

Erie Elementary School PTCO

Approved Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2010

Location: Erie Elementary School Library
Meeting Called to Order By: Karyn Hogan, PTCO President
Time: 7:00 pm
Attendance #: 14

Officer and Committee Chair Reports

President: Karyn Hogan

The upcoming PTCO board elections were discussed. Nominations will be taken for the board positions from March 1-24. The nominating committee is comprised of Faith Siler, Karyn Hogan and Karen Winkler. Nominations will be accepted from anyone for any of the 7 board positions. Nominations will be verified by the committee and at the March 24th general PTCO meeting a slate will be presented. Voting will take place at the April 21st general meeting and in accordance with the bylaws we can accept nominations from the floor that evening as well. Each elected position is for a one year term, and elected officers can serve no more than 2 consecutive terms in any capacity. Karyn is seeking clarification from the prior PTCO president on the exact wording of the bylaws, which are currently under review. Previous changes were not put into the document when discussed and amended last year. The position of Treasurer is the most involved and it isn't desirable to have yearly turnover of this position.

Vice President: Faith Siler

Not Present – Karyn Hogan provided an update.

The Field Day and BBQ will be held on Thursday, May 20th. The food for the BBQ is provided by the district and the PTCO rents the large grill and provides the volunteers to cook and run the event. Parents and siblings need to purchase tickets for themselves, which will be available the day of the event, before picking up their meals. Students can use their lunch accounts.

Treasurer: Michelle Kelley.

Not Present – No report provided.

Secretary: Karen Winkler

Meeting minutes from the January general meeting were approved.

An update on the state budget crisis affecting the district's budget was presented. There will be another meeting sponsored by the district on Tuesday, March 2nd at Altona Middle School beginning at 6:00 p.m. The on-line feedback form is still available on the district's website for you to submit suggestions for dealing with funding reductions. You can also learn more about how schools are funded and the impact of the budget crisis from the Great Education Colorado website: <http://www.greateducation.org>

Administrative Update: Larry Shores

The order has been placed for \$20 thousand worth of technology equipment for the classrooms. This will cover the cost of purchasing 22 document cameras and 20 projectors. We will therefore not be getting these along with the 8 tech carts which the district will be providing to the school as part of the technology upgrade it has identified Erie Elementary to receive. There will then be \$8 thousand left over that we can decide how to allocate. The PTCO funded \$10 thousand towards the purchase with the balance being paid out of Mr. Shores' administrative fund.

Staff/Teacher Liaison: Candi Cloud

When the new equipment arrives Candi will be notified and then volunteers will be needed on short notice to come in and help set them up and deliver them. When they arrive into the district Candi will have a better timeframe as they will first go there before being scheduled for delivery to the school. Professional development and training isn't planned yet but something will be put together. These pieces are the easiest to learn and start implementing in the classroom.

Staff/Teacher Liaison: Sue Kelsall

Expressed her thank you to the PTCO for sponsoring the conference night meals. It is a nice opportunity for the staff to come together on those nights.

Staff/Teacher Liaison: Ami Larson

The teachers loved the conference meals and expressed their thank you to the PTCO for donating the food and their time. They are also very excited about the technology purchase.

Hospitality / Volunteer Coordinator: Linette Williams

Not Present – Karyn Hogan provided an update.

Thank you to all the volunteers who donated and helped with the January conference meals. Thanks also for the support of her Haiti relief fundraiser.

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Community Events Coordinator: Theresa Johnston

A community event [movie night] was previously discussed for the month of March, however, due to the amount of activities planned for the remainder of the year and also accounting for spring break this has been cancelled.

Fundraising Coordinator: Jennifer Behnke

The Kindergarten/1st grade Chick-fil-A Night brought in \$460 and Mrs. Audley's class won the nugget party. The next Chick-fil-A Night will be held on April 6th benefitting the Preschool and Specials. Jenny has been in touch with Bob Arnold, the owner of Snowcap, who contacted her regarding their interest in doing a fundraiser. As owner of both Snowcap and the Parkway Grille we could utilize both restaurants. Based on meeting attendee feedback, Jenny will check on May 4th or 11th as a possible date for this.

Yearbook: Terri Parsell-Sherry

The yearbook cover has been completed and will go to the publisher now. Thanks to Nancy McLaughlin who helped design and do the layout. Sales continue to be low with only 182 to date. Please help get the word out to parents to pre-order their child's book as we may not have extras to sell. This is the last call for pre-sales.

Free Money: Heidi McDonald

Not Present – No report provided.

Other Business

Spring Carnival

The annual Spring Carnival and Auction will be held on April 30th from 5:30-8:30. Odyssey of the Mind will again run the games. Mrs. Sherman's and Mrs. Mason's family will do the cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn. They declined reimbursement from the PTCO and will be donating the ingredients and their time to provide this. There will be a kick-off meeting for the Carnival/Auction Planning Committee on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm in the school library. This meeting is for the purpose of getting things in place. Jenny is currently looking for recommendations of DJ's to provide music. Criticism from last year is that the music and dance component of the evening wasn't a priority and the kids ran wild. Volunteers are needed to head up the various tasks and also provide feedback as to the best way to locate and execute the silent auction. It was suggested that a map of activities also be developed to provide to people along with their tickets.

Financial Requests

This year the PTCO was really tight with finances and has been holding off on evaluating and funding other requests until it was determined where we ended up after the technology purchase. We've realized that we cannot agree to sponsor requests that ask for a yearly commitment of funds. Overhead expenses and revenues differ each year and board member turnover can affect priorities with regards to what things can be funded. What the PTCO has discussed is the idea of dedicating a specific amount of money twice yearly during two set time periods. Any teacher or organization can apply and present during a dedicated meeting and then the board will decide on funding allocations to those groups. This same process would be followed in the fall and again in the spring. The criteria for evaluating requests would also need to be developed. The PTCO has not made any decisions on this yet.

Community Feedback Wanted

Joe Carnival, who is an Erie Elementary parent, took the opportunity to introduce himself. He is currently running for a town of Erie trustee board position and desires any feedback from parents regarding what issues they feel important. He can be contacted via his website: <http://www.ioecarnival.com> and also has a FaceBook page for his campaign. The Town of Erie elections will be on April 6th.

Crayons 4 Education

Angie Crookshank mentioned the idea of becoming involved in the campaign first started by a group of parents in Douglas County referred to as the Wickerdale Walkers. She will meet with Mr. Shores as to the possibility of Erie Elementary School getting involved in this. The PTCO can work with her as to clarification on what part the PTCO can play in this. [This is a public awareness campaign as to the need for the state to re-evaluate the proposed cuts to education]

Announcements

Next Meeting is March 24th in the Erie Elementary School Library at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned At: 8:30 p.m.

Minutes Compiled By: Karen Winkler, Secretary