

Zach Elementary Parent News
September 19, 2008
<http://schoolweb.psdschools.org/zach/>



PARENT “COFFEES” WITH MR. RANGEL

Principal “Coffees” with Mr. Rangel are scheduled each month from **9:00-10:00**, on the first Monday morning of each month. The meetings will be held in the Zach “Flex” Room and are informal in nature. Parents will provide ideas and information from a parent perspective on a range of issues so that the principal can make more informed decisions. The principal will also seek information, depending on the issue, from the Zach staff as a whole, the Site Based Decision Making Team, the PTO, from teams, or from individuals. This meeting is open to any Zach parent who is interested and can fit it into their schedule. For planning purposes, please call Peggy or Jean in the office to RSVP by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

“Coffee” Schedule:

October 6th
November 3rd
December 1st
January 12th
February 2nd
March 2nd
April 6th
May 4th

RSVP BY:

October 2nd
October 30th
November 25th
January 8th
January 29th
February 26th
April 2nd
April 30th

SITE BASED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE
AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 7TH

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 7:00-8:00 | Colorado Growth Model: How are we doing at Zach?
Speaker: Duane Schmidt – PSD Assessment Department |
| 8:00-8:30 | PSD Expert Panel-School Board Member Presentation (Either Jim Hayes or Nancy Tellez) Topic: The policy implications of civic participation, career preparation, creativity, academics, and thinking skills for students in the future. From these engagement activities, the Board will seek to define the expectations for the future and then the district will plan the student educational experiences that align with them. |
| 8:30-9:00 | SBDMC Committee Reports |



FROM THE RUMOR MILL – MANDATORY ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN

There is a rumor going around the Zach community that we will have mandatory full day kindergarten starting in 2009-2010. This is in fact a rumor...there have been no conversations about having mandatory full day kindergarten at Zach school. It is the plan at this point to continue giving parents the same options that we offer this year.



SCHOOL PICTURES

Individual school pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. Pre-schoolers can have their pictures taken in the Media Center from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. All other students will get their picture taken during the school day. Do not send any money. A few weeks after the pictures have been taken, students will bring home picture proofs. Parents can decide at that time whether they want to order pictures.



BICYCLE RACKS

It is awesome to see how many bicycle riders we have at Zach. This is a great way to get to school and it promotes life long fitness. We clearly do not have enough “bike rack” space to park all of our bikes. One day we counted 62 bicycles that did not fit in the racks available. We have put in a work order asking for more bicycle racks (we are waiting for a reply which will include cost). In the meantime, please encourage your children to park as neatly as possible (with bikes standing) and to park on the grass so that we do not block the gates or walking paths. Thanks for your help.

ITEMS NOT TO BE PLAYED WITH DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Every year a new hot item, or game walks into our children’s lives and it becomes the newest craze. “Pokémon cards”, “Yugio”, “Webkins”, and now it is Bakugan. Though all of these games are fun and the children really get into them, they can become a nuisance during school hours. They can sometimes cause arguments, students stop getting exercise during recess because they are huddled around a game, and at times things get lost or stolen. Please have your children leave these types of items home. We know that there are children that attend after school day care or they plan on going to a friend’s house after school and want to have these items with them. That is perfectly fine but they have to stay in their backpacks during school hours. This includes before school as they wait to enter the building to start their day. Unfortunately if they

get a “nuisance item” out of their backpacks during the school day a teacher will collect the item and give it back at a later date. Thanks for your help with this.



Join the Fun!

For today’s busy parent, finding a safe, enriching environment where children can spend time before or after school is a significant concern. At CHAMPIONS, we understand your needs and offer convenient and sensible options right at your neighborhood school. CHAMPIONS delivers a variety of fun, flexible and learning-focused programs in your district. Check out the programs at your school! Visit your school’s CHAMPIONS program today to register or call 970-669-1289.



