

## **Colfax ALA - PTO Meeting Minutes November 1, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Executive Board members in attendance:**

Barbara Griffin  
Ida Simpson  
Jenny Ganger  
Shannon Ewing  
Paul Foster  
Jane Opgaard  
Mike Gordon  
Darcy Gordon

Minutes taken by Mike Gordon, Co-Secretary

### **1. Barb Griffin – Co-President**

- Introductions
- Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 12 – 7:00 p.m. at Colfax ALA

### **2. Sharon Campbell – Partnership with Western Psych to offer mental health services**

- Satellite program for kids and families outside of main clinic in Oakland.
- Therapist comes in on Fridays to meet with kids who are suggested by school counselor in consultation with parents/guardians.
- Reasons could be family situations, suspicion of depression or anxiety, etc.
- Brochure and FAQs were made available to meeting attendees.
- Services are covered by insurance at no cost to the district.

### **3. Maren Cooke, Rachel Filippini – GASP Healthy School Bus Initiative and Clean Water Action**

- Busses are idling less than they used to because of new county regulations and the awareness created by this program.
- Goal is to minimize toxic diesel emissions in Allegheny County 70% by the year 2020.
- Representatives from GASP made a presentation about how diesel particulates affect children's health.
- New busses have filters to reduce emissions, but there are many older busses currently in use.
- Older busses can be retro-fitted, which has a dramatic effect on reducing particulates, making them much safer.
- Petition made available at meeting to influence bus contractors to retrofit.
- Cost per bus is approximately \$5,000, but GASP is raising funds to cover. This should not cost the district or the bus contractor.

### **4. PTO Officer Reports**

#### **Shannon Ewing – Fundraising**

- Cartridge World has raised \$143 already. Last year with different vendor it was \$35 for the whole year.
- Box Tops program has already generated \$300. Last year's total was \$623.
- Max & Erma's event raised \$271.
- Middle-Level students are holding a hoagie sale. Money due Nov. 13. Delivery on Nov. 20.

**Shannon Ewing – Playground**

- Campaign letter was sent last week. \$691 has been raised so far.
- Over \$4,100 this school year just from direct parent contributions.
- \$58,614 dollars remain to be raised.
- Kaboom grant of \$10,000 was approved.
- Bossa Nova Party for Play event – Saturday, Jan 12. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Contact Shannon or Beth Tiffany if you have auction items or services to offer for the Party for Play event.
- Bake sale on Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day), location TBD. Please sign up to bake and/or work.
- Drop off baked goods on Monday to Diane Condi or early Tuesday morning to Shannon Ewing. Please package items to sell.
- Location of sale depends on weather, will be adjacent to the voting area but not in it.

**Ida Simpson – Special Events**

- Latin Night – Very successful. Thanks to all who helped and participated.
- Pizza and Movie Night – Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Movies TBA.
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – December 19 will be postponed until January due to construction issues.

**Jane Opgaard – Treasurer**

- Over \$1,000 in newsletter advertising has been raised.
- Over \$2,000 has been given to 42 teachers in grants.
- Playground fund - \$67,000 (\$38,000 has been sent to the equipment manufacturer as down payment)
- General fund – over \$12,000
- Handed out budget

**Barb Griffin – Volunteer Coordinator**

- Will work with Rhonda Rothman to make sure each room has a homeroom rep.

**Darcy Gordon – Co-Secretary**

- Bulletin board – Newly designed with PTO Executive Board member bios, photos, contact information.
- Filing cabinet – Has been cleaned out. Minutes and required documents will be available there.

**Jenny Ganger – Communications**

- Join the Yahoo! group. Currently approximately 197 addresses.
- Website is in development. Please contact Jenny if you'd like to help.
- Next newsletter is in production. Contact Jenny if you'd like to help.
- Sign-up sheet passed around to help with fliers.
- Home-School connection folders are used in many grades, and will be implemented in all grades shortly.

