

# Meeting Minutes

## Columbus Gifted Academy PTO

**Date:** 6/15/2015

**Location:** Shepard Center

**Meeting Called To Order By:** Eve Hathaway

**Time:** 6:35 p.m.

**Attendance:**

**Minutes:**

Minutes of 05/18/2015 meeting not read because were unable to be printed and accepted

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**Administrator Report:** Dr. C. Boyle

-Advised she's not the school's administrator, obviously still over the program & working closely to select school admin:

-Applications/resumes have been received really good candidates

-Regarding the name "Columbus Gifted Academy:"

That's the program name and it's not going to change.

The program is to be very direct about who they are...Cincinnati uses the "gifted" moniker, and the same holds true for similar schools throughout the state. Understands there is sensitivity about it.

"One of the beautiful things about this program, in addition to the academics, we will be able to address the social aspect of what it [giftedness] is. It's a difference in how we learn, it doesn't make us better or worse. Some kids and some families are much more comfortable with that than others, our goal is come to a place of understanding with that. Where we are today with our collective comfort level with our name, is very different from where we as a group will be later when we've had a chance to build on it with student/teacher and community education."

**Spirit Wear:** We may need to be a little more sensitive about mascot, motto the kids developed, etc., without being ashamed of the word 'gifted.'

**The goal, to empower children to know and become comfortable with “This is who I am, this is part of me.” Asked for patience as we begin that journey.**

***Member brought up that ‘gifted’ inordinately/unfairly applied to specific demographics, worried about marginalizing students of color, various backgrounds etc.***

**Dr. Boyle response: Definition of ability for gifted - the district population doesn’t match who is currently designated, but based on the Ohio definition, giftedness is based on performance on the specific tests.**

**We can set the template for what gifted is, regardless of advantage, the idea is actively seeking to destroying the advantage. Currently the gifted population is 60% to 40% white vs non white pop.**

**Gifted and Talented Services is actively seeking to find students throughout buildings where there are a lower number of gifted students identified through student outreach.**

**Library/Tech:**

- **The district votes on the fiscal year budget (6/16)**
- **Every classroom will have a desktop**
- **A nice selection of Chromebooks for kids to use**
- **Hoping to pull out some tech surprises**
- **There is a sizable budget for the new library (\$75K,) two of the book vendors have wish lists/registries where people can donate money toward books or specific books, will decide on vendor soon.**

**Beautification Day:**

- **Jointly planned with PTO/G&T Staff for Sunday August 9th, Time TBA (welcome packet coming at the end of June)**
- **Plan to come together with families, paint fences, plant flowers, plenty of projects to do inside including extra hands to unpack 80 - 100 boxes**

**Back to School Celebration:**

**Opportunities for families to walk through buildings, meet teachers, come together as community Monday Aug 24th. Time TBA by End of Month.**

## **Officers' Reports**

**President: Eve Hathaway**

- Kids will get to vote on mascot & school colors
- If parents have specific questions about programming, see Dr. Boyle
- Discussion of committees available for volunteers and highlighted

**Vice President: Christina McMenemy**

**Treasurer: Robert Meeker**

**Asked for a vote to designate him (as treasurer) and the president as signers on PTO bank account. Vote was held and passed with both Robert Meeker and Even Hathaway as signers on PTO bank account.**

## **New Business**

- **Fundraising:**
  - Need \$500 to get started as a PTO to cover incorporation etc.
  - The finance committee and treasurer will work together to create a GoFund Me campaign (or similar site campaign)
  - SchoolBee.com & PaySchool suggested for directory & if we subscribe then we'll get the directory included possibility
- **Voting Rights: Per household/Per Person discussion**
  - Decided on having dues for voting rights
  - Suggestion \$5 per person or donation of any amount to be as inclusive as possible
  - Member noted it's important to be explicit in the directions that any donation amount will be accepted as membership, commitment in that regard that will reinforce that we are a volunteer group
- **Added Membership Chair: Finance/Compliance Committee: Michelle Moskowitz-Brown**

## **Announcements**

**Next meeting is 07/20/2015 at time, place TBA**

**Meeting Adjourned At: 7:20 pm**

**Minutes Compiled By: Terreece M Clarke, Secretary**

