



Columbus Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes
School Year 2020-2021
Thursday, April 8th, 6:30 pm

Time Item

6:30 Welcome & Board Introductions

6:35 May Board Elections

We have several board members who will be moving on at the end of this year! We need your help! You don't need a lot of time, just the desire to help the school and our children. Areas of involvement: grant writing, fundraising, secretary, etc. Email medfordcolumbuspto@gmail.com with any questions or to express your interest! Elections will be held during the May PTO meeting.

6:40 5th Grade committee

PTO celebrates 5th graders who are moving on - books as gifts; yearbook. Looking for 5th grade families to join a committee to work on various celebration ideas for the 5th graders. Working with Mr. H on designing a t-shirt for the 5th graders - likely will ask kids to send their signatures to put on the t-shirts.

6:45 Budget Update

In good shape heading into next year, with a balance that should allow us to plan for a "normal" year in terms of spending on enrichment, etc. Our spending was radically lower this year due to the restrictions of COVID.

6:55 Enrichment Update

- Thank you for supporting the book fair! We used the proceeds to buy 70 great, new books for the library.
- Not going to do more virtual clubs for the spring - kids want to be outside with the weather getting warmer. We are doing another set of club kits - to be delivered before April vacation week.
- All grades have now done a program with the MOS. Goal this year was to try to do one additional enrichment activity (in addition to MOS). Magician doing a virtual show at the end of the year.
- Grant writing - thinking about submitting grant applications for next year. If anyone would like to help with grant-writing, please email the PTO!

7:05 Fundraising

- Whooo's Reading read-a-thon raised even more than last year - just over \$8000!;
- Citywide fundraisers - Electronics Recycling drive with the Citywide Elementary Alliance, total money raised TBD. Keep an eye out for 4GoodVibes fundraiser to benefit Medford schools: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/107753967974253/?ref=share>.
- SchoolKidz supply boxes - order information will be sent out closer to the end of the year, supplies to be delivered to classrooms at beginning of school year.

7:15 Principal Kay's Corner

- Access testing for EL students has begun.
- Tentative MCAS dates - May 10-June 11; DESE trying to figure out a plan for students studying remotely to be able to take the MCAS.
- **Wednesdays - for in-person students is a 1:30pm dismissal** (remote schedule has not changed)
- In-person students will be reminded that they need to take care of the school and building (toilet paper rolls in the toilets in the bathrooms, etc.)
- Dog tag project - purchased for each of the students; they will be distributed to the remote and in-person students next week. Once decorated with names, etc., they can be hung on the garden fence. Names on the green side of the tag, back could be decorated.
- April vacation week - take a break from the computers!
- Renaming of the Columbus - names need to be submitted by Friday, April 16; names submitted should have a connection to Medford, based on guidance from the school committee. Due date to apply to be on the naming committee is also Friday, April 16. Supporting the kids through the name transition. Ex: What kind of values do we want for our school, what does a name mean, what kind of name do we want to honor? Book resource - *Rethinking Columbus*.
- C&C Day - April 30 - theme will come out on Friday.
- Nurses Day - May 12 - they have done so much to help keep everyone safe during this time
- 5th grade celebrations - talking with the principals about a possible 5th grade move-up day (to be held outside)
- Fun Day - has asked Central Admin if we can hold Fun Day, no response yet

Questions for Ms Kay:

- Library - not going to start loaning books this late in the year
- No information yet about what the fall might be like
- Google Hangouts has been shut off for 4th and 5th grade because some kids were using it

inappropriately, the issue was taking up a lot of time for teachers, and interrupting classes at other schools. Needs to be shut off for the whole grade level (or not). In-person teachers did talk to their kids, there has not been discussion with the remote kids. For remote kids, Google Hangouts has been an important way for kids to interact with each other.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 6th, 6:30-8 pm (via Zoom)

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusPTO>