

**Harris Bilingual PTO Minutes  
September 3, 2009**

- I. Welcome
- II. Minutes 5/12/09 - Approved
- III. Treasurer's Report by Jean Foley

Fiesta	\$3,714.10
PTO	\$4,014.57
Stegosaurus Stomp	\$5,476.66
5 <sup>th</sup> Gr Eco Week (Fall 09)	\$0.00
OM Fund	\$30.75
Total	\$14,015.42

- IV. Old Business

- A. PTO Funding Eco Week
  - 1. Julie asked if PTO would consider entirely funding eco week each year (about \$4,000). Given that a lot of our school's population struggles to pay for eco week and it is such a great experience for the kids. It would also eliminate the need for students and parents to do their own fundraising for eco week.
  - 2. There was a motion is subsidize eco week to whatever extent the finance committee decides upon. The motion passed.

- V. New Business

- A. Mill Levy and Bond Presentation by the Mill and Bond Committee
  - 1. We will have three sessions with the Mill and Bond Committee. The first (today) is a listening session, the second a prioritizing and the third a finalizing session. The finalizing session will happen by the spring of 2010.
  - 2. PSD is at the bottom of the state-funding curve.
  - 3. The 2000 bond/mill levy has run out.
  - 4. A mill levy provides ongoing funds for staffing and operations.
  - 5. A bond addresses one-time facility and construction needs.
  - 6. We had an idea session about Harris's needs in order to achieve five goals.
    - a. Students achieve 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency.
    - b. Students achieve annual academic growth.
    - c. Students become post-secondary ready.
    - d. Students make successful transitions between grades and levels.
    - e. Any other needs.
- B. Spanish Speaking Parental Involvement
  - 1. Julie borrowed the translation equipment from the Early Childhood Center to try at the PTO meetings.
  - 2. Abbe Kling will try to recruit Pricilla Quiros Hernandez, a Harris parent, to translate the PTO minutes and the Treasurer's Report to Spanish.
- C. Open PTO Positions
  - 1. We are seeking a bilingual or Spanish speaking Vice President, someone who would be able to lead every other PTO meeting in Spanish.
  - 2. Some PTO Grade Rep positions were filled. Grade Reps were asked to contact their grade's teachers and ask them to recruit homeroom parents, ideally one Spanish speaker and one English speaker per class. Grade Reps were also asked

to contact the homeroom parents about the responsibilities of homeroom parents.

D. Fundraising

1. E Books will be coming in a couple weeks.

VI. Principal's Report – Julie Schiola

A. Harris Recognition

1. Julie went to Denver and received recognition from Gov. Bill Ritter and Dwight Jones, the Commissioner of Education for Harris as one of Colorado's top schools for students' level of academic growth over the past three years. We were one of only ten schools to receive this honor.
2. Julie is very happy that the state has implemented a new method of showing student progress on the CSAP. The new method reports how much growth a student makes from year to year. Federal law still only measures the percentage of students at the proficient and advanced levels and Harris missed the required levels by only a few percentage points. Julie believes the new model of reporting better demonstrates how each student is doing.

Next meeting – Thursday, October 8, 2009, 8:00 AM at Harris. (Note: this is the second Thursday of the month and not the first.)