## 5. Construction Update – Shannon Ewing

- Addition is on target for open in January.
- The following is the actual report from the district:

### General

1. The steel and decking for the roof is complete.
2. Roofing company on-site today (10/25/07) to begin installation roofing. This was to begin earlier in the week but the rain has delayed it a few days. This delay will have any effect on the progress or completion of the project.
3. All windows with the exception of the Gymnasium north wall (Douglas St.) and the curtain wall beneath the pedestrian walkway location have been installed. The windows on the Gymnasium north wall should be installed after the north wall brickwork is completed (approximately 11/01/07) and the curtain wall windows will be installed after the pedestrian walkway is installed.
4. Gymnasium floor concrete is scheduled for the second week of November.
5. The drilling rig for the elevator shaft piston arrived on site 10/24/07 and began drilling the hole to accommodate the elevator piston this morning (10/25/07). This work should be complete by 10/29/07.
6. The concrete for the pedestrian walkway piers was poured the week of 10/15/07.
7. The steel and crane for the installation of the pedestrian walkway is scheduled to be on site the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November with construction of the walkway to begin at that time.
8. Delivery of the floor tile for the interior floors is scheduled for delivery the week of 10/29/07. The installation of the flooring will begin in the areas that the roofing is completed so as to protect the material from inclement weather.
9. Chalk/Markerboards are scheduled for delivery in Mid-November and will be installed as the rooms are painted.
10. Ceiling grids for the rooms will begin installation the week of 10/29/07.

### Electrical

1. Electrical panels 95%.
2. power equipment cable 80%.
3. Security equipment/cable 65%.
4. Data equipment/cable 65%.
5. Fire alarm equipment/cable 60%.
6. Sound equipment/cable 60%.
7. Lighting equipment/cable 55%.
8. Service work (transformer for new electrical service) 20%. This work will be started the week of 10/29/07.
9. Roof top equipment 65%.

### Plumbing

1. Backflow preventers 95%. Testing still outstanding.
2. Water piping 90%.
3. Storm piping 90%.
4. Drainage, waste & vent piping 90%.
5. Natural gas piping 95%. Testing still outstanding.
6. Fixtures scheduled for installation mid-November.

### Mechanical

1. Boiler Room 95%. Testing still outstanding.
2. Duct installation 75%.
3. Duct insulation 50%.
4. Roof top units 75%.

Fan powered boxes 90%. Need power and testing.

#### **6. Middle Level Parent Advisory Committee – Barb Griffin on behalf of Lisa Stupar**

- Minutes from meeting are available on the back table.
- Planning events (dance, open gym, ice skating, jewelry making, etc.)
- PTO has approved \$1,500 for Middle Level

#### **7. Diane Condie – Parent Engagement Specialist**

- Magnet fair is this Saturday from 1:00 – 3:00 at Frick.
- CAPA open house on Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00 Noon.
- Day of the Dead display. Please e-mail Mrs. Pinanzatto if you would like to help.
- Office staff has requested a volunteer from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. to write late slips.

#### **8. T-Shirts**

- Have been ordered for each student and hopefully will arrive soon.
- Additional shirts might be made for a fundraiser.
- Look into Café Press – individual orders of items.

#### **9. David May-Stein – Principal's Update**

- Forging ahead in everything that we are trying to do well including:
  - Best way to implement America's Choice, MacMillan, Kaplan
  - Helping children exist w/in space, peacefully and w/o agitation
- November 27 – 1<sup>st</sup> Quality review for the year – for America's Choice.
- Better understanding this year of Am. Choice
- Separation of boys and girls during recess – middle level students only – done b/c playing during recess is getting out of hand – all good fun but difficult to control/manage. Temporary so children understand there are limits/boundaries at school.
- Parental concerns were raised that students' perception is that this has not been explained and they were not aware of this possible outcome. DMS has already explained to 8<sup>th</sup> graders and will meet with other grades on Friday.
- Another concern is that individuals are not being punished for their behavior, but instead the group is suffering.
- DMS urged to communicate the situation to the parents before the decision to react is made. DMS urges parents to reinforce that DMS is in charge and we trust his judgment/actions.
- Parents should send a clear message that the rules will be enforced.
- Q: Food preparation in cafeteria. A: Hot/Cold servery will remain the same in the new cafeteria because this is still considered an elementary program with non-union workers.\
- Questions were raised about a potential teachers strike. David is not in the loop of these negotiations but he will inform parents if/when he is instructed to by the administration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.