

Columbine Elementary PTA
3130 Repplier, Boulder, CO
February 9, 2009
6:30-9:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Columbine PTA was called to order February 9th at 6:35 pm by Trish Wood who also recorded the minutes.

There were 15 people present. SIT committee members were meeting simultaneously to select positions for the visioning committee.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Lynn gave a report about progress towards our climate goals. The staff feels students are responding well to PBS. The PBS system is very explicit about what is expected from kids and this form of communication seems to work best with our students. SIT had asked for a deeper investigation into questions with unfavorable responses from the climate survey. Our social worker has been conducting focus groups with select groups of students as a method to dig deeper into the results. The investigation has revealed that the answers were a result of misunderstanding, not a reflection of the environment. For example, when students say teachers aren't helpful it is because students feel like they are always busy and they don't want to bother them. Cindy Kaier, planning principal said they encountered a similar situation at Kohl with results from their climate survey.

Visioning for the new instructional program and the design of the school will be starting before the next PTA meeting. There will be 25 visioning committee members and 15 DAT members.

There are two guest editorials coming in the paper tomorrow. One from Chris King and the other is from board president, Helayne Jones. It is presumed they will be negative. If they are indeed negative, parents will write emails requesting an end to the negative posturing by the District.

The assistant principal for the 2009/10 school year will be named on 2/11. He/She may be on the visioning committee but that has not been determined yet.

BUSINESS:

Budget: No report

DPC: Sara King read a statement at the 1/21 DAC meeting about what has been happening at Columbine in terms of the "re-visioning". Parents from other schools were supportive. The two board members in attendance were sympathetic and apologized for the missteps in the process. The superintendent was defensive, challenging and unhappy. Following the

meeting, the tri-chairs for the committee requested a meeting with Sara and the superintendent to lay the groundwork for improved relations.

DAC: No Report

SIT: SIT selected two existing non-Latino parents and 2 prospective non-Latino parents this evening to be visionaries. The Latino family reps were selected 2/6 by Richard Garcia. Staff selected their reps today as well. The MEACC meeting that was run by the Colorado Parent Coalition was well received. Parents felt empowered to use their voice and informed about their choices. Overall, it was a very good experience for our community. The PTA should pursue continuing the relationship and organizing additional workshops.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Volunteers: Francine will get the ball rolling on volunteers for p/t conference set-up, raffle, book orders and teacher appreciation.

Staff Report: No report. Two staff members were ill and the others were in SIT.

Raffle: Trish has been recertified and we have obtained our raffle license for the 2009 calendar year. The drawing will be held May 1st. Sara King will approach Aji, Pasta Jays and Barts. Sue Hines will approach Hungry Toad, Murphy's, stores in 29th st. and Radda. Other parents will ask Pupusas, Old Chicago and some new establishments. Packets will go out 4/3.

The meeting closed with a discussion regarding how the students are feeling about our changing and stressful environment. Parents shared comments and conversations their students have had around this topic. Some students are expressing negative emotion. Our social worker and counselors are keeping a pulse on the situation. Parents were encouraged to be positive and focus on the good that will come from the change. Parents should tell their kids not to worry but let the adults work it out. Staff is doing their best to shield students from the day to day harshness they may encounter at meetings or hear at the dinner table.