

Columbia Parent Association
General Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2009

In Attendance: Mardi Solomon, Erin McEachern, Karen Anderson, Joanna Nesbit, Wendy Fanello, Caren Kongshaug, Becky Kendall, Jenevieve Neros, Claire Evans, Sue Hoyos, Susie Davis, Juliann Irish, Rosalind Reynolds, Katrina Schmitt, Michelle Jacobs, Lisa Strong, Cara Buckingham, Jill Smith, Amy Holtorf, Lisa Holt, Marti Riemer-Reiss, Daniel Solomons, Mialee Jose

June Minutes: Change – remove “?” after Michelle Jacobs’ name. Motioned for approval by Jill Smith, seconded by Joanna Nesbit.

Walk & Bike to School Event: Kathy Norwood, PE Teacher for grades 3-5, announced the Oct. 14 kick-off event for Walk/Bike to School sponsored by Everybody Bike. She is seeking volunteers to help organize the event, set up a booth before school on Oct. 14, and distribute cookies and prizes. There are some leftover “Walk & Roll to School” t-shirts which will be given to teachers to raffle off to students who walked or biked to school.

Fundraisers: Erin M. announced that the Haggen School Bucks program is no more. This will leave a hole of about \$1000 in the CPA budget. Erin will be exploring alternative fundraisers.

Caren Kongshaug will be collecting box tops in a box in the school entryway.

Karen Anderson reminds everyone to use the search engine goodsearch.com and Columbia will get one cent per search.

CPA staffed a hotdog stand at Yeager’s tent sale this summer and raised \$400. We can raise more money through Yeager’s by volunteering to do gift-wrapping at the store during the holidays.

Assemblies: A volunteer is needed to coordinate assemblies. *(Note: During the meeting Caren K. volunteered and Lisa Holt and Jill Smith will help.)* We are hoping to have two assemblies this year, in addition to the five character trait assemblies that the Neighborhood Playhouse is scheduled to do. Missy suggests hosting an author who will do an assembly and make classroom visits. Other assembly suggestions are a traveling show the Pacific Science Center does, Reptile Man, or the Noise Guy.

Read-a-thon: The read-a-thon fundraiser will start Oct. 1 and go for 10 days. Contact Erin M. to help out.

Book Fair: Gini Detering will coordinate the Book Fair.

Fish Mural: Amy Holtorf will be coordinating a fish mural clay project this year. The intention is to mirror the existing fish mosaic completed six years ago on the opposite side of the hall. Students in every class will make clay fish for the mural. Installation of the mosaic will depend on the district, but Amy hopes to involve students with the

installation. Amy requested that Jill S. and Caren K. do some decorative painting on the radiators on that side of the hall.

CPA Officers: Last week Karen A. stepped down from her role as CPA Co-president. She is now serving as a Presidential Advisor. Karen nominated Joanna Nesbit to serve as Vice President, Wendy Fanello seconded the motion and all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy F. distributed a recap of last year's budget and gave a report for the summer. She also distributed the budget passed for this year. Wendy noted that some major district expenses came in over the summer so the checking account is low. The budget for this year anticipated more income from the jog-a-thon than was realized and also \$1000 in Haggan Bucks which now won't come in, so we are looking at a \$5000 deficit. The CPA will explore how to shave off some expenses and will begin discussion next month about adding a fundraiser.

Principal's Report: Missy is happy to be returning for a 6th year at Columbia. The theme for this year is "Welcome to Our Neighborhood" (in honor of Mr. Rogers). The start of school has gone very smoothly. There are 221 students, two kindergartens, one 1st grade, one 1st/2nd combination, one 2nd grade, one 2nd/3rd combination, one 3rd, and three 4th/5th combinations. Mr. Palmer will be retiring after this year.

For a second consecutive year Columbia has been awarded "School of Distinction" for continued improvement in student learning. Students did very well on the WASL except for 4th grade math. This was unexpected as the district measures of academic progress showed 75% of students were at standard in math at the end of the 4th grade. Missy will be getting clarification from the district on how to interpret the WASL results and teachers will be working to improve math instruction.

An element of learning that Missy wants Columbia students to excel at is *perseverance*. She sees perseverance as a task a lot of students need to work on and will be emphasizing learning through mistakes, and working hard to achieve one's goals.

The Columbia School Store: Mardi Solomon reported that the school store experiment went very well. Nearly 160 packets of school supplies were sold and the feedback from parents and teachers was very positive. The 5th grade students who volunteered to set up and run the store did a wonderful job. We will try the store again next year and add an option for families to pay ahead in June and supplies will be delivered to their students' classrooms in September. Joanna N. & Missy will inform the School Board about the School Store experiment.

The School Garden Program: Mardi S. reported that Liz Schale has returned as the Garden Program Coordinator and is already doing seed-saving garden activities with classes. Mardi thanked the summer "Garden Angels" for keeping the garden alive through the hot weather. Teachers will be needing Garden Angels throughout the school year to help take small groups out for garden activities. Please sign up.

School Yearbook: Caren K. will take pictures throughout the year for the school yearbook. She encouraged everyone to take digital pictures of school activities during the year and share these with her.

Parent Advisory Committee: Joanna N. is the Columbia representative on the Parent Advisory Committee which meets with the Superintendent once a month. The committee met yesterday. Joanna encouraged others to participate in the committee as it is a good way to get the district perspective on school matters.

Student Directory: A form will go out to families soon to be listed in the Student Directory. There was a request to have email addresses included on an opt in basis.

Chess Club: Joanna N. and husband Curt will host chess club again this year. The club will start in November and will be on Fridays 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Blacktop Painting: Jill S. will be painting the directions on the compass and possibly some other additions to the blacktop. Contact Jill if you would like to help with this.

Math Group: Paul Clement would like to host a math group with 4th & 5th graders.

Motion for meeting to adjourn: Caren K., Amy H. seconded.

Mardi Solomon, Secretary