

Columbus Magnet School
P. T. O. Meeting Minutes
9:30 A. M., Thursday,
January 11, 2007

Our meeting started off with a Q. and A. session with our guest Officer Cesar Ramirez regarding school security. Questions were asked by Columbus School parents.

Q. Are some of the clothes that many of the local neighborhood people wear indication that they are members of a gang?

A. No, it's just a local style. This is not a gang/fighting territory; it's actually a safe neighborhood, including this main thoroughfare- Chestnut Street. Any incidents that have occurred have been handled within seconds by the police, as they're always cruising nearby.

Q. What about the man who jumped the fence?

A. He was on a mixture of alcohol and medicine, and out of control. He was taken to the hospital, and was very remorseful. He was not arrested. He lives nearby and his family plans on moving away soon.

Q. Are basketball courts part of CMS property?

A. No, they're community property.

Q. How many hours are you on duty at CMS?

A. I have new hours which are varied and unpredictable; I have been spending more time at CMS.

Q. We have no one at our front door to monitor it, what do you suggest?

A. Keep it locked with staff watching it when it does have to be unlocked. The staff door should be monitored by the custodians.

Q. Can a fence be put up to avoid locals entering school grounds at least during school hours?

A. Mr. Spahr, (present at mtg.)our city attorney can take part by working with Parks and Rec. and D. P.W. to help put a fence up. I suggest a lining of evergreens around inside of fence as a buffer because fences have been cut through in the past. I suggest that grounds somehow be restricted to school use only, during school hours.

Q. What do we do to keep the grounds glass and litter free?

A. That is the school's responsibility.

Q. (to principal) Is the far fence by court monitored by the staff when kids are there?

A. Ms. Libertore: It is now. Grants can be issued for a decent fence.

Sparr: We can work with the existing fence, putting spring loaded fire coded gates up for now.

Q. Could signs stating "No trespassing from 9A.M. to 4P.M." be effective?

A. Yes, we would have to arrest anyone trespassing then.

Officer Ramirez was thanked and his interview was over.

The meeting continued with the request of a supply of playground equipment (balls, jump ropes) to be shared by all classrooms and kept by the door. We could keep adding a small amount of money each year towards the equipment.

CMS got two estimates on our gymnasium sound system. All Tell was chosen at roughly six thousand. Kevin Franklin will be replacing the system and add two more speakers. The process should take two weeks.

A security Committee was formed with ten attendants including the P.T O. co- presidents. Look for minutes after your first meeting. This was the conclusion of our meeting.

Meeting Attendants

Suzanne Abrams, Barbara Garelick, Kristen Hoyt, Leigh Anne Lewis, Terry Lakin, Nora Spaulding, Suzanne Engel, Rich Roller, Marilyn Libertore, Kelly Braddock, Jeffrey Spahr, Monica Arcario, Gloria Falcone, Paula Yonkers, Herman Davenport, Jane Robillard, Marlene Spahr, Diane Cano, and Mitchell Gordon