CALENDAR ITEMS

September 22	6:30-8:30PM	Parent Information Meeting at Fossil Ridge High School
September 23		Fall Picture Day
September 22-26		ECO Week for 5 th Grade Students
September 26		5 th Grade Trip to YMCA of the Rockies
October 6	9:00-10:00	Principal “Coffee” in the Zach Flex Room
October 7	7:00-9:00PM	Site Based Decision Making Committee
October 10		End of Quarter 1
October 16-17		Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School for Students
October 20		4 th Grade Book Bowl Begins
October 21	8:45-10:00	Picture Retakes – Zach Media Center
	7:00PM	PTO Meeting
October 30	2:30	Halloween Parties and Parade
October 31		Collaboration Day – No School for Students



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Annual FALL FAMILY DANCE is scheduled on Friday, October 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Please bring a picnic dinner, play carnival games, win prizes & dance ‘til the cows come home!

We are considering having a cakewalk for the children to play this year and are in need of about 100 cakes. Please email Ron Burke (ronald6015@msn.com) if you are able to donate a cake or two. The cakes can be either home made or store bought. The cakes will be needed on October 24 for the dance.



No Parking in School Fire Lanes

Poudre Fire Authority wants to remind motorists that parking is prohibited along designated fire lanes on school property. In 2007-08, PFA and PSD worked together to identify fire access lanes at all 44 schools in Fort Collins. All the fire lanes have been similarly marked: red paint on the curbs and signs that read “Fire Lane – No Unattended Vehicles.”

Drivers may remain in their vehicle while in the fire lane but may not park the car and leave it unattended. This applies during the school day and also for school activities in the evening. Cars must be parked in designated stalls in parking lots or on adjacent public streets.

The fire lanes must be kept clear to ensure fire apparatus and ambulances can access the property during an emergency. Also, fire trucks may need to deploy outriggers and aerial ladders, which would require at least 20 feet of roadway width.

Vehicles parked in fire lanes are subject to ticketing and/or towing, at the owner’s expense.

To idle or not to idle?

Poudre School District has a district-wide ‘no idling’ policy for all district vehicles including buses during drop off and pick up times. Please do your part and help protect our children and environment by turning off your car engine when dropping off and picking your children up from school.

According to the American Lung Association, high concentrations of carbon monoxide occur in areas with heavy traffic congestion, such as school drop off and pick up. Carbon monoxide pollution can be especially harmful to children.

Please turn off your car engine; it's good for the air our children breathe, it's good for the environment and it helps save you money at the pump.

Sex offender registry information available

State law (Senate Bill 22-1-124) requires that all schools notify parents about how to access records on registered sex offenders. Following are ways to obtain information about registered offenders:

- **List of Offenders living inside city limits is available at City of Fort Collins Police Services:** Information about sex offenders via Colorado Bureau of Investigations statewide sex offender list is available at <http://sor.state.co.us/> which will take you to the State of Colorado registry. Simply follow the steps and select the city or county of interest for the information which is maintained by CBI. The local Fort Collins sex offender registration list can also be accessed by going to the police station at 2221 Timberline Road and filling out a request form (no charge to view list; \$7.50 to purchase copy).
- **List of offenders living outside city limits in Larimer County is available from Larimer County Sheriff:** Residents must go to the Sheriff's Office administration building, 2501 Midpoint Drive. Bring photo identification, and fill out request form (no charge to view list; \$7.50 to purchase copy). A partial database is online at: <http://www.larimer.org/sheriff/sexoffenders/index.htm>
- **Colorado sex offenders registry from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation:** available online at <http://sor.state.co.us>



Stay connected! Online e-mail sign-up now available

We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive PSD emergency information and the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child's teacher.

Poudre School District now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child's information form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or your e-mail has changed, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the www.psdschools.org and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

PSD Shares policy regarding treatment of students, parents

PSD would like to inform parents about a policy that assures the proper treatment of students, parents/guardians and the general public. A summary follows, and the entire policy can be accessed at: www.psdschools.org/psdinfo/boardofeducation/policygovernancepolicies. To request that a copy be sent to you, please call 490-3302.

