

Columbia Middle School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
September 6th, 2011 from 6:04 pm till 8:14 pm

Present:

Steve Hamilton, Jeff Hoff, Robert Bruce, Jim Katschke, Cheryl Katschke, Holly Irvine, Alissa Harris, Jennifer LaRochelle, Roxann Baughman, Douglas Baughman, Tracy Green, Tina Schettler, and Terry Foxworthy

Special Guests: Mary Lewis Board of Education member and Anthony Sturgis Chief Operating Officer Aurora Public Schools

Minutes:

Approval of minutes: Jennifer motioned and Steve seconded. All approved.

Treasures Report:

Total \$29,050.26

The fall fundraiser raised \$22,995.75 to date, but the invoice from the fall fundraiser still to come. Internet orders are still coming in and will be added to the total raised. The school will receive 45% of the fall fundraising totals except for donations made on the internet are 100% for Columbia Middle School.

All students were able to participate in prize day that met the requirements to attend.

Old Business:

Fall Fundraiser was very successful for CMS.

New Business:

Special Guests discuss Mill Levy Override Proposal presentation.

1. Part of the Vista 2015 strategic plan
 - a. Colorado's sixth largest district
 - b. 40K students
 - c. Almost 60 schools w/Charter's
2. Financial Crisis because of recession and budget cuts to education
 - a. These cuts have accounted for \$70 million in State funding
 - b. Expected to continue and reach \$100 million in total
 - c. Enrollment continues to rise while funding declines
 - d. Mill Levy proposal returns 15 million annually to APS
 - e. Cost about \$8.00 per month to the average household in Aurora
 - f. Investment in the Aurora Community partnership
3. APS has already improved efficiencies in district
 - a. Aligning pickup schedules
 - b. Improved route schedules per driver
 - c. Cut programs while supporting community appreciated programs
 - d. Doug Bruce amendment
 - e. Rain day funding
 - f. Colorado is top 4 states with highest education, but bottom 3 in funding

Fundraising ideas for Music Department:

The music department is still short in earning enough funding for events, students that need instruments, books, transportation and other items.

1. The spring fundraising event has went to the music department
2. The music department earned a small portion of last year's spring fundraiser
 - a. Letter needs to be sent out to improve fundraising
 - b. Music department should step up efforts
3. Suggestion for cards with discount program for local businesses
 - a. Concerns about cards that do not get sold who is responsible
 - b. www.aSuperiorCard.com
 - c. Minimum order amount
4. Could students play in front of local businesses for donations

Columbia has lost funding to district for facilities rental as this money is then split amongst all schools in district.

Committee Chair Reports:

Apparel:

1. Looking for someone to take over apparel sales.
2. Orders only five times per year with order dates established
3. Need to order in half dozen or dozen quantities
 - a. Getting vendor to provide historical data
 - b. Evaluate stock and remove non-movers
 - c. Place orders for extra's to accommodate vendors requests
 - d. Only possible on popular items

School Dance:

1. Cheryl/Vickie Wright planning for sometime in October
2. Split between PTSO and Leadership team
 - a. DJ through PTSO
 - b. Pizza's through PTSO

Hospitality:

1. Teacher conferences coming up soon
2. Hoping to increase budget from \$1500 to \$2000
3. Teacher Appreciation week
4. Planning schedule
5. Received Donation letters to get donations from community

Request for Funds:

Music Department request for funding

1. Instrument rentals \$40.00 and book \$10.00 for this school year
2. Asking PTSO for donation to help as 15 students are in need of assistance
3. Any assistance would be helpful

Principals Report/Accountability:

1. Data has been received from TCAP into Columbia
 - a. School Performance Framework
 - b. Performance at Columbia highest in state ranking
 - c. Growth 7 out of 10
 - d. Math 7th grade not achieved
 - e. Reading 6th and 8th not achieved
 - f. Proficient/Advanced highest in district
 - g. Outperforming where we were 8 years ago
 - h. Non-Native language learners outperforming all other demographics
2. After school support is available
 - a. Mondays and Wednesday nights have extra bus for community
3. Gear UP
 - a. 56 eight graders are in gear up
 - b. Mentor students
 - c. Federal grant offering 10K per year to students
4. College Track
 - a. 25 students identified
 - b. Privately funded 40K to apply to students all the way through college
 - i. Cisco
 - ii. Apple
5. Mr. Hamilton has been key in promoting these programs to the community
 - a. Criteria must be met for these programs
6. Assent Program
 - a. College classes in high school
 - b. 29 students received their Associates degree while graduating from high school
7. Fast Track also offers college classes
8. Cougar News offers insight into grading standards
 - a. Colorado ranked C in rigor
 - b. National specifics to standards
 - c. Bar has been raised
 - d. Parents can see samples of proficient work in the newsletter
 - e. Parent's breakfast will be announced soon for a couple of parents involved in the school with the district.
9. Questions
 - a. Parent Portal what does "T" stand for on report card?
 - i. Turned in – at different levels
 - b. How do we measure proficiency?
 - i. Part of newsletter message
 - c. Moodle provides answers for curriculum

Next meeting:

October 4th - at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned:

8:14 pm