

Columbine Elementary PTA
3130 Repplier, Boulder, CO
November 3, 2008
6:30-8:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Columbine PTA was called to order November 3, 2008 at 6:40 pm by David Sterling. Trish Wood recorded the minutes

There were 20 people present.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

As a Title I school it is important parents know how the extra funds we receive are utilized. The Federal Government determines our funding yearly based on our free/reduced lunch numbers. This year we received \$300K for instruction. \$261K of that is for staff and paras and the other \$30K is for professional development and planning time (subs). Since we didn't make AYP, there is an additional \$10K for after school programming for kids who need extra help with CSAP preparation. Those classes will start in November and continue through the end of the year. Unlike some Title I schools, we do not have a Title I designated teachers pulling students for work. Instead, we combine Title I funds, and funding from the District for English Language Learners to create small class sizes. This is better because small group instruction can be for a longer period of time. In terms of our parent involvement/engagement activities at it relates to Title I funding, parents have many options including: TODOS, Family Literacy Classes, Volunteering, attending P/T conferences, Math classes and a PBS (Positive Behavior Support) class planned for later this year.

The District has restructured Visioning for our new school to make it more manageable. A 20 person work group will be formed consisting of parents (current and future), staff, district representatives and community members. Parents who are selected will represent other parents. Applications are due by Wednesday, November 5th at 5PM. We need both Anglo and Latino parents on the committee. Translation will be provided. Parents asked for a completely different meeting format. They felt it was unbalanced and parents without prepared comments or data felt overlooked. They asked that the facilitator make participants "tow the line." No interruptions, speaking over others or inappropriate comments. Rule and norms should be set.

Finally, Lynn shared a summary of our Climate Goals including data from the climate survey that fed the formation of those goals. The group held separate discussions (English/Spanish) of the results. The SIT (School Improvement Team) will be hosting a more detailed community-wide discussion of the climate survey and results later in the year. They will be conducting FOCUS groups to weed out details of some questions of concern.

BUSINESS:

- Reminders: Vote and eat at the bake sale tomorrow. The carnival is November 10th, the Lights of December parade is December 6th.

- PTA received a \$1,000 donation from Best Buy as part of their grand opening here in Boulder. We will have a representative there to receive the donation.
- The group discussed making all the meetings pot-lucks and voted to keep it alternating.
- There was a follow-up to make sure everyone who volunteered to read with second graders had been contacted. Mr. Mullins reported he had just started contacting them.

DPC: The school board is working on increasing community engagement and wanted to encourage any parents with issues or concerns to come before the board on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6PM. You can call to sign up to speak or show up a few minutes early to get on the list. The Bond Oversight Committee will also host public comment sessions for community members to voice concerns about bond projects. Those dates are Nov. 6th @ Fairview, Dec. 4th @ Summit and Feb. 5th @ Foothill. All meetings are at 5PM. Finally, the District is implementing a new policy for volunteers. All volunteers are required to complete a form which authorizes background checks. These names will be check against the sex offender registry. If you volunteer or have parent volunteers, please complete and remind others to complete the form.

No DAC report

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SIT: Our SIT has been expanded to include parents. The mission of this group is still being finalized but will include: ensuring the school is providing a quality education, has a sustainable process for school improvement, is collaborative, conducts data analysis to improve practices, and has a goal orientation. SIT will help identify challenges and opportunities for the school and communicate results/findings back to the larger parent community. The SIT group is still trying to get their hands around the "players" (CDE, Design Team, PTA) as they related to school improvement and the process.

Carnival: All plans are moving along - please remember to bring your designated food and show up for your volunteer slot. Spread the word too and encourage others to come. It's our big fall fundraiser.

Parade: Set up of the float will be @ 10AM here at the school on the 6th of Dec. For those who can't help with the float we'll meet at First Pres at 4:30. There will be sign-up sheet at the Carnival and in the lobby. We need to have a feel for participation so we can purchase food.

Volunteers: Francine Alberts has agreed to be PTA Volunteer Coordinator. She will be making sure all our bases are covered and those interested are being used. Adrianna V. will help her.

Staff Report: The CAR form needs to specify limits. The staff would like the PTA rep to announce back at staff meetings when and what requests are funded.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS:

- The staff member who requested the listening centers does not have any other sources for funding but will use Classroom Grant monies to pay for the remaining 2 centers. Therefore, 4 listening centers will be funded as approved at the last PTA meeting.
- The 2nd grade CAR request still has time. The team is pursuing other options and will report back. In the future, PTA will ask the requesting staffer to be at the PTA meeting where we will be discussing their request.
- Open Enrollment begins December 1st. Tours and presentation dates are posted on the web as follows: Tours 12/2, 12/11, 12/16 1/8 and 1/13. All tours are at 9AM. Orientation meetings are 12/3 @ 6PM and 1/13 @ 3:30. A volunteer form was circulated to ensure we have parents accompanying Trish on tours.
- A request to support our parent involvement group, TODOS was made. Many parents have requested this type of program, yet attendance is low. Playing TODOS Bingo, which are parent involvement activities was plugged again. Return completed cards for a chance to win a gift card.
- Fundraising is waiting to hear back from several opportunities.
- We will not be hosting the Santa Shop this year. A discussion regarding if we want to replace it with another activity next year and about our ideals regarding commercialism in general was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.