

MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2011 PTO MEETING

This meeting of the Colfax A.L.A. PTO was held at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria, immediately preceding the PSCC meeting. The meeting was led by PTO President Jenny Ganger.

1. Introductions. (Jenny) Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves because there was a small number in attendance.
2. Plant Sale going on now. (Jenny) Everyone was encouraged to buy plants and have their friends buy plants through this fundraiser. All ordering and payments may be done on the web at www.colfaxpto.org. Thanks were given to Evelyn Castillo for running this fundraiser and to webmasters Lorrie and Danielle for getting the store up and running.
3. Budget. (Jenny)
 - This year's budget to date is printed on the back of the PTO Meeting Agenda sheet. Read-a-thon and P4P numbers are now included.
 - PTO budget planning for next year is ongoing. Next year's budget will be voted on at the May PTO meeting.
 - Jenny asked for feedback concerning the following requests for funding (the decision on which items to fund will then be made by the EB):
 - Food is Elementary program (This would cost \$1500 for whole second grade. Its once per month per class. Its run by Rosemary Child with Whole Foods donations and cultural lessons connected with the recipes being prepared. Colfax paid one year, then last year it was provided as a volunteer service, but they're not willing to do it again for free.) Tracy Tuchin (second grade teacher) praised the program.
 - Frick Nature Center (first grade)
 - Additional field trip money (from P4P funds, based on teachers' requests)
 - ELMOs (still need 4 at \$1500 each)
 - Sound Equipment for the stage
4. Teacher /Staff Appreciation Week (May 2-6). (Jenny) Planning kicks off tonight. So far, ideas for PTO offerings to the teachers and staff include flowers or origami, cards with a candy bar, lunch or breakfast day, a coffee break day, chair massages for a day. Mark Beck will be contacting homeroom representatives to remind them to make arrangements (with parents) for their particular teachers. Everyone is encouraged to buy flowers for their children's teachers.

5. Carnaval. Carnaval is scheduled for Thursday, June 9. Ms. Malvin and David have agreed to be in a dunk tank. Cultural tents will be set up (Lisa Schlar is in charge of running these?)
6. Middle Level Update. (Lisa) There are 73 kids going on the end-of-the-year trip so far. The Sarris candy sales profits totaled \$659.
7. Guest: Devon Toy from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The Conservancy entered into an agreement with Colfax to install the landscape plantings around the school and help maintain them for three years with school volunteers. (The idea is that in three years, the plantings should be well established and largely self-maintaining.) Some of the plants have died. Before the Conservancy would be willing to replace these plants, the Conservancy needs a commitment that the plants will be cared for by volunteers from the school until they are well-established, especially over the summer months. The Conservancy is installing a new irrigation system, which should allow someone to just turn on the water. It was agreed after discussion that the volunteers already being enlisted to care for the edible garden will also have the job of watering the landscape plantings.
8. Nominations and voting for 2011-2012 Co-presidents. (Jenny) Jenny announced her willingness to serve as president again next year. While preference in the by-laws is for a co-presidency, no one had yet volunteered for the co-presidency, and no one offered to run for this position at the meeting. Jenny was nominated for next year's PTO president. The nomination was seconded. A vote was taken and Jenny was unanimously elected as PTO president for next year.
9. Executive Board to be Voted in at Next Meeting. (Jenny) Mark, Margie and Shannon (if no one else offers to be treasurer) are offering to return on next year's board. There may be a new position of a second treasurer for next year. Sarah Sirlin may be volunteering to take on communications. A special events vice president and faculty liason(s) are still needed. It may be helpful to have co-faculty liaisons, one from middle level and one from lower level grades.

Co- Secretary Marjorie Minkler