Board of Education Executive Limitation policy 2.1 stresses the importance for PSD to: obtain public input in decision-making; safely store student information; assure discipline is appropriate and consistent; provide safe and accessible school facilities; provide families with educational choices; clearly communicate student expectations; adhere to consistent and timely grading practices; be responsive to inquiries; never retaliate against students or parents; use written rules that state school expectations, standards and procedures; follow internal grievance procedures and access the Board of Education if the policy is violated; and provide families with many ways to voice their concerns about the education of students.

PSD, Transfort and COLT seek input on transportation partnership

PSD, City of Fort Collins Transfort and the City of Loveland Transportation (COLT) are gathering public input about the potential to enhance transportation partnerships to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and better serve the public.

Three PSD goals for the study include:

1. Gather community feedback
2. Determine interest and/or need for combined services
3. Determine community support level for the partnership

The idea of the partnership could potentially have the following benefits for PSD schools and families:

- Increase the safety of our students
- Reduce traffic flow into schools
- Reduce stress on families
- Help students get to school
- Provide more or different route times and opportunities
- Reduce costs

Give your input in the following ways: go to www.fcgov.com/tsp and fill out a comment sheet, or watch for an upcoming open house where you can share your feedback. For more information call Denise Weston, City of Fort Collins Transportation Planner, at 970-416-2643 or email dweston@fcgov.com.



Zach Book Fair Update

The Zach book fair sold \$12,843.49 (Wow! We love to read) in books and materials during the event. With the proceeds the Media Center will be able to purchase new books and materials for the school library. The PTO would like to thank the following volunteers for making this a successful event for our school:

Book Fair Co-Chairs: Lisa Hoyt, Karen Preiss, Crystal Osthoff, and Stephanie Goetz

Volunteers: Rachael Murray, Liesbeth Lafayette, Lorraine Leon, Jennifer Martis, Ron Burke, Grace Walts, Gabi Larkin, Ann Henning, Janet Werst, Kelly Swift, Beth Hallmark, Julie Metcalf, Pam Lewis, Denise Lammons, Colleen Buckley, Jane Serafin, Deb Blum, Hidei Formanek, Carol Tweedy, Becca Fitzpatrick, Colleen Mecseji, Leslie Potkanowicz, Vicky Dix, Kim Smith, Samantha Burke, Jenny Bostrom, Che Che Alkaff, Kris Mueller, and Tracy Bean

7th Annual Zach PTO Pledge – Contribute today!

100% of your tax deductible contribution to our Zach PTO Pledge will provide classroom and PTO grants for enrichment supplies, activities, programs, and equipment not covered by the District budget, without commercial fund raising sales (magazines, Gold C books, candy, wrapping paper, etc.). This allows our children and parent volunteers to focus on learning, classroom support, and enrichment programs instead of fund raising, and contributes to making Zach a great school! *Although you (or any grandparent, aunt, uncle, business, or community member) can donate any amount, at any time, if some or all of your pledged dollars are received prior to the October 24th Fall Family Dance, your child's name(s) will be entered into drawings for prizes provided by local businesses!* Additionally, the grade with the highest Pledge participation rate will enjoy a pizza party in May 2009. To participate, please make out your check to Zach Elementary PTO, attach a note with the names and grades of your children, plus company matching form (if applicable), place in a sealed envelope marked "Pledge," and turn into your child's teacher or the Zach front office. To those who have already pledged, and to those yet to pledge, the Zach PTO and staff thank you for your contribution towards continuing to make Zach a special school!

Caps 4 Cash

Caps 4 Cash is a Morning Fresh Dairy program where our school can earn cash by collecting caps from Morning Fresh Dairy glass bottles. Each cap will be redeemed for 5¢ and spent any way the school would like. Zach started this program in May with Morning Fresh Dairy. At the September 16th PTO meeting Zach was presented a \$75.00 check from the dairy. That was a lot of milk (1500 caps). Thank you, Morning Fresh Dairy and all of our parents for sending the caps into school. If you happen to drink the milk please save the caps and send them to school.

