

Colfax ALA - PTO Meeting Minutes October 2, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board members in attendance:

Tom Juring – Co-President
Beth Tiffany – Co-President
Katherine Cosentino – Treasurer
Mike Dickey – VP, Fundraising
Paul Foster – VP, Communications
Mike Gordon – Co-Secretary
Ida Simpson – VP, Special Events

Diane Condi – Parent Engagement Specialist
David May-Stein - Principal
Randi Sarkin - Staff Liaison

Minutes taken by Mike Gordon, Co-Secretary

1. Tom Juring – Co-President

- Welcome

2. Fiesta Wraup – Ida Simpson

- Successful event, great attendance
- David May-Stein was nervous when seeing the crowd (over 500), but everything came together great and this was the best attended Fiesta ever.
- Tom Juring added that it was a great presence for PTO and very valuable to show our strength to parents and community.

3. Student Directory – Paul Foster

- Proofs should go home tomorrow (10/3).
Parents will have one week to review, but are encouraged to do so quickly.
- Parents/Guardians must opt-in to be included in directory.
Next week is last chance to opt-in and be included.

4. Financial Report – Katherine Cosentino

- Treasurer's Report was distributed.
- Bake sale netted \$352.55 on Bookwalk day, great considering weather.
- Money Market Interest is \$133.69.
- Teacher Grants – Spent \$2,250, \$50 more than budgeted due to more teachers than expected. Grants are given to each teacher to help out at beginning of year. Teachers provided feedback to let us know what they purchased with their grant money.
- Field Trip Enrichment Grants will be the next area expenses will start to come from. These are in addition to normal field trips. A total of \$4,000 (up to \$5.00 per child) is budgeted and teachers must make request in writing to make sure they meet criterion set by PTO EB. These are different than reward trips given at different grade levels.

5. Playground Update – Tom Juring, Beth Tiffany, David May-Stein

- Met with district to determine cost of retaining wall and who will pay for what. The district needs to inform us how much they will assist the PTO in paying for the wall. High priority item due to safety concerns. Shannon is currently away but is working hard to complete the project.
- Installation of Rock-It and soft surface/sand on lower playground are complete. Playgrounds always have a little element of risk, but David found the Rock-It to be very safe with many kids using at same time. Rock-It replaces Super Nova, which presented a danger because it required a loose surface. We paid for transportation and installation of new piece, but not for the piece itself. PTO to attempt to sell Super Nova on E-Bay.

- Maren Cook raised concern about keeping trees. David responded that a landscape architect is working on the design of the wall to ensure it will not damage the trees or root structure.
- Possible signage to note maximum number permitted on equipment at any given time. David will help find out the recommended capacity for each piece and send that home, plus possibly post at playground.

6. Picnic Tables for outdoors – Beth Tiffany

- Miss Wallace requested for shady part of outside area on side of upper playground.
- Beth researched and found commercial-grade metal, folding tables, three for \$178 each.
- Kids can read, write, play games at tables and stay cool, only area that is shady all the time.

Motion by Lisa Schlar to spend up to \$692 to purchase Picnic Tables. Second by David May-Stein. Motion carries.

Note: We will try to buy locally (Sam's Club, Costco?) if we can find a better price.

7. Equipment and Inventory – Tom Juring

- We need a thorough list of all equipment owned by PTO. Note where it is, label everything and determine who is responsible for.
- Tents may be missing after using at Carnaval last spring. We are making efforts to find, plus create inventory list.

8. Newsletter Ads – Tom Juring

- Still looking for someone to take over effort.

9. Upcoming Events – Ida Simpson

Thursday, Oct. 23 – Book Bingo Family Fun Night (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.) **THIS IS A NEW DATE.**

November 12-18 – Barnes & Noble Book Fair, Colfax Night will be Wednesday, November 12.

Tuesday, November 4 - Bake Sale at polling place. Please sign up to bake and help.

January 23 – February 13 – Inaugural Read-a-Thon

Wednesday, January 28 – Ice Skating Family Fun Night (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.)

Saturday, Feb. 21 – Fundraiser Party Event at Grey Box Theater. Adults-only cocktail party and silent auction. Funds will be raised for TBD.

Other scheduled events and notes...

Tuesday, October 21 – Next PSCC Meeting, 9:00 a.m. at Colfax. School uniforms will be discussed. Also meeting the needs of some African-American students in reading and math. David will provide data upon request. Meeting to be convened by Shannon Ewing and Kate Axtman.

Friday, October 24 - Middle Level Halloween Dance – (7:00-10 p.m. in gym and cafeteria). Tickets must be purchased in advance at school.

December swimming party date will be determined by next PTO meeting. No age restrictions, but parents must be present with their children.

Squirrel Hill Food Pantry Food Drive – Look for flyer coming home soon.

David May Stein –

- Parent conference day is **Monday, October 13** from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (break from 3:00 – 4:00).
- Letter with complete details coming home on Friday, October 3.
- Must return by Tuesday, October 7.
- Conferences will be scheduled in 10-minute intervals.

10. Volunteer Report - Paul Foster (for Maggie Cham)

- Still looking for several homeroom parents. Please look at newsletter and encourage parents to volunteer.
- Diane Condi - The school needs volunteers for reading to Kindergarten to Second Grade students.

11. Fundraising Report - Mike Dickey

- Kids Stuff Coupon Books (\$25) will be coming home next week.
- Half of profits goes to PTO. Last year raised over \$3,000.
- Please help Mike bag the books up for distribution.

12. Additional Notes:

- Jennifer Ganger offers to help coordinate Teacher Appreciation lunch or breakfast for December.
- Maren Cook notes that Edible Schoolyard program is moving forward. Maren is looking for someone to lead effort while she is away this winter and spring. Gardening done last May out front will need someone to tend and plant bulbs. EB will discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.