

Columbia Valley Elementary PTO
Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 13th, 2022

Attendees: Amanda Kerber, Abby Liedtke, Kaitie Horn, Tristen Dalton, Becky Fox, Jenifer May, Lindsey Larson, Janet Moskop, Tana Maloney, Savitha, Kiran, Jana White, Christ White, Chantal Sommerfield, Jeanine Tyger

6:30 Meeting Called to order Amanda Kerber.

Welcome and Introduction:

Amanda is the PTO President- this is her second year. With covid there was a time where the PTO was not active with all the uncertainty. Leah asked Amanda to help start the PTO again.

Right now the Board consists of Abby, the Secretary and Kaitie VP of Fundraising. We all are learning as we go.

If you need to bring your kiddo to the PTO meeting it is okay- just no supervision provided.

What does Columbia Valley PTO do?

PTO stands for Parent Teacher Organization. Not affiliated with the national organization PTA, which requires certain national rules to be followed. The PTO is supporting the work of the school, but is not a part of the school. The Board is not a part of the staff, everyone is a volunteer. The PTO is a non-profit. There is a business side to the PTO that is needed to maintain the running of our organization.

The PTO puts on events like the DASH, Pennies and Paybacks, Navigator Nights (example, Picnic on the Playground, Fall Fest, etc). The PTO helps coordinate the activities and provides volunteers to help run the events. The PTO also provides other activities to help unify the school, like Spirit Wear and Yearbook. These two examples are not fundraisers for the PTO but to help build the community of the school.

The PTO also fundraises to provide money for materials and supplies to reimburse teachers- generally up to \$100 a year. The PTO provides funds for curriculum support (per grade level) and Library/PE/music. Fundraising money also supports teacher grants, staff appreciation week, after school programs, safety patrol, art discovery supplies and school improvement projects (painting on the playground, fence/gate).

Principal's Update:

Leah and Jeanette could not make it tonight.

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Leah wrote that building improvements are underway. The fencing/gate has been approved and the painting on the playground has started. There has been an increase in enrollment. There is no longer a 4-5 blend class. Mrs. Hawkins has been hired. This has allowed for smaller class sizes.

Leah also shared the Picnic on the Playground was a success!

Volunteering

Open Board Positions

The Board typically meets the Tuesday before general membership at 7:30pm.

- VP of Fundraising
- Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinator Positions

These are non-board positions but are a great way to be active without attending all PTO meetings and taking on things from home.

- Yearbook
- Teacher & Staff appreciation May 1st - 5th
- Cultural Group Connection

Volunteer Requirements:

There are no volunteer requirements for after school events such as picnic on the playground, upcoming fall fest, zumba night, craft night.

A background check is required when volunteering during school hours. These events include Art Discovery, Navigator DASH, volunteering in classrooms, and field trips.

The background check can be found following this link, click volunteer forms.

<https://sites.google.com/evergreenps.org/volunteers/volunteers>

After you fill out the application on-line, stop by the office with your license and covid vaccination card. Your background check will not be processed until you bring in your license and vaccination card.

Activities

The Picnic on the Playground went really well. The plan is to have monthly events that are free or very low-cost for families. Upcoming events that are planned: Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat, Zumba night, a craft night in December and a possible low cost ice skating

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night off site. Please email Kaitie if you have any ideas of fun activities that would be free or low cost. kaitie.horn@gmail.com

Fall fest/ Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 28th, after school. There is a parent who is interested in face painting and is also a DJ. In order to pull off the event we need a committee to help come up with ideas and volunteer at the event. There will be two parts to the event Trunk or Treat (15-20 trunks) and then small carnival type games inside. The hope is that teachers can sign up to host a trunk and then families will also be able to sign up.

Fundraising

Pennies and Paybacks is currently going on right now. This was decided to be efficient with our volunteer efforts. This is one of two fundraisers we will have this year. It has been going well and it has been really fun to watch the kids think about how to win their grade level in Penny wars.

The Navigator DASH will be our fundraiser in the spring. The committee will start at least once before winter break and then probably meet monthly leading up to the DASH in May. The DASH is a fun run. All the kids get matching t-shirts, there is music, parents can come watch and their laps are tracked.

Additional Questions and Ideas

Jana asks if you can just buy milk at school. Jeanine Tyger says that they have to take lunch. It is something with the state and how they are tracking lunch count. There is also no more chocolate milk. They are working on bringing back a milk dispenser with reusable cups. Hot lunch is currently free for the next several years.

Tana discussed Art Discovery and highlighting that it is our students art curriculum. You do not need to be an artist but it is just a really fun way to volunteer in the school. If you have any questions about Art Discover contact: columbiavalley.artdiscovery@gmail.com

Jeanine Tyger believes that teachers will volunteer for Fall Fest. Lots of ideas like bowling for pumpkins, hanging bats, etc. for inside games.

Amanda shared that Principal Torres or Mrs. Crone will be here for every single event and stay through closing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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Next Meeting October 4th, 6:30-7:30 PM CV Library