2009-10 school choice process now online!

School Choice applications shall be completed **online** through the Poudre School District website at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with Internet access; a public use computer available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the District's schools. *For specific details on School Choice refer to Poudre School District School Choice Policy JFBA (available at www.psdschools.org)*

School Choice Deadlines:

First-consideration for elementary schools (Grades K-5): Friday, February 13, 2009.

First-consideration for secondary schools (Grades 6-12): Friday, January 30, 2009.

School Choice Applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment.

Council shares new shared decision making team guidelines

Last year, a PSD council reviewed and updated the site-based management policy. While each school principal is ultimately responsible for the school and achievement of goals, the new shared decision making team guidelines clarify the roles of the shared decision making team, including parent participation and collaborative input. The following are examples of the decision making process covered in the guidelines:

What kinds of decisions are made by principals and the site-based teams?

Principals may determine an emergency response to parents about a school safety incident, and are responsible for hiring and evaluating staff members; **principals and staff** might collectively decide the use of a staff collaboration day (during which teachers meet to train and improve instruction); **parents serving with the principal and staff on a site-based team** might help make decisions about: instruction (learning resources, student awards/recognition, enrichment activities), resources (budget development and evaluation, grant writing), and management (community relations, communication, special events and safety).

What types of decisions are not made through the shared process? Schools and districts operate within a complex web of contractual agreements, state and federal laws, and mandates. Some of these include but are not limited to employee contracts, student discipline, curriculum and standards, and testing. For more information on site-based management guidelines visit www.psdschools.org or visit with your school's principal.

PSD Seeks Community Volunteer to Serve on Audit Committee

The Poudre School District Board of Education is seeking a community member with financial experience to serve on the PSD Audit Committee for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2009. The audit committee, which consists of 3 community members and 2 PSD Board of Education members, assists the Board of Education in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities. Committee responsibilities include overseeing the independent external audit of the District's financial statements, reviewing quarterly the District's financial statements, evaluating the efforts

of the external auditor and recommending the selection of the external auditor, and providing input to help ensure continuous improvement of the PSD financial policies, procedures, and internal controls.

The committee conducts 2-hour meetings in the morning (7 to 9 a.m.), 6 times a year (January, March, May, August, October and November). Occasionally additional meetings are held to work on special committee projects.

Interested community members are asked to submit a letter of interest outlining pertinent qualifications by **September 30** to: **Deb Boileau, PSD Accounting Department, Johanssen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521 or email at dboileau@psdschools.org.**

Employees and contractors of the district are not eligible to serve on the committee.

The present committee will recommend an applicant to the Board of Education, who will appoint the new committee member in December 2008.

For more information, contact Deb Boileau, PSD finance staff member, at 490-3649 or Terri Sunset, community member and chairperson of the PSD Audit Committee, at 223-2881.

District Transition Meetings

A Parent Information Meeting is scheduled at Fossil Ridge High School on Monday September 22, 2008 from 6:30-8:30PM. The meeting is designed as a Q and A as the Poudre School District transitions from grades 7-9 Junior High Schools to grades 6-8 Middle Schools and from grades 10-12 High Schools to grades 9-12 High Schools. This meeting is for those students in the Fossil Ridge High School feeder system. We hope to see you there.

