

## **MINUTES**

### **APRIL 11, 2012 PTO MEETING**

This meeting of the Colfax A.L.A. PTO was held in the school cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was led by PTO President Jenny Ganger.

1. Introductions Jenny presented a PTO Leadership Opportunities handout, listing many different ways individuals could contribute to the PTO, including running for any of the Executive Board positions (elections to be held at next month's meeting,) chairing or serving on events committees, taking charge of or helping with fundraising activities, chairing or serve on communications committees, volunteering with students or teachers, and serving on the middle level committee. Jenny asked everyone to review the list then introduce themselves, including what they are interested in doing next year. (The following people indicated interest in the Executive Board positions: Annie Kurzweg and Michele Levine expressed interest in being co-secretaries, Rachel Rosenfeld expressed interest in being assistant treasurer to Ellie Monaco, who planned on moving into the treasurer role, and Shannon and Abbie expressed their interest in the co-presidency.) Many others expressed interest in volunteering in other capacities throughout the school.

#### 2. Briefs

- Treasury report: Ellie reviewed the Colfax April 2012 Budget Report handout, noting the current fundraising total of \$46,946.44, the program expenses so far under "Spending of 2011 P4P," and the total year to date expenses of \$22,760.57.
- Events: Jenny and Michele Levine reported that the Talent Show went very well. It was wonderful for kids and families, and lasted only 1 ½ hours despite the large number of performers. Abbie: Teacher Appreciation week is May 7-11. Homeroom representatives will contact parents and will oversee the week's offerings for the classroom. Other things will be done school wide. Carnival, the end of the year school celebration, is scheduled for June 11. Abbie described plans, announced Josh Belin as handling water supplies, and passed out a signup sheet for volunteers. Lisa Shlar will send out a flyer about the cultural tents. Lisa asked everyone to consider hosting a cultural tent themselves or asking people in their classrooms from different cultures to do so. People may be more encouraged to do it if invited. Last year we had a strong showing from Japan. We are short on Latin and Central America. In the past, there have been 10 and up to 15 tents.
- Fundraising: The Plant Sale, chaired by Evelyn Castillo, starts any day. All items will be available for purchase on our website or through the flier

to be sent home. Memory tiles are still available for purchase. We want the display to grow.

- Communications: May 16<sup>th</sup> is the next newsletter deadline for the June 1 publication date. Send shout-outs to Sarah Sirlin at sarah@sarahsirlin.com for \$2 each, and don't forget the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion. Shout-outs are doing well. Follow Camille, our other Communications VP, on twitter.
- Middle Level (Diane Condie): Our third Coach Bingo is this Sunday. Cost is \$25 for 15 games of bingo. Kids who help with this get a portion of the proceeds toward their end of the year trip.
- "Write Now:" Sara Segel and Jessie Ramsey presented information and encouraged people to participate in the following efforts against the state education budget cuts. "Write Now" will be this Saturday, April 14 from 10-1:00 at the Children's Museum. Children will be writing and making art with messages for the legislature about the budget cuts. The Saturday Light Brigade will be broadcasting. The Mock Bake Sale will take place next Tuesday, April 17, at 4:00. Please show up with your kids for up to an hour and a half. Baked goods will be given away with a message to the effect that no amount of bake sales can compensate for the drastic funding cuts to education under the new budget. The event will be on tax day, and a slogan will be developed to address the connection. These events are not PTO events, but relate to all of us. Kipp let everyone know that Jessie spoke with the student counsel on the issues and inspired them to play a part.

3. Executive Board News: Funding Requests Funding request forms have been given to teachers so that they may request funds for this year by the April 30 deadline. We do have field trip requests coming in. The EB will publish a list of all that we have supported at the end of the year.

4. 2012-13 Budget Discussion (vote in May) Under the bylaws, we vote on next year's budget in May. The EB develops a proposal then presents it at the May general meeting for a vote. To change this time frame requirement, a vote by the whole PTO body is needed. Some possible changes for the 2012-2013 budget include: adding \$5000 for school supplies (from zero), increasing teacher grants to \$5000 (from \$2500.) (This equates to \$100 per teacher. We know they now spend some of their own money.) Adam also notified everyone that the Edible Garden costs for next year are projected to be \$5000 (versus \$6400 this year.) Farmer Josh is leaving to attend seminary in New York. A meeting will take place to discuss what services are included in this cost. We could also add services.

5. Formation of Volunteer Committee A new volunteer committee is forming based on comments from parents during the special meeting Adam held on the budget cuts. Contact Mark Beck, Volunteer Coordinator, at [mullenbeck@verizon.net](mailto:mullenbeck@verizon.net) if you are interested in joining the effort.

6. Presidential Election Annie Kurzweg nominated Shannon Ewing and Abbie Campsie for the co-presidency of the 2012-2013 PTO Executive Board. Jenny asked for other nominations, with no response. Jenny moved that they be elected to the co-presidency and Mark seconded the motion. All those in attendance voted “yes,” with one abstention from Darcy Gordon.

7. Misc. Rachel Rosenfeld issued a request on behalf of Anne Marie Kuchera for volunteers to staff the Tuesday fruit sales.

Secretary Marjorie Minkler