

MINUTES

MAY 9, 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 and Review of 2011-2012 Accomplishments. Jenny reviewed the year's worth of PTO accomplishments, including the events, newsletter, group email updates, and fundraising through Party for Play, the donation letter and the plant sale. Jenny then asked everyone present to introduce themselves to a person sitting next to them.

2. Briefs

- Treasury report: Ellie reviewed the current 2011-2012 budget, noting the income under Spiritwear, Artware and Plant and Bulb Sale. More will be coming in under the Plant and Bulb Sale but the expenses have not been paid yet. (From Rika Maeshiro- adult medium and large T-shirts are still available. From Abbie- we will have some kids T-shirts for Carnival.) Reviewing expenses, Ellie noted the total amounts to date spend under the Principal's Discretionary fund, the field trip fund, the outside equipment fund and the spending of P4P money. The general PTO account is showing a balance of \$48,650.68, but much of that will be spent by the end of the year. A parent inquired as to the procedure for expenditures. In particular, this parent was wondering whether another parent, Jill Cummings, who has been doing yoga in the classroom on a volunteer basis, could be paid (although she would not ask for compensation.) Jenny answered that expenditure requests are submitted to Jenny, Ellie or Shannon usually by teachers. Previously budgeted items are also funded. If a teacher or Adam makes a request, then the EB sees if money is available.

[A parent asked at this point in the meeting how long it would take to get to discussion of the school day incident that raised concern for her as to her child's safety. The parent was present with her baby, did not think she could stay very long with the child, and did not need to hear this part of the meeting. Jenny explained that the PTO items had to be covered. A new budget had to be passed and new officers elected for next year-essential tasks for PTO functioning. Jenny expressed a commitment to ending the PTO meeting as soon as possible, hopefully by 7:30. The parent asked if someone could get her outside when it was time for Adam to speak about the incident from the school day. That was agreed upon.]

- Events (Abbie) Teacher Appreciation Week is this week. A catered lunch was provided yesterday. Thanks for all that people are doing for the teachers. For Carnival, our end of the year party, we will have an animal show lasting 1 hour for 300 people at a cost of \$2 per ticket. An ice sculptor will be sculpting for the first hour. We will also have all the usual things. Kids T-shirts and girls fitted T-shirts will be sold. There will be a tie dye area with in-person assistance from the Artist Supply Store. Parent Josh Belin will be in charge of water. Please bring a reusable water bottle.
- Fundraising. We are still selling plants (through the Plant and Bulb Sale) and memory tiles.
- Volunteering. (Mark) Thanks for all everyone has done for Teacher Appreciation. There is a new Volunteer Committee, working under Adam's direction toward increasing in-school volunteerism for next year in response to the school budget cuts. There are 6 subcommittees, each with their own co-chairs: classroom volunteers, school tours, office assistance, bus arrival/dismissal, breakfast/lunch/recess, and calendar. Please let us know if you are interested. Kindergarten Information Night is Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Mark will be working on getting clearances and volunteer signups. Let us know if you are interested.
- Communications. Content is due for the next newsletter on May 16. The newsletter will come out June 1. Don't forget "shout outs" may be purchased for \$2 each.

3. Approval of 2012-2013 budget Ellie reviewed the handout of the proposed 2012-2013 budget, including the listed fundraising goals and expected expenses. She noted that a deficit shows and we would use the money moving forward from this year to cover it. A parent asked whether we were continuing to have Food is Elementary, which did not appear on the proposed budget. The answer: the second grade teachers said no. Instead, they would like to participate in the program for second graders offered at the Frick Mansion and enjoyed in past years. A parent asked whether the PTO EB expected changes as a result of the state budget cuts. The answer was yes. The new budget adds funding for school supplies and increased funding for enrichment, teacher grants and field trips. A parent asked if we should talk about the fruit sales, but we did not because it is not a PTO fundraiser. Teacher Kipp Dawson thanked the PTO for making it possible for the 8th grade to take its trip to the Kelly-Strayhorne Theater and the 7th grade to take its trip to see the Point Park Play House Jr. production of "The Outsiders."