Kids Café! Free food for kids 3-18

Kids Café is a program that serves **FREE meals** in neighborhoods with a high population of families in need. Sponsored by the Food Bank for Larimer County in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County, Northside Aztlan Community Center, Loveland Housing Authority, the Vineyard of the Rockies, and the CORE center, Kids Café serves children hot nutritious meals Monday through Friday at three locations in Fort Collins, two in Loveland, and one in Wellington. During the school year (August 20 through May 29) dinner is provided in Fort Collins at each of the sites listed below. These meals are free to children 3 to 18 years old (Parents may eat with their children for \$2) and all you have to do is go to one of the following locations:

Boys and Girls Club Fort Collins, 1608 Lancer Dr., (Next to Lincoln Jr. High), dinner served 5-5:45 pm, Monday-Friday; **CORE Center**, 114 Bristlecone, dinner served 5:15-6 pm, Monday-Thursday; **Northside Aztlan Community Center**, 112 E Willow, (Off Willow and College), dinner served 5-5:45 pm, Monday-Friday. Information: 970-530-3105.



Thank you!

Thanks to the following people for making our PTO Kindergarten breakfast a success:

- Jennifer Hunter for her wonderful donation of Moxie Java coffee
- Kelly Blumhardt for the generous donation of sweet breads & muffins from Albertsons
- Sara Durnil for bringing the dairy products
- All the wonderful parents & PTO members who contributed their time to this great event!



**Minutes from the September 2, 2008
Site Based Decision Making Committee Meeting
(SBDMC)**

1. Introductions – Don Rangel, Principal, and SBDMC

2. District Advisory Board Update – Terri Sunset, DAB Rep

- Leadership Training Conference - October 23, 2008, Location TBD
 - Purpose #1: Help those who are new to PSD leadership to get started in the District and at their site faster.
 - Purpose #2: A face-to-face forum for sharing good ideas across the district.
 - The target audience is parent leadership at each school, the DAB reps, principals, and other faculty leaders.
 - Conference presentations include key note with Dr. Wilson, District overview, decision making, parent roles, current issues, recurring efforts and academic issues.
- **Board of Education Update - Jim Hayes, BOE**
 - The BOE is evolving district ends. The board has divided the five parts of the current overall end goals among the board members to further develop each part. They will be sharing their results with other BOE members at the next meeting.

3. Zach School Building on Solid Foundation – Don Rangel, Principal

- A Solid Foundation: History, Tradition, Pride and Quiet Excellence.
- Positive-Professional Educators, Supportive Parents, hard Working Students
- Wisdom that comes from Experience and Life Long Learning, New Ideas
- Past Success, Present Success, Future Success
- Teamwork and Community
- Reaching High – Reaching Out
- *Zach Elementary School*

4. By-Laws and the Purpose of the SBDMC – Don Rangel, Principal

- Goal is to improve the education of students through the involvement of stakeholders.
- The principal is ultimately responsible for the school and the achievement of its goals.
- The Principal determines what type of decision it is.
- Types of Decisions: Administrative vs. Administrative with Input and Shared
- Stakeholders can serve at one time or another in one of three roles: Decision Maker, Input Provider, or Collaborative Participant.

- If the issue or idea is a shared decision, the principal, a team, or some combination will develop a proposal and determine which group needs to make the final decision (i.e.: Zach staff, SBDMC, etc.)

5. Principal's Philosophy

- Create a Total Learning Community
 - Principal Coffees, Safety Committee, School Improvement Team
- Characteristics of High Performing Groups and Committees
 - **High Performing:** Trust, Inclusive of people and ideas, Win- Win, Free of politics, Driven by what is best for all, I feel safe sharing my views, Empathy: viewing the discussion from another point of view.
 - **Not High Performing:** Mistrust, Exclusive of People and Ideas, Win-Lose, Infected by politics, Driven by personal agenda, I don't feel safe sharing my views, Can only see the discussion by how it affects me.

