

PTO Minutes
PTO Meeting
January 15, 2009

The meeting began at 9:05AM. Those attending were: Terry Gillach, Fiona Vickers, Christie Sprowl, Stephen Topping, Ashley Kirchner, Kelly Fano, Ellen Hardman, Ann Patricio, Lou Prinster, Terry Snyder and Vickie Thompson. Vickie conducted the meeting in Dawn's absence.

The following items were discussed:

1. Cougar Challenge- Christie Sprowl:

Christie reported that we have collected about \$39,000.00. She has some employer matching contributions coming in and thinks we will attain our goal of \$40,000.00. She is preparing the thank you/tax receipt notices. She needs some help with getting the notices printed. Ashley offered to help with that. She will plan to have them ready to print on Tuesday, January 20th. She and Ashley discussed the possibility of merging an email list and possibly sending them via email. If she is not able to do that, she will need help on Thursday, January 22 getting the notices ready for mailing. She will notify us if she needs the help.

Discussion followed about setting up a method for next year where a receipt would be given at the time the donation is received. It was also suggested that we set up the ability to make the donation online where the giver can then print their receipt. Christie will look into these possibilities and will discuss with Beth Shannon, Corrine Campbell (our tax accountant) and IRS the legal aspects to consider.

2. Principal's Update- Terry Gillach:

Terry reports that things are very busy at this time.

The library and the Flat Irons Computer Lab are scheduled to be closed on February 13. Things from those areas will be placed in storage until the new spaces are opened.

The science classes and Anita Fort's room will move into their new spaces on February 18th. Terry had originally been told that our computers would be refreshed over the summer, but there may be a delay in that for a year. The district is considering purchasing other items like overheads, etc with the money they were going to use for computer refreshing. A final decision has not been made on this.

A tunnel will be constructed down the lower level hallway to access the elevator. Administrative offices will remain intact until the end of school in May. Chris Congedo's Food class will be modified during the last quarter to be an outdoor survival class. The new Food Lab will relocate to Anita Fort's old space and be equipped with new appliances. Two refrigerators will be moving in from the old space. Chris has been working with a teacher from Centennial Middle School on the curriculum to be used during the quarter he will be without the food lab. The curriculum has been approved by the district and Chris is considering making this a permanent part of the class.

The streets will get asphalt on Monday, January 19th. Asphalt has not been put in prior to this date because a chemical needed to mix the asphalt was missing and asphalt was not available. The construction company has taken the green fence down because the winds have been so severe they can't keep it in place.

Ina and Mike are handling CSAPS which will be given the first 2 weeks in March. Make-ups will be the week before Spring Break. Last year we had several students who refused to take the CSAPS. Terry is hoping we will not have the same issue this year. 8th graders who do not take CSAPS will not have a choice of taking advanced classes at Fairview (or other high schools in the district) and will be placed in regular level classes. CSAP scores are used in

evaluations of the student's ability to take higher level classes. Fairview had 14% of their students not take CSAPS which has placed them in danger of not receiving their accreditation. Any student at Fairview who does not take CSAPS will be placed on academic watch, which can greatly affect their chances of getting into colleges.

Open Enrollment tours are finished. Applications are due in to the district by tomorrow, Friday, January 16. SHMS will likely have no OE openings in 7th grade and a few in 8th grade. The OE spots for 6th graders will depend on how many neighborhood kids he ends up with.

Gifts to teachers before the winter break were very appropriate and within the new guidelines. Several handmade gifts were received and very much appreciated. We will need to take the new policies into consideration when Teacher Appreciation Week comes up in May.

Half of our 8th graders will be randomly chosen to take the National Assessment Test in 3 subjects: reading, math and science. Their scores are compared to other students around the world. The US has realized this may not be a level assessment. Most countries have a 2 or 3 track system where in 6th grade the child takes a path towards academics, vo tech or agrarian. Our students do not make those decisions until the end of high school or college.

