

Columbine Elementary PTA
3130 Repplier, Boulder, CO
January 12, 2009
6:30-9:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Columbine PTA was called to order January 12th at 6:40 pm by David Sterling. Trish Wood recorded the minutes

There were 22 people present. Our typical format was changed to allow extra time for open discussion.

BUSINESS:

The wrapping paper community service project was a big success. We filled two hallways with hand decorated paper, bags and gift boxes for local shut-ins.

The Impact Award nomination was submitted today. If our candidate makes it the finalists, we will need to provide three letters of recommendation. Lynn will write one, Tim Mullins and perhaps one from a parent with a child in Kids Hope or a mentor.

Budget: Nothing major to report. Box tops generated \$173 recently. We also received gift certificates from Grand Rabbits and Playfair. Sara King will shop for items teachers request - Trish will send the email.

DPC: Sara is preparing an accurate report about what has been happening at our school since early December. She will read it at the next DPC meeting on 1/21.

DAC: DAC is working on 5 projects; a new "school report card" format, progress on the de-stratification goals (created a long discussion) and several other tasks. Attendees had pointed questions and comments about the topic of segregation.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Volunteers: Francine is still working on getting room parents designated for each classroom. Other volunteer needs such as a new games manager for the raffle were discussed.

Staff Report: Staff shared letters from second grade students thanking the PTA for providing part of the funds for their field trip to see Desperaux.

Raffle: Our raffle license and Trish's Games Manager license need to be renewed. The Games Manager renewal requires attendance of a class in Loveland. There is a possibility of getting recertified online but the test is difficult and the majority of the questions are about Bingo. Francine will solicit a new games manager to replace Trish since she only has one year before her child moves on to middle school. Parents who have access to non-cash

prizes (gift certificates) are asked to collect those items. Packets will go out in FF after spring break.

Fiesta Night: Volunteer requests are out to a couple of organizations that pre-committed. Wanda will send an email if we fall short.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

First Pres is looking at May 2nd or 9th for our annual clean-up day.

In an effort to alleviate some of the uncertainty, Cindy Kaier (new principal), and Lynn will be meeting with potential incoming kindergarteners @ 3:30 on 1/14. Trish will provide the list, send an email. Volunteer parents will make calls inviting participation.

Cindy Kaier officially starts 1/20 which is a very busy week for us with CELA testing. Lynn and staff are working on the best method to welcome her.

Information presented in the newspaper about the CDE (Colorado Dept of Education) audit did not present an accurate picture. The CDE conducted a week-long audit of our school in early October. The auditors were educational consultants and former educators. They had a rubric of 71 indicators of success contained within 9 rubrics. Overall, we were well within the norm of other audits CDE has conducted. Scores on the rubrics were 1-4 with 1 being low and 4 being high. It is a rigorous scale with a one meaning the rubric is evident but not in every classroom and 3 being the rubric is seen in every classroom. Columbine had 5 1's out of 71 not 5/9. One of the main recommendations was to implement a more standards based approach to instruction. Every school in BVSD has this issue because standards based instruction is not well defined in BVSD schools. Columbine will be working with an expert in this area to address this recommendation. Columbine staff took the audit results very seriously and has already started implementing the recommendations. Staff will be meeting to formulate a short and long-term plan to implement the recommendations. Everyone is moving forward with a positive attitude.

The district is offering special open enrollment options for our parents. Parents who go through the Open Enrollment process and take a spot at another school will be allowed back into Columbine all the way through August. The district is essentially holding two spots for our students who exercise choice and hoping parents will find the new program attractive enough to return. Parents were very unhappy with this option and felt it does not encourage families to stay nor does it put any pressure on the district to "hear" their requests. Parents expressed frustration about not knowing what was going on and not having a chance to meet the new principal like "prospective" parents. A unanimous vote was taken to revise a letter written by Sara King asking to flip the OE opportunity around and instead offer AT's to another school if parents don't like the new program. The letter will be sent to all upper-level district administrators.

Superintendent King met with staff yesterday and overturned his decision to have them reapply for their positions. Instead, staffers who do not like the new program can leave if they do not feel it is a good fit.

Parents once again expressed concern about how the program visioning process will be handled. They want a well organized, documented and observable process. Input needs to be gathered without judgment. Parents expressed once again a desire to know what is on/off the table and what can be negotiated.

Parents were upset about the media coverage about our school. It feels intentional and negative. Parents feel they can't ask/trust the district's media personnel to reframe the conversation. A group of parents will start promoting our own message and reframing the conversation around our future.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.