

Pittsburgh Colfax PTO Executive Board
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 28, 2008

Meeting began at 6:15 p.m.

In attendance:

Tom Juring, Co-President
Beth Tiffany, Co-President
Maggie Cham, Volunteer Coordinator
Katherine Cosentino, Treasurer
Mike Dickey, VP Fundraising
Paul Foster, VP Communications
Darcy Gordon, Co-Secretary
Mike Gordon, Co-Secretary

Diane Condie, Parent Engagement Specialist
Shannon Ewing, Playground Committee Chairperson

Playground Update / Report

Playground committee chairperson Shannon Ewing attended the meeting to update the EB on the status of the playground.

- Super Nova: After questions brought up at the last EB meeting regarding the cost to replace the Super Nova, a meeting was called with the following present: Shannon Ewing, Jessie Ramey, Beth Tiffany, Tom Juring, Paul Foster and Mr. May-Stein. The meeting took place in mid-August. At that meeting Shannon Ewing updated the group on the details on summer conversations between our playground representative (Mark Yacca), the equipment manufacturer (Kompan) and Colfax representatives. The situation is as follows:
 - Colfax is receiving a \$3,800 piece of equipment at no cost (Rock-It).
 - The manufacturer recommends that the Super Nova be installed on a loose fill surface.
 - There is no space at Colfax where the Super Nova could be reinstalled.
 - The Super Nova will be removed on September 13.
 - Colfax needs to pay for the labor to remove the Super Nova and the installation of the Rock-It.
 - Motion was made to approve an expenditure of up to \$2,500 for the removal of the Super Nova and installation of the Rock-It. Motion was seconded. Motion received 8 “yes” and 1 “abstention.”
 - Motion passed.
- The play surface is missing lines. Shannon is receiving bids to pain the necessary lines.
- A basketball court is supposed to be put in – this is the District’s responsibility.
- Retaining Wall and Fence: A permanent wall is needed on the Phillips Street side of the playground.
 - The District’s landscape architects designed a wall that would preserve the trees and would match the wall above the playground. The cost for that wall would be \$23,000 and the fence would be \$11,500.

- The district wants Colfax PTO to pay for the wall above as well at a total cost of more than \$64,000. This is not a reasonable request as the walls are capital improvements to the grounds.
- Shannon proposes meeting with Paul Gill (District COO) and Mr. May-Stein about the situation and recommends that we hand over to the District a grant we've received for the playground that totals \$10,000 and have the District cover the remainder.
- If the PTO takes it on, we can get our own bids for the project. Suggestion was made to possibly use PTO e-mail list solicit people who know contractors to submit concrete bids.

PTO Fund Raising

- Box Tops and Campbell's Labels: Shannon Ewing asked that we be specific in the 2008-2009 school year as to what the Box Tops and Campbell's labels will support. The decision was made to have these activities support physical fitness equipment.
- Bake sale – Saturday, September 13 (same day as Book Walk). Additional details to follow.
- Fundraiser Party will benefit a project of high importance and as recommended through conversations with Mr. May-Stein.

Events

- Fiesta – Thursday, September 18.
- Family Fun Night - Book Bingo – October date TBD

After School Options

A group of parents, mostly current first grade parents, are interested in forming an after school program. They would like to make presentation at PTO meeting. They will present their ideas which might include bringing in a private company to manage the program (as done at Linden, Liberty, Minadeo, etc.). This is a possible survey question for Diane Condie.

Healthy Foods

Diane Condie proposed instituting the program “Food is Elementary” program again in the current school year.

- Last year it was presented in two 2nd grade classes (Bickerstaff and Sarkin). Propose having it this year for all four second grades, one class per month.
- The cost this year is \$50 per double class (\$100 per month if it were monthly program), presuming Whole Foods donates the food.
- This could also be done as a “field trip” and ask families to contribute a portion.

Call for Committees

Committees are needed for:

- Winter Fund Raising Party
- Read-A-Thon
- Fundraising
- Plant Sale

- Communications
- Gardening

Communications

Paul Foster reported on the following:

- Directory – 190 forms have been turned in. Volunteers are needed for data entry and verification.
- Newsletter – Seeking help to write, edit and publish the Colfax Communicator. Maggie Cham is considering a role in the effort.

Other

- Adult league basketball in the gym could benefit the PTO. Will be discussed at the PTO meeting.
- Beth Tiffany will create and distribute the PTO meeting agenda.

Next EB meeting to be held at the Gordon's on Wednesday, September 24.

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.