Terry suggested we check out Jeff Sanders' 6th grade LA class. During the last 3 weeks he has been doing an experiment in his class room with no chairs! The students sit on exercise balls. A chair is available if the student really dislikes the ball, but the majority of the students have taken to bouncing through class. It is very productive for 6th graders who learn well with a little motion. It seems to keep them calmer in class. We are so fortunate to have such an innovative teacher.

SHMS will have our Site Review done in the next few weeks. This year our review will be done by Kent Cruger, Bear Creek Principal and Josh Baldner, Mesa Principal. This review is done every five years and serves to certify us through the State of Colorado. Terry will share the report with us at the March PTO meeting.

Terry requested that parents attend the district budget meetings coming up to discuss district priorities. He fears we may be headed for some severe budget cuts.

3. Climbing Wall Status:

Terry recently received an email from the climbing wall company notifying him that the man he was working with has been laid off. The state has added more requirements that must be met to have the wall, and teachers will have to be certified. The company was waiting to come out until the gym has walls, ceilings and floors. The actual gym floor cannot be installed until temperatures are moderate, so that will probably happen in late July or early August. We are still planning to get the wall, but we have no details yet as to the actual cost. Terry will keep us informed.

4. Conference Dinners :

Terry reported that an email was sent out on Wednesday, January 14 with a change in the conference schedule. The conferences will be spread out over 4 nights instead of 3 nights and will be from 4:15pm to 7:00pm. The Invite Only conferences will still take place on these same nights. The student, their parents and the administrative team will meet to problem solve issues.

Meals for the teachers and staff will be provided as follows:

Wednesday, January 28—teachers on their own for dinner

Wednesday, February 4—**PTO provides dinner**

Monday, February 9—Administration provides dinner

Thursday, February 12 --**PTO provides dinner**

Vickie will notify Michelle Harvey and Sue Hollingshead of these dates.

5. Honor Roll Celebrations:

Kelly Fano reported she will have cookies and punch after the formal celebrations that will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 21st (7th and 8th grades) and Thursday, January 22nd (6th grade). Kelly said she does not need any help. Terry said he hopes they will not last more than about an hour. They intend to call up 10 kids at a time to be recognized.

6. Science Fair Day-Friday, January 16:

Brian Woltman has about 12 kids participating and has about 6 judges that will be here for a couple of hours tomorrow. Vickie will get bagels and fruit and ask Beth Shannon to get coffee for the judges. This will be set up in the library by 8:30am.

7. History Day-Tuesday, February 3:

Terry Snyder is working with Zach Crandall on this. She recently sent Fiona a request for help with the food for the judges. We advised her to contact Michelle Harvey and Sue Hollingshead for their help since they are in charge of conference dinners and miscellaneous food volunteers.

8. Treasurer's Update- Beth Shannon:

Beth was not able to be at the meeting but sent a copy of the Profit & Loss Statement for July 1, 2008 through January 14, 2009. She advised the executive board by email that the only new items paid out were mini grant requests that have come in.

9. Other:

Ellen Hardman asked if we were given any money in the construction budget for art work in our new spaces. Terry said we do not have an allowance for that. Discussion followed that once our new spaces are completed, great opportunities will be available for students to use their artistic expression in these areas.

Christie Sprowl had a question about "possession of dangerous weapons"-1 incident in the School Accountability Report we received with the kid's report cards. Terry said he would have to check on that, he could only remember an incident over the last year involving a student hitting another student very forcefully with a pencil. There was concern that the lead embedded in the child's arm might cause some harm. He will get back to us to clarify this question.

10. 8th Grade Continuation Ceremony and Picnic:

We were out of time to discuss this but noted that volunteers will be needed to coordinate the reception (7th grade parents) and the picnic (8th grade parents). More discussion needed at the next meeting in February.

PTO meets the third Thursday of each month. The next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, 2009. Watch for information as to the location of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Thompson, PTO Secretary