

## PTO minutes 12/2/15

**Student Council/Winter Party** - Sue and the student council representatives: - For the winter party we need more donations for Izzies. Also, we need someone to run the popcorn and chocolate machine. Check sign up Genius that Ali sent out. Otherwise, dance is coming together.

Spirit Week - Week of December 15th. PJ day, twin day and 80s/neon day and crazy hair day.

Lockers - kids wanted to leave their decorations up on their lockers when they are decorated for birthdays. Kids want to be able to take them down whenever they want. Dana asks them how long they'd like the decor up. Dana asks them to come up with end dates (length of time) and then talk to her because otherwise things get too messy.

Student Council likes the idea of a message board in the cafeteria. It was actually more important to them than a water fountain.

Sarah: suggests highlighting the Izzie donations in the eblast.

### **Principal's Report: Dana**

Open enrollment: Dana says we need parents who can volunteer to help at any of the events. During the daytime events prospective parents (and maybe their kids) would be paired with CMS parents and some kids. Volunteers will be given an information sheet about things to do with the prospective families, including taking them to specific places in the school, certain classes, answering questions and then bringing them back. December 9th event starts at 9:00 and will be finished by 11:00. Let Elizabeth or Heidi know in the office if you are interested. There is another one January 8th. The nighttime event is a little different. PTO will be there with a table where people can sign up to be involved next year and ask questions. There will be another place people can come to be given tours and ask questions. Any parent could help with that too.

Patty: Are these events geared toward everyone or only people outside of the neighborhood school attendance area?

Dana: Both really. It is kind of like the beginning of here's what middle school is.

Elizabeth: For parents who would like to volunteer, how much do parents need to know?

Dana: says there will be experienced people, administrators and counselors there to help with specific questions.

Dana: says Centennial will do something similar to the 5th grade field trips that have happened in years past in the spring

**E-Blast** - The new format is a pdf. Hot links should work. Diane said that on Windows 10, the links didn't work. Others report that links worked on phones and macs.

**Green - star school.** CMS applied 5 years ago and finally our turn has come. We met Monday. There are a lot of details. Part of it is the issue must get an 80% or more staff approval vote. We need to make a decision by the end of January. We are putting a plan together to present to staff for their vote. If anyone is really interested, Linda Scherer is the teacher here who is willing to take the lead on this.

Green-star takes your recycling to another level and tries to transform the school into a no waste school. Boulder would like to become the first city in the nation to have all its schools reach that level of recycling. Instead of having just trash and recycling, we would also have a compost bin. They monitor your trash and you should be decreasing your trash and increasing the other material. They spend a lot of time at first in the school training the kids and staff and PTO. There are some perks in that the whole community has access to compost for free. They provide the bins.

**Energy Challenge** - There are a couple of parents who lead a girl scout troupe who want to work on the exhaust issues, no idling issues (reducing CO2 emissions). They want to apply for the district energy challenge. Different people at Boulder Valley are in charge of this and the green-star school. Elisabeth Marcenac might be interested.

**Book Fair** - Jon Georgitis. We have sent out e-blast about the CMS fundraiser at Barnes and Noble on December 15th. The fair will be held all day. Most events happen in the afternoon. Choir will perform and two music teachers have students interested in performing small ensembles from about 4:30-6:30. Just mention CMS at checkout before purchase and a certain percentage will go toward books for classrooms and library here. Some of the teachers have already put in requests for certain books. There will be an online fair (15th-20th online) where you have to enter the following code: 11763752. Jon just started a library blog. First blog was on finding resources for middle level students. It is on the media page. Common sense media is a great resource. It has game reviews, book reviews, etc. He also put a few book recommendations on the blog. He will try to update the blog every 2 weeks. He will mention it in the next e-blast. It will be under the library link in the e-blast.

