

**Columbia Parent Association
General Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2009**

In Attendance: Becky Kendall, Rachel Akins, Kirke Mahy Hestad, Rachel Greenwood, Rosalind Reynolds, Michelle Jacobs, Tamar Clarke, Joanna Nesbit, Mardi Solomon, Erin McEachern, Karen Anderson, Caren Kongshaug, Jill Smith, Joanne Deckerr, Missy Ferguson, Amy Holtorf, Gini Detering, Stephani Zerbst, Wendy Fanello, Ann Marie Cooper, Lucy Mestre, Susie Davis, Miale Jose, Lisa Lewis, Jill MacIntyre Witt

September minutes: Motion to approve by Caren Kongshaug, seconded by Wendy Fanello.

Principal's Report: School year is starting well but very busy. Missy & teachers are stretched thin because of budget cuts. There are no prevention specialists, reading support has been cut back (though new reading specialist Joyce Burge is wonderful), and other reductions, plus Missy is helping with central services. There will not be a snap-shot sent home this month as teachers are so busy with new assessments and other tasks. Missy is going to a School Board meeting this evening to accept Columbia's School of Distinction award.

Treasurer's Report: \$5,460 in savings and \$2328 in checking. Paid for back to school breakfasts, some supplies for Read-a-Thon. Paid for Garden Coordinator for whole school year, \$2300.

Announcements:

Joining the CPA Board: Caren described the process for becoming CPA Board members. All parents are members of CPA. Board members are voted in and can decide on Board matters. Board members are encouraged to head committees. Elections are held twice a year in Jan. & in June. All participants in CPA meetings are welcome to express their opinions whether they are official Board members or not.

Science Fair will be Thurs. Jan. 28. In Dec. there will be a Science Enrichment Day. There will be an assembly in Dec. to announce the Science Fair. There also will be some workshops before the Science Fair to help children prepare and present their science experiments. To help with and of these Science Fair-related activities, call Caren at 738-1964. Susie will take the lead on the Science Enrichment Day and will need some help with this.

Yearbook: Caren will do the yearbook this year. She requests parents take digital pictures of students in their children's classes. The yearbook will be black & white. It will sell for \$10 as a CPA fundraiser.

Box top Collection: There is a box in the entryway for box tops. On Friday Oct. 23 at the start of school Caren asks parents to help prepare box tops for a half hour.

Assemblies: One assembly is arranged -- Writer Gary Hogue, March 24. He will do an assembly for all grades in the morning and then do workshops with grades 3-5 in the afternoon. After school he will do a teacher workshop.

Lisa Holt is working on a science assembly with the Museum of Radio & Electricity. This will cost \$350. There is a question about whether the CPA can afford this assembly. There also is a dance troupe traveling from a sister city and available to do a free assembly. Lisa Holt has the information and will look into this.

Book Fair: The Book Fair will be Oct. 19 -23. Set up will be on Oct. 15, 4:00-7:00. Gini needs help setting up and running the book store. Wed. Oct. 21 is the event night. The theme is "Read Around the World." Last year the total profit from the Book Fair was over \$4000. We take our profit in books (60% of total profit) and the books go to the classrooms, library, reading resource room.

School Dance: Julie Sheldrup will chair the dance. Molly Klein will chair the auction for the year with help gathering donations from Cara Buckingham.

Make Your Mark: Haggen has discontinued their School Bucks program leaving a \$1000 hole in the CPA budget. Thanks to Erin's coffee habit, the Starbucks manager at Meridian Haggen has heard all about it and offered to use their volunteer program, "Make Your Mark," to benefit the CPA. We will have a school grounds clean-up party on Sun. Oct. 18, 10:00-2:00. Starbucks will donate \$10 per volunteer per hour up to \$1000. Spread the word and invite all neighbors.

Also, Starbucks has a new product called Via instant coffee. Meridian Haggen Starbucks has a sales challenge and if they meet this challenge, Starbucks will donate \$500 to the CPA. This is outstandingly generous as the employees do not even have children at Columbia. Please buy Via at Meridian Haggen Starbucks!

School Mascot: Fifth grader Emma Morrison and a friend have started a petition to change the school mascot from Columbia Cardinals to Columbia Cohos. There was consensus that this is the students' decision to make.

FLAN: Michelle Jacobs reported that three FLAN classes started this week -- one Spanish and two French. Forty students are enrolled.

Bike to School Day: This event will be held Wed. Oct. 14. People interested in volunteering should talk to PE teacher Kathy Norwood.

Chess Club: Joanna & Kurt will be coordinating Chess Club. It will be Wed. mornings starting Nov. 4, 8:00-8:50. Sasquatch will be happening on Friday mornings headed by Lisa Christenson & Carolyn Nielsen.

Motion to Adjourn: Jill Smith, seconded by Caren Konghaug.
Mardi Solomon, Secretary