

2013-2014 PTO General PTO Meeting

MINUTES

Date: November 18, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Attendees: Kelley Brunner, Heather Smith, Linda Meder, Jill Rees, Kristie Allen, Julie Grimshaw, Orfe Kelly, Janet Schwertley, Laura Wintemute, Jocelyn Sims. Bret Bell, Travis Kearney Cassidy Wallin, Miles Sulka, Ava Kingston, Ethan Koror, Arlen Sykes, Linda Meder, Elise Kearney, Suzanne Kingston, Steve Schauer, Molly Donnelly, Michal Koror, Burton Koror, Bernadette Marshall, Marni Bealer, Gayle Sjoblom and other parents and teachers.



<p>Introductions</p> <p>Kelley Brunner, Colina School principal welcomed all parents and mentioned how please she was to introduce Jocelyn Sims, the new Centennial Principal</p>	<p>Kelley Brunner Principal</p>
<p>Transition to Centennial Middle School</p> <p>Jocelyn Sims mentioned how she happy she to be in Centennial and how welcoming all the community has been. She said that Centennial had a bad reputation but she would like people to know that at the moment they are tied with Altadena and Aprende in regarding to discipline. She said that she believes about helping kids. There are great kids at the school and she wants them to be successful in PARC, the new academic Test particularly in math because there is a new system and they want to alleviate the amount of work that kids have.</p> <p>She wants to change the atmosphere and perceptions. She feels that the best way to show how good Centennial is to hear it directly from students. Jocelyn introduced a few students from Centennial: Bret Bell, Travis Kearney Cassidy Wallin, Miles Sulka, Ava Kingston, Ethan Koror</p> <p>Ethan Koror is in 8th grade. He said that Centennial has a lot of fun afterschool activities and a great environment to make friends.</p> <p>Miles in 6A said that there are a lot of sports that allows him to interact with other students. He also likes that there are behavior incentives.</p> <p>Ava likes sports and other after school activities and she feels very happy to be in Centennial</p> <p>Brett Bell said that what he likes best is that there are great teachers. He said he thoroughly enjoyed his experience in 6th grade. Classes are good the teachers are great. He also said that the Colina kids are very well prepared for Centennial thanks to the wonderful teachers that we have in Colina.</p> <p>Travis Kearney loves the sports in Centennial. He feels that before they couldn't really</p>	<p>Jocelyn Sims Centennial Principal</p>

compete in sports but now they can and he is very proud of this fact. Cassidy Wallin said that her favorite things are the teachers and sports.

Bernadette Marshall asked what the difference the kids have seen in academics. Miles Sulka said that a lot of the new policies have helped kid concentrate better including not chewing gum. Travis Kearney said teachers are more pushing. Miles says that teachers help the kids to bring their grades up.

Cassidy said that she likes to help them understand fractions. Also she said that she dislikes bullying and if ever somebody was bullied she would stand for them and help them. Ms. Sims told Cassidy that she likes this attitude that that she just earned points towards their character awards.

A parent asked if there were problems that they didn't like and how they were solved. Ethan mentioned that gum chewing was a problem but now it is not and the school is cleaner.

Jocelyn Sims said that before starting in the summer people would congregate at Fry's. She talked to the manager and asked that if in any way the kids were disrespectful to contact her directly. This problem has stopped.

They are starting a before school mentoring program. She feels that in the past there was lack of expectations but now there is good leadership.

Marni Bealer asked how many kids are in a class. Brett said 25 in 7th. Ethan said that in 8th grade they have 30 students but they have extra teachers.

Another parents asked about preparing them for homework. Miles said that really the teachers here did a great job preparing them for it.

One parent said that all of the kids present were great kids but that they were all from pod A and wanted to ask the reason for this. Jocelyn Sims said that in the past some pods were not equitable but she is working hard to make sure next year the pods are equally distributed.

Orfe Kelly asked if there would be the opportunity to request a specific teacher. Jocelyn Sims said she would rather make sure that all pods were equally attractive.

Gayle Sjoblom asked about the program where Centennial students are coming to Colina to mentor in Math. Kelley Brunner said that this program would allow it is not going to be only in Math but whatever the kids need.

A parent asked if there would be a STEM program in Centennial. Jocelyn Sims said they are not ready for STEM yet but definitely something to work on for the future. Also, she wants to concentrate on the individualization of learning.

Molly Donnelly said that she was disappointed that Kyrene stopped requiring that kids read specific books. Ms. Sims said she was not aware of this problem but that kids have many resources to read books. Jocelyn said she was told she was coming to a school

<p>where there was a low parent involvement and she was pleasantly surprised at how wonderful parents are and that parents needed to come and talk about books that need to read and she'll make sure this is corrected if this problem persists.</p> <p>Brett said that this year on Monday and Tuesday they get a lot of reading and writing.</p> <p>Steve Schauer said that a friend of his children went to Basis but he knows there are no sports and specifically students need sports.</p> <p>Jocelyn said there is nothing she can do about schools like Basis coming to the area but she can make sure that Centennial is the best it possibly can be and that in fact just last week a student left Centennial to go to Basis but he waited until track was over because there is no track in Basis.</p> <p>Molly Donnelly said she has a son in Basis and in his experience Basis is not a school for everyone.</p> <p>Kelley Brunner told Ms. Sims that she very much appreciates that she took the time to come and talk to us.</p>	
<p>Budget Review</p> <p>Julie Grimshaw distributed the budget. She mentioned that we have been net under budget at our events.</p> <p>Elise Kearney asked if the reason there was an amount spent in end of the year party was because it was a carryover from last year. Julie said yes.</p> <p>She also read the most important line items in the budget informing parents on where we stand with direct donations, t-shirts etc.</p>	<p>Julie Grimshaw Treasurer</p>
<p>Mural</p> <p>Jill Rees mentioned that there is an artist that has painted murals at other schools and that they are beautiful and inspiring and that the board would like to propose that we spend \$3000 to paint one of the walls in the library.</p> <p>A few of the artist's designs are circulated and Kelley Brunner explained that she would like to use timeless book characters like the cat in the hat and where the wild things are.</p> <p>Orfe Kelly motions to vote to approve hiring an artist to paint a mural in one of the library walls for \$3000</p> <p>Jill Rees seconds</p> <p>Opposed none</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	<p>Jill Rees President</p>

<p>Tables for the library</p> <p>Motion to vote to approve purchase tables for the school library. Jill Rees explained that a parent donated money last year to purchase chairs for the library. This is very important because they are the focal point of the school and used by everyone.</p> <p>Kelly Brunner said that these are the original tables and that it would be great to have tables to match the chairs. The cost of 6 chairs would be \$3081.83</p> <p>Jill Rees motions to vote the purchase of new tables to match the chairs.</p> <p>Laura Wintemute seconds</p> <p>Opposed none</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	<p>Jill Rees President</p>
<p>Upcoming events</p> <p>Orfe Kelly mentioned that the upcoming events are:</p> <p>November 21 Reading wall November 25 Family Dinner Night at Pei Wei November 27 Turkey Trot December 4 Barnes and Noble Night December 4 Family Dinner night at Chik Fil A December 12 Reading wall redemption December 13 Movie Night</p>	<p>Orfe Kelly Secretary</p>