

Columbus Gifted Academy PTO Interest Meeting May 18, 6 p.m. Notes

Welcome & Introduction

Dr. C. Boyle Outlined Structure for the School & General Details:

- An administrator will be in place for the day-to-day running of the school
- 302 students enrolled
- 56 middle schoolers waitlisted
- 202 students grade 3-5
- 100 students in middle school
- Problem based, investigative learning environment
- No uniform school district standard school code
- Library in process, put in budget for it, need books and supplies
 - Half Price Books donates books
 - FirstBook.org relationship go through the school instead of PTO
- Playground Equipment Needed
- Technology in process, put in budget for it
- Families coming from all over the districts

Arts Programs:

- Barry Manilow project has provided a few instruments, need more
- Art teacher is a parent, will know more about supplies needed once she's able to access need

Reason for Meeting:

- Help parents to get organized to ramp up bringing other parents in
- PTO should help develop school sense of community & culture through developing a mission, activities, fundraising

Topics Discussed

PTO vs PTA

- PTA Con - alliance with national organization, requirements as to dues etc., financial reporting, apply for tax ID number, all the dues going to PTA
- PTA Pro: resources & programming, canned programming you can use and implement i.e. doughnuts for dads, they put together discussion topics, etc. 2/advocacy at the national level the dues help pay for the political lobbying
- PTO - more locally owned, most flexibility, fee structure, keep more/all of money, PTO need own Tax ID number
- ***Assembled voted on PTO vs PTA - PTO won***

Possible Activities:

-Building Spruce Up Day

- (G&T services to plan with the PTO)

- July 20th move in day
- Spruce Up Day would bring in volunteers to groom grounds, unpack, etc.
- An opportunity for families to get to know each other, build community
- German Village society and German Village Building Association Etc. interested in being a part of the community event, neighborhood resources involved

Open House

- 1-2 weeks before school
- PTO use a new member recruit opportunity
- Invite families to meet each other, meet their teachers etc.

“Hot Dog” Hoe Down

-\$5/\$20 max per family

Spirit Week

- Students pick a mascot
- Student selected school colors

Fall Social/Harvest Event

International potluck

Family Fun Night

Spring Social

Spirit Wear:

-Strong push to create spirit wear to help foster community, disagreement on name usage, using the word ‘Gifted’ etc.

Communications:

Social Media:

-Columbus Gifted Academy at Beck School Facebook (closed group) only parents, staff, teachers at CGA available to join: Facebook.com/

Facebook Page vs closed FB Group?

Weekly eNewsletter, Website & Paper Newsletter

-Important Communications Note: Outreach to families, highly diverse population of kids, with possible language barriers, tech access issues, communication preferences

Two Advocacy Programs Available:

- PTO for the Gifted Academy
- P.A.C.E. for Ohio Gifted Advocacy

Funding Ideas:

Principal’s Fund

-Holds money donated directly, to use money has to go by purchase order, keep donations under \$1,000 otherwise it has to be reported it to IRS

Loyalty Card Donations:

Target
Kroger
Giant Eagle

TO DO's

- Leadership
- Calendar
- Tax Exempt Number
 - *While soliciting donations show donors you have an application in, let them know you'll get them the number when it's approved
- Create Directory/People
- Send out an email blast, are you interested in contact list
- Integrate email sign up into website
- Mission Statement
 - Small group break out of those interested in being a part, send ideas to David Clarke (DClarke@LifeSliceMedia.com or DJeffersonClarke@gmail.com) Ideas will be compiled and brought to next leadership meeting
- Create a Slate to Recommend/Nominate Permanent 2015/2016 Leadership

Acting Positions:

President - Eve Hathaway

Vice President - Christina McMenemy

Treasurer - Robert Meeker

Secretary - Terreece Clarke

Volunteer Coordinator - Stephanie Aubry

Fundraising Coordinator - Brandy Smith + Valerie Aveni

Membership/Directory - Jennifer Hambach + Steve Hardwick

Communications Chair - Jen LC + Angie Meeker

Teacher Liason - Shela Jones + Kristin Allison

Mission Chair: David J Clarke

Spirit Week Co-Chairs: Terreece Clarke & Christina

Spruce Up Co-Chairs: Deb Eberhart, Pat Hopkins

Next Meeting Date: Shepard Elementary June 15th, Monday 6:30 p.m. WiFi available
Proposal to make PTO Meetings on 3rd Monday of the month.