Here is information provided directly from Mr. Georgitis:

**[Barnes & Noble Book Fair/Fundraiser-Tuesday December 15:](#)** At Barnes & Noble on Pearl Street, Centennial will be holding a Book fair/Fundraiser for the school all day. **[There will be art and performances by Centennial's students from 4:30-6:30.](#)** Just mention Centennial at checkout and a percentage of profits will go towards purchasing books for Centennial's classrooms and Library. There will also be teacher wish lists for books. Come out and support Centennial and take care of some holiday gift shopping.

**[Online Book Fair](#)** There is also an [online fair](#) running **[Tuesday 12/15 through Sunday 12/20.](#)** Just enter Centennial's Book Fair Code **[11763752](#)** at the checkout screen to support Centennial.

**[Centennial Library Blog](#)** -- Jonathan Georgitis, our librarian, has started a blog for the

library and wider Centennial community. He plans to post at least twice a month, but may post more if I have time/creativity allows. [Check out the post](#) on resources on how to find appropriate content for your middle school student as well as a few book recommendations.

**Patty - Spirit Wear.** She will be selling at lunches on Fridays during the month of December. Also, spirit wear will be sold the night of the choir concert and the PEN presentation on the 7th and at winter party. Patty could use some help. This is going out on student announcements. These are also posted on our bulletin board at the front of the school. If anyone is interested in being the point person for spirit wear, let Patty know!

**SAC Presentation-** Dana and Robin. School Accountability Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is 12/14 in the library here right after school till around 5. Now SAC is focused on UIP (unified improvement plan) for district. They analyzed data they have received from the climate survey and test scores. There are 3 strategies that the district holds us to: the first two slots are held for the district and third one is school specific and for Centennial. The two goals for the district are centered around the root cause of inadequate differentiation of instruction to address needs of wide variety of learners (special ed, TAG, ELD and non english speakers). Strategies they are using: systems of support. Second strategy is examination of educator effectiveness. Third strategy is up to the SAC committee to come up with using the data. The first meeting focused on digging into all of the data according to protocol. We split into groups. At the next meeting we refined what we determined from the prior meeting. Key findings are that CMS' climate has been declining since 2012. 2 areas that are pretty remarkable (need work) for our school: school safety and academic gaps between nonenglish speakers and english speakers. The climate survey was done by the kids. So, as a school, we are choosing to address climate and academic gaps. Because of the way the survey was written, we don't feel super great about the data. So, we want to develop a proprietary survey that is worded better and addresses our specific needs. Dana is willing to help with this and execute it at the school. We want to track results by forming focus groups within the school that include students. We also want to make sure we have a true cross section of kids participating. The committee consists of parents and teachers. State law says you need a community member but we don't have that yet. We want to improve communication at the school to improve engagement throughout the entire community. Dana is starting with the e-blasts. People don't necessarily all across the board feel welcome at CMS. This is a priority issue for us.

SAC meetings are open to nonmembers. We will add this information to the e-blasts.

**St. Baldricks** - Thursday, March 17, 2016 is our event. Dodge ball tournament will happen around 3:30-5 and the St. Baldricks event will immediately follow that. We are registered. Jessica is in charge. If interested in helping, let Jessica know.

**Next meeting:** December meeting is cancelled. So, January 6th is our next meeting and our Google training. Sarah will be asking for rsvps so that we have enough computers.

**Treasurer report** - Diane. We are really trying to formalize things a bit more. So, we need to request that the budget be approved. One of our goals is to cover current year expenses with current year income and to retain a reserve. We have a little flexibility in our capital

expenditures line item. Main source of income is the donations. We are also increasing income from our grocery card program and spirit wear sales. This year we have about half of our operating funds going toward events and programs. About a fifth of our main operating funds goes to recognition events. Another fifth goes to community donations (like \$50 to health room for snacks, directory, yearbooks, impact on education baskets, and a contribution fund). This year our total expenses are projected at \$15,750. We have a healthy reserve moving forward.

Jessica moves that we approve the budget. Nicole seconds the budget. All voted in favor. So, budget approved.

Heidi Hoback is leaving after December. What can we do for her? She has moved to Denver. Maybe Abby Church, as our staff appreciation person, would be willing to take the lead on this. December 16th at 10:00, the staff is doing an appreciation party for her.