

PTO Minutes
PTO Meeting
May 14, 2009

The meeting began at 9:00AM. Those attending were: Terry Gillach, Ina Rodriguez-Meyers, Dawne Owen, Beth Shannon, Fiona Vickers, Christie Sprowl, Kelly Fano, Stephen Topping, Ellen Hardman, Jessica Waldman, Ashley Kirchner, Linda Lackman, Trina Faatz, Marjorie Johnson and Vickie Thompson. The following items were discussed:

1. 8th Grade Picnic – Dawne Owen:

Dawne needs the past menu used for the picnic. They have not been able to find it. There will be about 150 kids. Vickie checked in the meeting minutes for May 15, 2008 and found the following:

Burgers -150	Buns	cookies	condiments
Veggie Burgers – 30	Chips (indv bags)	water	paper plates, napkins
Hot dogs – 100	Cheese	pop	

Terry will order the grills and they will be taken down to the rec center on trucks and placed on the east side of the rec center near the tennis courts. Ina will order 5 tables from the district. Maintenance will deliver them to SHMS. Terry and Ina will see that the grills and the tables get down to the rec center. Ina said we should check the closets to use up any items in there we can....napkins, cups, knives, forks, spoons, water bottles, pop, etc. It will save them having to pack it all up and move it for the construction. Dawne says she's getting 2 new coolers for lemonade because the old ones leak. They will use the old ones for water. Dawne and Fiona will buy the food for the picnic. They will use the remaining King Soopers gift cards for as many of the items as possible. Dawne needs 3 people to help with set-up, Vickie and Beth were going to help, but will not be finished with the ceremony and reception in time to get things set up. Christie, Stephen and Jessica offered to help with setting up. Grilling will start at noon; Dawne has 6 people lined up for this. She has 5 people lined up for clean-up.

2. 8th Grade Reception - Dawne Owen:

Dawne, Fiona and Ashley have this under control. Ashley will loan us a backdrop to be set up for pictures. Dawne will get 60 dozen cookies from Costco and make lemonade.

3. Registration – Dawne Owen:

Registration will be on August 17. Dawne has sent an email request for help and will send more. She is asking for volunteers to commit to a minimum of 4 hours. This is helpful in that training of the volunteers is kept to a minimum. Registration packets will be prepared on June 9th. There are 24 volunteers so far. Stephen Topping, Ellen Hardman and Dawne Owen told Fiona they would also be there to help.

4. Update on PTO Board Positions for 2009-2010 – Dawne Owen:

Dawne thanked Vickie Thompson, Beth Shannon, Jeanette Kornreich (PEN), Michelle Harvey and Nancy Turner (conference dinners) for their work with PTO.

Positions for the upcoming year are as follows:

- President: Dawne Owen
- Treasurer: Trina Faatz
- Secretary: Stephen Topping and Annette Wilhelm
- Volunteer Coordinator: Fiona Vickers

- Teacher Appreciation Coordinator: Beth Waters
- Back to School Picnic Coordinator: Kelly Fano
- PEN Coordinator: Laura Spicer
- “360” Mentor (formally WEB Parent) Coordinator: Yasko Endo
- Cougar Challenge: Christie Sprowl who would like a mentor to work with next year in preparation for taking over the Cougar Challenge project the following year.
- Conference Dinner Coordinator: TBD, anyone interested in this position should contact Dawne Owen or Fiona Vickers.

5. Treasurer’s Update- Beth Shannon:

Beth handed out a copy of the Profit & Loss Statement for July 1, 2008 through May 11, 2009. She has a few final checks to write for Minigrants. Also, funds will be paid out for the Staff Barbecue, Impact on Education Basket, the 8th grade reception and picnic. Cougar Challenge funds collected at this point are \$36,723.00. She reported we have about \$30,000.00 in the checkbook. \$10,000.00 is dedicated to the climbing wall and \$10,000.00 is to be left in the account to roll over to the next year. That leaves about \$10,000.00 to pay existing bills for this fiscal year. Any amounts left over can go to the climbing wall or be used for other items that may come up, or go into the funds for next year. Deb Darnell had not used her mini grant money and had asked if she could roll it over to next year. Beth will discuss this with Terry and get back to PTO on this issue. Next year, funding of the Climbing Wall will be a large focus of PTO.

Ina brought up in the discussion around the 8th grade picnic that we are in need of some portable tables. This may be an item that PTO could fund next year.

6. Principal’s Update- Terry Gillach:

TAG Coordinator/Deb Darnell: Terry reported that he will not need PTO funds next year to help fund Deb Darnell. This will be funded through para funds. That will free up an additional \$7100 from the PTO budget next year.

Construction News: Construction continues to progress. The gym is finished and has a paw on the floor. It has to “cure” for a specific time before anyone can get on it. He hopes the kids, especially the 8th graders will be able to get in to see it before school is out. He also hopes the kids will be in the east side of the new structure the last week of school. The new steel entrance will start going up next week. Administration offices will move to the science wing for the summer. Completion date is scheduled for August 1. Most of the smells are done and the noise is down. The west portables will be gone soon and the construction offices will move to the east parking lot for the remaining construction. Landscaping will be completed on the west side of the school. Knox will be re-done over the summer, with a new sidewalk on the west side of the street being constructed. The road will narrow a great deal. Parking will still be allowed on the street.

Overall Climate re: the kids: 95% of the kids are fabulous, 5% are smelling summer. 8th graders are showing mixed feelings, sentimental and melancholy and yet excited.

Staff Turnover: Will not be a big turnover for next year. He’s hiring a new 8th grade LA teacher, a Spanish position for 1A. Classes will be large next year. Right now enrollment is at 535. There will be enough lockers for all of the kids.

Thanks to PTO: Terry thanked PTO for all of their work this year.

7. **BVSD Representative, Peter Hurst:**

Mr. Hurst wanted to talk to parents about a 2 year transportation grant the district has received to focus on students carpooling and using RTD buses to get to and from school. He wanted to get feedback from parents about the best way to market this to parents and information about what parents thought about this idea. SHMS will be a pilot school in the fall. He is looking to present a positive campaign to increase riders. Parents brought up the following issues:

- Parents and students have a different perspective on these issues depending on if student is in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.
- It's hard to find carpools. (Mr. Hurst said they are going to try to get all parents into the Denver Ride Share system which will make it easier to find carpools.)
- Some students have a long walk from the bus stop to their homes.
- Bus schedules fluctuate too much.
- It's too hard to get an ECO pass...why can't the schools get ECO passes for the students, rather than just the neighborhoods?
- After school, the SKIP busses are still overcrowded with high school students and lots of the middle school students are too intimidated to get on the busses.
- It would be helpful to have more SKIP busses come at 3:30 for the middle school dismissal, just like they have more at 3:00 when high school students are dismissed.
- The overcrowded buses are very unsafe.
- Practice sessions over the summer to help kids get used to the bus system would be helpful.

Mr. Hurst would like a few parents to meet with him over the summer to help with this project. See him after the meeting if you are interested.

Watch for information as to the date and location of the next PTO meeting to be held in August, 2009.
Meeting adjourned at 10:20AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Thompson, PTO Secretary