jessie know.

Adam discussed upcoming events. Next month, we will go back to scheduled of PTO 7-8 PM and PSCC from 8-9 PM. Curriculum night series has concluded.

1/23 Equity Committee meeting will be at CX Library 5:30 PM. On agenda is student achievement for this school year, and Title I. Next school year, CX might receive expedited Title I funds. Now have 37 percent free and reduced lunch, and now qualified for Title I funding. Committee will discuss ways that funding can be used.

Submitted by Secretary Anne Kurzweg