Mark moved to approve the proposed 2012-2013 budget, Shannon seconded the motion and all those present voted "Yes." **Action: proposed 2012-2013 budget passed.**

4. Motion to add Assistant Treasurer to Executive Board (change in bylaws) Jenny described that last year, the board intended to amend the bylaws to add the position of assistant treasurer to the EB, but did not take a vote of the general PTO in accordance with the requirements for amending the bylaws. Jenny then moved to amend the PTO bylaws to add the position of Assistant Treasurer as a member of the Executive Board. The reason for the position is that the treasurer has a lot to do and it takes a long time to learn the position. The person taking on the assistant treasurer position would be making a two year commitment, the second year moving into the role of treasurer. A parent asked how it is determined in the bylaws which positions exist and which positions are held by co holders versus a single person. Jenny answered that the bylaws specify there are to be co-presidents (which there are, of course, not this year) and only mention “co” holders for this position. Abbie seconded the motion to amend the bylaws and the motion unanimously passed. **Action: the bylaws were amended to add the position of assistant treasurer as a member of the Executive Board.**

5. Election of 2012-2013 Executive Board officers (Jenny) Jenny described the procedure for conducting the elections of the Executive Board officers for next year: She will call for nominations for each position. If more than one person is nominated for a position, we will use the ballots available on the meeting agenda and vote for each position by secret ballot. If none of the positions have more than one nominee, then Jenny will call for a vote on all of the board members at once.

A parent [Judy Yanowitz] said that it seemed to her that the nominations/elections had all been decided in advance. Is this true? Camille responded that it is necessary to seek out nominations in advance to ensure candidates exist come the day of the election. Announcements were made at previous meetings asking for interested people. The EB can't really appear on the day of the election without people lined up who are willing to take on the positions. Jenny stressed that *anyone* can now be nominated. Nominations are not limited by prior arrangement. Past PTO president Lisa Shlar described that historically, a real need to convince people to take on the positions existed and this took time. Never before had more than one person been willing to run for each role. Co-VPs and other co officers were necessary because no one wanted to take on the jobs by themselves. Jenny added that in this election, it is the preference of the new presidents' to have one person per position, but anyone can run. The following nominations were then made:

- VP Communications: Shannon nominated Sarah Sirlin, who accepted.
- VP Fundraising: Shannon nominated Darcy Gordon, who accepted beforehand face to face with Jenny.
- VP Special Events: Abbie nominated Ida Simpson (who was VP Special Events for four years previously.) Ida accepted beforehand in a conversation with Abbie.
- VP Volunteer Coordinator: Shannon nominated Jenny Ganger, who accepted.
- Treasurer (committed): Shannon nominated Ellie Monaco, who accepted.
- Assistant Treasurer: Ellie nominated Henry Willis, who accepted.
- Secretary: Abbie nominated Annie Kurzweg, who accepted.

Jenny moved that these nominees be elected to office. All present at the meeting voted “yes,” with one abstention from Judy Yanowitz.

Action: the PTO elected these officers to the 2012-2013 Executive Board:

VP Communications:	Sarah Sirlin
VP Fundraising:	Darcy Gordon
VP Special Events:	Ida Simpson
VP Volunteer Coordinator:	Jenny Ganger
Treasurer:	Ellie Monaco
Assistant Treasurer:	Henry Willis
Secretary:	Annie Kurzweg

6. Misc.

Jessie Ramsey spoke about actions being taken by Colfax and other parents in opposition to the state education budget cuts. The ruckus being raised about the Opera's choice to honor Governor Corbett made the first page of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette above the fold. Word spread wide and made national news. There will be a rally Saturday at 6pm outside the opera headquarters. Jessie hopes to keep the momentum going for the next 48 hours. She encouraged everyone to post and comment on the several newspaper articles that have been published on the topic. All the information needed is on the Yinzercation blog. Sara Segel added that Pennsylvania democrats made a statement against the budget cuts and thanks to them for that.

On behalf of Anne Marie Kuchera, Abbie described plans for having a "fun run" fundraiser next October, including a 5 mile run, 3 mile walk and probably T-shirts.

Thanks were given to Jenny for her 2 years of service as PTO president.

Secretary Marjorie Minkler