

Columbine Elementary PTA  
Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2009  
14 people in attendance

Meeting was called to order by David Sterling at 6:38. Trish Wood recorded the minutes

**Announcements:** Raffle packets will be assembled on 3/31 @ 2pm and on 4/2 @ 8:30 so they can be distributed on 4/3

Columbine will be featured on KGNU on 3/30 @ 8:35 AM the topic will be AYP and developments with the OCR agreement. We're looking for Latino parents to participate. There are already two bilingual advocates who will be involved in the discussion. Edgar C. will volunteer if other parents don't come forward.

**Principals Report:** A question was posed about the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) mediation and situation. The OCR received several complaints about the handling of the future of our school in January. The OCR is a federal agency and served the district with a complaint that alleged violations of civil rights on 5 counts. The district was asked to produce 28 points of information to facilitate the investigation. The agency was in the process of investigating the complaint when the district asked to negotiate and move to mediation instead. Program visioning has been delayed because the outcome of the negotiation could affect the visioning. The assumption is that one of the negotiating points has something to do with changing the visioning timeline. The original 4/1 deadline for the visioning was intended to give the staff an idea of the program that will be here next year so they could make hiring/career decisions. However, because the budget is tight this year, schools district-wide won't get staffing levels until 4/17.

Lynn commented that she believes the new program will likely still have a bilingual element. In addition, staff on regular contracts will most likely stay. Staffing should be finalized mid-May.

Parents are facing troubles with OE, not receiving confirmations. Lynn will check into this.

Non-Spanish speaking parents expressed a desire for the school to be bilingual too.

Prospective and existing parents participated in a constructive pre-visioning meeting and want a similar process to continue. There is fear about the environment changing – especially things parents consider programmatic but administrators don't. Lynn reassured us that the 14 staff and 6 parent reps will make known what is important to their represented groups.

Parents asked how staffing levels for next year will be calculated. It was explained that there are several "sources" for FTE (staff). Some come from the general fund which is funded by State and local sources. We also have funding from the feds via Title I and from LLSS (Language and Literacy Student Services?). It is anticipated that the current ratios to calculate positions for the general fund will shift from 18:1 for

k-2 and 25:1 for grades 3-5 to 20:1 for k-2 and 27:1 for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Currently the district will be notified by the state on 3/28 about revenue shortfalls.

#### **Executive Business:**

- There will be a potluck for incoming kindergarteners mid-May. Trish and Kristen will organize.
- No budget report
- Fundraising has been working on raffle prizes
- DEAR –Drop Everything and Read Day will be 3/20- students will wear pajamas, eat popcorn and drink lemonade. Popcorn is being donated.
- DAC – Budget is a big concern for the district now. It is expected that the state will have a \$1 million shortfall. The district is doing okay because they are not as dependent on State funds. Budget issues won't affect bond projects or our new school building.
- DAC also reported that they are keeping an eye on SB163 because it will change the way districts run. SITS will become SATS (school accountability teams). Other changes proposed by the bill are daily PE, and a switch to the growth model on the school report cards.
- DPC is considering asking about the CSAP rumor at the next meeting. Sara also had a meeting with our Communications Director. One good idea that came out of the meeting is to have a parent volunteer as a PR person.

#### **Subcommittee Reports:**

- No volunteer report
- No teacher report
- Mile marathon is coming up on 5/22. Kori Jew is the new coordinator. We need 50-60 volunteers to make this happen. Due to changes at the City, a fence will be needed along 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$500. A subcommittee will consider options – change route, pay for fence, get fence donated. The T-shirt money is available from IOE again and Angela Bowman is helping Trish with food so she can take over.
- Linda Overholser will be recognized at the next Bien Educados ceremony.
- Outreach has arranged two new programs for the upper grades. 15 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade girls will be participating in GAMES (Girls at the Museum Exploring Science) at CU. There are also 5 boys who will be participating in North Boulder Little League on scholarship.