6. PSD Operating Principles: "The Leaders of Poudre School District will focus on helping all students learn in an environment based on these principles." *The Zach SBDMC divided into groups to discuss what they thought each of these principles meant. Their notes are summarized below:*

- **Operating with Integrity**
 - *Best for ALL kids: vote, specific issue, not just our child/grade/teacher*
 - *Best to serve all*
 - *Atmosphere: respectful of opinions/differences, emotion put aside as much as possible, voice heard, okay to have differing opinions, solve within not carry it out*
 - *Norms: looks at how share info/thoughts/feelings/concerns/procedure/expectations*
 - *Agree to disagree, role model for children, coming to decisions*
 - *Positive*
- **Committed to Continuous Quality Learning**
 - *Stewards of education @ all levels*
 - *Consider GT, Special needs and kids in the middle*
 - *Strive to help all 3 grow and develop*
 - *Focus on increasing student and staff learning*
 - *If staff proposes new program and we give our support, remember the learning curve in getting program up to speed – both for kids and teacher implementation*
 - *Continually define goals*
 - *What are goals, purpose of SBDMC? Do we, like the PTO, have goals, projects that we set out to accomplish then review periodically?*
 - *As a school, is our goal to stay Core, true Core? If so, what is SBDMC's role in that? Have we stayed true to Core? Or have we begun to push out Core at the inclusion of so many new programs (i.e.: Eco week)? How does it fit that into Core? Does SBDMC keep this in mind when making decisions?*
 - *Accountability*

- *CSAP is reality. Does CSAP guide us? Does it define our goals or are they more broad and encompassing (i.e.: do we want a whole well-rounded person)? Does CSAP make us accountable, and how does that translate into the future? Whose role is it to set these goals? Whose job is it to stay true to Core?*

- **Trust through Openness**

- *Listen*
- *How safe does one feel to share what they are really thinking?*
- *Really honor what others are saying...*
- *Don't shut down before they've shared and feel like they've been heard...*
- *What this means to SBDMC:*
 - *Communication from all points of view*
 - *Everyone is responsible to share and make it easy for others to share*
 - *Try not to get defensive when others are sharing. Be open to new, different, and creative ideas.*
 - *Brainstorm before discussion/debate*
 - *Be positive when others take a risk (share)*
 - *Small group when appropriate for comfortable sharing or for hot topics*
 - *Preview; two meetings before voting*

- **Courageous Action**

- *Courage to tackle serious issues and to make sure our decisions are always made with integrity.*
- *How do we know we'll have influence?*
- *How do we know where we are to take courageous action at SBDMC vs. just info gathering?*

- **Inclusive of all Stakeholders**

- *There was agreement that Zach and Site Base (SBDMC) would value from a more diverse perspective on issues in order to make richer decisions.*
- *In order to encourage more input, we need to reach out to those unable to participate in the meeting and reach them in other ways such as surveys, sub-committees, etc.*
- *In order to make the Site Base (SBDMC) team less intimidating for a newcomer, summaries of major topics and processes could be documented so it is easier to follow along.*
- *Whatever is tackled, follow the KISS rule*
- *Garnering the most diverse input would allow us to make great improvements*
- *Site Base (SBDMC), Zach, PSD, and even Colorado are relatively homogeneous communities. Determine how we can reach out to other PSD schools, schools in other states, schools in other countries.*
- *Work better on how we can act more as a parent / teacher team for our children keeping paramount the needs of all the children*
- *Look to build a decision / input matrix or pyramid as a foundation for future decision making processes something like District, Principal. Staff. Parents including Non- SBDMC Teams and SBDMC*

- **Joyful in our Work**

- *Care about feelings – students, parents, staff*
- *Take time to laugh – it's very rejuvenating*
- *Joy/laughing minimizes conflict and makes conflict resolution easier*
- *Being non-judgmental among & between parents & teachers, ultimately translates into the same among students – minimizes bullying*
- *Staff enjoys work of they feel joyful. Feels less like a job and more like a place they want to be.*
- *Parents volunteer with a smile and happy willingness, not with a sense of negativism and burden.*
- *School is more joyful if there is a partnership, a bridge of communication, between parents and staff.*
- *Help sharing suggestions*
- *Excited to make a difference – parents and staff and students.*
- *Not take ourselves or the issues too seriously.*
- *If we are more joyful, then we display more positive, and less negative, behavior*
- *Ultimately, if we all have the common vision to help as many students as possible in the best way possible, then we will feel happy about the decisions we make to support that vision.*

