

PTO Minutes (Mark Beck)
April 20, 2010

Tom called meeting to order.

ITEM #1: NOMINATION AND VOTE FOR PRESIDENT(S)

Tom noted that we have 2 nominees for co-president: Lisa Chotiner and Jenny Ganger. Vote by show of hands was unanimous. Call was made for additional nominees. Vote was held by acclamation to install Lisa and Jenny as co-chairs.

ITEM #2: WALKIE-TALKIES

DeShawn, speaking on behalf of Ms. Murphy, noted that there was a need for walkie-talkies.

Diane had spoken to Mrs. Murphy. The ideal number of walkie-talkies would be 8. Each walkie-talkie would be \$189 (discounted). All 8 would be able to communicate with each other. There are still a number of dead spots, which we know from cell phone usage. The new walkie-talkies should (?) take care of the dead spot issue. The school has no funding for it and does not want to wait until the beginning of next year.

Compromise could be to buy 4-5 walkie-talkies. General discussion was held about the advisability of purchasing the walkie-talkies

Who would get them? At least David and one other from the main office.

Leigh summarized issues to discuss: how to allocate the walkie-talkies, hard numbers for cost, and whether the school can contribute some, demonstrations that they will actually work in the 2 buildings. All will be brought back to a meeting in the near future, what other cost are involved.

BOTTOM LINES: Decision is postponed until we have more information.

[We later learned that the programming and installation costs are a total of about \$80 flat, not per walkie-talkie)

ITEM #3: JCC FAMILY PARK

Ms. Sarkin reviewed last year's trips. Plan is for Middle Level on June 14 and K-5 on June 15. The JCC is giving us a good deal. Total charges:

--JCC charges \$3100

--Bus charges @ \$2800

-Total : \$6,000

Idea is for the PTO to pay the costs up front and be reimbursed from the students/school. Not every child will pay. The PTO will absorb the costs for any child who does not pay. On occasion, if a parent does not give consent for fear of not being able to pay, teachers generally call such parents and let them know of the policy that does not exclude any child for inability to pay. There was some discussion of how much this subsidy will cost the PTO. Estimates ranged from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Only children under suspension will be prohibited from going.

ITEM #4: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT (Cheryl Seeley)

Ms. Seeley noted that Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week will be May 3 – 7. There is a drawing every day so one staff member will win a gift. Homeroom representatives are asked to do something special each day of the week. Each day there is a small gift placed in the staff mailboxes.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week Breakfast is on Tuesday, May 4. Ms. Seeley asked for any donations and help setting up beginning at 6:30 a.m. Anyone can bring food to Ms. Condie's desk or just show up at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4.

ITEM #5: FUNDRAISING (Lisa Chotiner)

All staff are getting entertainment books during the week of May 3 - 7. We are hoping to use it as a fundraiser in the fall along with the Cookie Dough fundraiser. We are getting an addition \$500 just for signing up to sell entertainment books.

Thursday, August 26 is confirmed for the fundraising kick-off. Pirate Parrot will come to fundraiser. The money goes to Colfax and is raised through purchasing entertainment books and the cookie dough insert.

There was some discussion about the advisable of using cookie dough as a fundraiser given concerns about childhood obesity. Mr. May -Stein, while never personally participated in a candy fundraiser, notes that we have finite resources. Certain programs would not be able to take place without such fundraisers. Familiar arguments took place. Mr. May-Stein also noted that giving out candy as a reward by teachers is a direct violation of the district's policies.

Maren suggested that the Sarris candy information not come home because it has no nutritional value. Mr. May-Stein suggested we send home a questionnaire about the types of fundraising that families tend to support . That way, we will be able to seek input from the broader Colfax community as to the advisability of having such fundraisers.

In May, there will be a fundraiser using Chico Bags that will be sold. Ms. Chotiner will do the ordering. Chico is a very green, ecological company. Order forms will be sent home in May.

Lost and Found idea for PLANET AID (www.planetaid.org) is on the back burner for now. The plan, in early May, is to lay out every lost item on tables on the playground and walk every student through to identify lost items before Colfax donates the items.

MISCELLANEOUS (Ms. Condie)

Ms. Condie described the Summer Dreamers Academy a free program for 6, 7, and 8 grades including transportation (if students are 1.5 miles away). Advanced registration is required. Hours are 8:15 – 3 for the period of July 12 – August ?. PPS is paying for it.

Various Dates;

April 28 @ 6:00 - Barnes and Nobles (Waterfront) at 6:00 including chorus, storytelling with Ms Murphy

April 29 @ 7:00 PSCC meeting (not courageous conversations)

May 4 @ 7:00 – Courageous Conversations

May 6 @ 7:00 – Organization of Lunch and Recess

ITEM #6 – TREASURER’S REPORT (Shannon Ewing)

Money from birthdays and ice cream fundraising is going well. The only grade that has used their enrichment grants, so far, is kindergarten. Other grades are encouraged.

Winter fundraiser brought in \$12, 020.68. Each grade level needs to ask for its money. The remainder of the money will be divided by the PTO.

Plant sale is expected to make about \$1,800

SPECIAL EVENT (Nora Simpson)

Carnival will be Thursday, June 10 from 5:30 TO 8. HUNDREDS of volunteers will be needed. Committee chairs are in place. A kick-off meeting is anticipated soon. Some money was raised last year because we more than broke even although it is not a fundraiser.

Tuesday, May 11 will be a movie night. There may be 2 movies to accommodate differing ages.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT (Mr. May-Stein).

Mr. May-Stein thanked Tom and Kim for their service.

He also mentioned the possibility of combining PSCC and PTO and/or having Courageous Conversations discussions at the same time as PSCC meetings. After some discussion/e-mails, Mr. May-Stein agreed that PSCC and Courageous Conversations discussion will remain separate, but the possibility of having PSCC and PTO business conducted on the same night each month is very much under discussion.