

PTO Minutes
PTO Meeting
August 28, 2008

The meeting began at 9:00AM. Those attending were: Terry Gillach, Dawne Owen, Beth Shannon, Fiona Vickers, Christie Sprowl, Kelly Fano, Beth Waters, Trina Faatz, Jude Wolpert, Phyllis Ashe, Jeanne Naber, Lou Prinster, Sue Scheeres, Jaclyn Thayer, Sue Sheerin, Terry Snyder, Julie Mowat, Suzanne DeVenny, Ellen Hardman, Gina Kelman, Ashley Kirchner, and Vickie Thompson.

The following items were discussed:

1. Introductions :

PTO Board Members and Project Coordinators present, and all others present.

2. Back to School Picnic – Kelly Fano:

Date is Thursday, September 4th. Scheduled to be at Viele Lake, however, may need to change this as 855 people have signed up to attend. Kelly will check with the city Re: requirements for this much larger group. If needed, we will move venue back to SHMS. This event is being catered by Olive Garden. Kelly needs volunteers to help set up around 2:00, pick up food at 3:30, help serve 5:30 to 6:00 and help with the trash. (We cannot use the dumpsters at Viele Lake.) Spiders will be offering some help. Anyone who can help should email Kelly at fanofamily@comcast.net

3. Principal's Update- Terry Gillach:

Terry began by explaining what PTO at SHMS is and is not. It is a service organization to help teachers, staff and students. It is not a place to bring complaints. If anyone has any issues and/or concerns, please take them directly to Terry and/or Ina.

Registration went well thanks to Dawne and her crew of volunteers.

Only a very few new staff members and they are settling in.

Construction keeps him very busy with 15 calls a day. One parent present asked if it would be helpful for Terry to have a volunteer to filter these calls. Terry said he would have to end up with the calls anyway, so they might as well continue to come directly to him. He will continue to send weekly construction updates via email. They are only 2 to 3 days behind at this point. At this time they are expecting to move into the new science areas in late February. This means the students will need to walk through some tunnels to get to classrooms. A parent asked if air conditioning is a part of the plan. Terry explained no A/C in classrooms due to the cost...\$3 million. Swamp coolers were ruled out because of their high maintenance needs.

SIT (School Improvement Team) is scheduled to meet September 8th. They will be addressing goals for the coming year. Terry advised that we had 9 SHMS students who refused to take CSAP last year. This affected our levels all around. He stressed how important it is for each student to participate in this test. Our goal is for 100% participation. This becomes even more important at the high school level where accreditation can be affected if too many students opt out of taking the test.

A new program, Positive Behavior Support or PBS has been implemented this year. This is right in line with SHMS's shared values of respect, responsibility, safety and kindness. The Busted program has been ramped up. Check with your kids to see if they have been busted! It's a very good thing.

4. Treasurer's Update- Beth Shannon:

Beth provided a copy of the Profit & Loss Statement for July 2007 through June 2008. We begin this year with \$12,000.00 in our account. A deposit of around \$30,000.00 of Cougar Challenge funds has been made. Terry will be advising teachers to make mini-grant requests to be reviewed at the October or November SIT meeting. PTO determines the Mini grant budget and SIT determines how the money is allocated.

Our Teacher Appreciation practices will have to be reviewed against the new clarified policy coming out at the district level. Terry said our meals that we provide for various functions will not be affected. Watch for more details as the district makes them available.

We will be setting a goal for funds to go towards a climbing wall in the new gym.

Nancy Casey will be working on a plan to sell the King Soopers gift cards we have on hand. Trina Faatz (303-541-0863) will be glad to give Nancy information she knows about this program. We will not purchase any further gift cards unless Nancy gets a commitment from those who wish to purchase.

5. Cougar Challenge- Christie Sprowl:

We have collected about \$30,670.00 with about 47% participation. We collected more money at registration this year than last year. Christie reminded us that we take matching employer funds as well. She will be putting together a mailing to go out to all families who have not participated.

6. Back to School Night:

Tonight. There will be a PEN table and TAG table. We will put Cougar Challenge forms at these locations as well.

7. PTO Calendar for 2008 -2009:

PTO meetings will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:00AM in the school library, or other area as needed due to construction. Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 18, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Thompson
PTO Secretary