ZACH ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES - August 13, 2008

Ron Burke, President, called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Attendees included: Jane Serafin, Susan Foran, Sheri Dvorak, Elisabeth Soth, Wendy Ostojic, Nora Smith, Stephanie Goetz, Janet Werst, Gabi Larkin, Jennifer Trumper, Karen Preiss, Ann Henning, Lisa Florin, Ron Burke, Samantha Burke, Tracy Perkins and Kathy Krzyzkowski.

Secretary's Report - Kathy Krzyzkowski

Gabi Larkin motioned to accept and Jane Serafin seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Trumper

More money came in over the summer from last year's Pledge. The 5th Grade graduation expenses were paid out along with the PTO copier expenses. Susan Foran motioned to accept and Elisabeth Soth seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

VIPS Report - Gabi Larkin

Everything is on track for the start of the year. As parent volunteer forms come in, the names will be sent immediately to the committee chairs. Tracy Perkins will chair the Zach Directory. Gabi will ask for 2 PTO representatives from each classroom.

The Pledge - Ann Henning

Susan Foran will train Ann Henning on the Pledge paperwork. The Pledge video will be shown again. The cost of envelopes increased from \$70 to \$110. The cost of postage will increase since Zach must mail out its own tax receipts.

Spirit Wear

Sara Durnil is the new chair for Spirit Wear. She still needs to meet with Kellie Blumhardt. Gabi Larkin suggested that Zach have some Spirit Wear Days this year. There will be a table at the Open House so that everyone can try on the shirts for sizes since no returns will be allowed.

Old Business

Jennifer Trumper is in charge of the Kindergarten Breakfast. It will take place from 9-10 a.m. in the cafeteria for the morning and all day Kindergarten parents. There is a \$100 budget for this if we can't get enough donations. There will be a table set up outside the Kindergarten classrooms for the afternoon parents to be able to participate.

The Fall Dance will be on Friday, October 24th. Karen Preiss is co-chairing the committee. The dance will have a Halloween theme. Gift Certificates are being solicited for the best dressed and/or the hula-hoop contest. Last year MacDonald's sold gift certificates - 10 for \$1.00.

Perhaps some parents can get them and donate them. The D.J. has not been confirmed yet. There is still a need for decorations and prizes for the Pledge.

Library books need to be labeled for AR. Kris Mueller will contact Margo Irving. Stephanie Goetz also volunteered to help. There needs to be a group of volunteers who can commit for the year.

Gabi Larkin informed the PTO that Peggy Lutton will investigate the possibility of changing the newsletters to be on the website or go out on e-mail.

Gabi Larkin suggested that we could add a Fall Sporting Event with Fossil Ridge High School. We have now done a baseball game for the last two springs, so perhaps a football or basketball game could be added.

The ice cream social costs have increased. Name tags are needed and we will have water. The ice cream social will only be during 3-4 p.m. during Open House. Perhaps we can check to see if Morning Fresh Dairy could donate ice cream for it next year.

New Business

PTO meeting times still need to be finalized. The teachers will add PTO representatives to their volunteer lists. There was a discussion on how do we define Fundraising. It is covered in both the bylaws and the Pledge form. Ron Burke will ask Don Rangel to speak to the teachers about creating a grade level wish list. A suggestion was made to give the teachers part of their classroom grant right away. Janet Werst motioned to give each teacher \$250 as a partial payment toward their classroom grant. Karen Preiss seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

There was also discussion about increasing the amount of the classroom grants or perhaps giving extra funds to brand-new teachers since it can be expensive to set up a new classroom. The Scholastic Book Fair will have a safari theme and will take place during the Back-to-School Parent Meetings. The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. Meeting adjourned 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Krzyzkowski, Secretary