

Columbia Middle School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2011 from 7:00 pm till 8:30 pm

Present:

One Columbia Middle School Student, Steve Hamilton, Helen Wilson, Carla Stonbraker, Pamela Birx, Janet Gagnon, Linda Mejia and Terry Foxworthy.

Request for funds:

Spaghetti dinner / Murder Mystery night combined event. We currently have some PRIDE budget that could help sponsor the event. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Hospitality – Will be contacted to help develop. The suggestion of Silent Auction if possible and Art department can donate items.

Technology:

Ms. Birx presented the promethean board and ActivExpressions to the PTSO and provided insight in to how technology is being incorporated into Columbia Middle School. The use of this technology produces a 16% growth and assists in closing the achievement gap.

1. Promethean Board
 - a. Interactive resources to help students work as team
 - b. Visual aids
 - c. Timer for activities
 - d. Special tools associate with math learning
 - e. Keeps students engaged
 - f. Allows smaller groups to team up and develop thoughts
2. ActivExpressions
 - a. Hand held device that records students responses
 - b. Promotes student growth
 - c. Enables every student to answer comfortably

Ms. Mejia presented the use of netbooks. Just how are they being used to helps students develop their literacy skills? Students have mini computers that help them develop using technology based materials.

1. Netbooks
 - a. Provide access to information technology
 - b. Visual learning
 - c. Access to information resources, such as, documents and learning tools.
2. Programs
 - a. Moodle is an on-line course that the students and teachers use to increase learning opportunities.
 - b. Google Documents – literacy resources available to all students.
 - c. Wordle – 2.0 applications where students can learn other applications.

Upcoming Events:

Parent teacher conferences
President's day February 21st

Next meetings: March 3, 2011