

**Concord Elementary  
PTO General Meeting  
January 27, 2011  
6:30 pm**

**Welcome and Introductions by Pam Fischer – PTO President**

**Food Drive - Carolyn Leslie**

- The Food Drive for The Emergency Food Shelf Network will happen the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March. Checking on timing of event. Bags will go home with students. Food will be collected and then picked up. Kids Club will make signs to help advertise. Work with Art teacher – set an after school time for students to help with posters. Check with Student Council – speak to classrooms to help advertise event.

**Keith Downey – State Representative (former Concord Parent)**

- Believes our “district is a model for the state”
- Committees – there has been a 35% shrinkage of committees – hopefully easier to understand. Downey will be on the K-12 Finance Committee – prioritize education – a #1 priority to fund education, honor obligations. \$6.2 billion structural deficit
- Authored a bill to repeal the money loss last year due to teacher contract negotiations - \$230,000. Hope to get some back if not all.
- Believes Gov. Dayton supports the Reform Front. Let districts meet the needs of their own district. Possible policy changes that could positively affect the finance side.
- Arnie Duncan – Secretary of Education spoke in MN. What MN needs to improve on. Big topics – site base reform, performance measurement for teachers, alternative path for licensure.
- Pension reform will also be a big topic
- The economy – economists believe – modest economic growth, improve jobs, modest increase in revenue. Need to address the cost side to work with the deficit.

### **Dr. Ric Dressen – Superintendent of Edina Public School**

- Edina students so fortunate to have the level of commitment of the Edina community.
- Create a “Full” Edina Experience
- Teacher and Administrators planning for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. How will it be implemented? How do we move forward? Personalize? Meet individual needs of students?
- MN has one of the worse achievement gaps in the country – how can we help them? How do we move everyone forward?
- Finance – Strong fund balance. We have been conservative. Cuts will need to be made. Tax levy – bring in additional dollars in software/tech support. Need to go back to the community.
- Building issues – updates/use of space
- Enrollment – at capacity. How do we measure the growth capacity? Concord and South View closed for open enrollment. Edina experiencing 2% residential growth – one of the few areas nation wide.

### **Lonnie Skretner – School Board Member, Concord Rep., Site Council**

- Former Edina teacher, Edina parent
- Wants to see “true change”
- Looks at education and the spending we do as an investment

### **Questions/Items of Interest**

- What concrete steps are being taken?  
Use of data, technology – training/time to develop
- Mandates (over 100) – involves assessment process, starting school after Labor Day, etc.
- AYP - Annual Yearly Progress – What is being done? Edina missed it - Measured in sub groups - 13 students.
- Enrollment – class size. The more students, the better the programming. \$2,000 per open enrolled student goes directly back in to programs. Big concerns about class size – meeting the needs of all students.

### **Treasurer's Report – Lisa Lauson**

- Concord Financial Report – Highlights
- 2009 – 2010 \$13,000 went to Tech. – all classrooms now have smart boards
- \$18,000 was carried over in to this school year. Some went towards the playground – black top. \$8,000 went towards beautification
- Approx. \$60,000 brought in from fundraisers such as Sally Foster Gift wrap, Silent Income, Carnival, Family Night Out
  - \*Sally Foster down this year
  - \*Silent Income come close to \$10,000 – keep supporting dine out days and box tops.
  - \*Support PTO family Night Out next week
  - \*Carnival – goal \$18,000 - \$10,000 towards playground and \$8,000 towards Tech (\$3,000 to go wireless, \$3,500 Document Cameras)
- Future plans – roaming computer lab
- PTO support teachers and specialists with stipends. Given out in August to help support/enhance learning environment.
- Investigating using credit card and on-line purchasing
- Donations – always welcomed – sometimes listed with event the donation was made to.

### **President – Pam Fischer**

- Family Night Out – Thursday, Feb. 3. Dinner available, ticket orders until Tuesday, Feb. 1. Need more items for baskets. Need more volunteers.
- Carnival - \$18,000 goal - \$10,000 for playground. Looking in to “out door learning” – Site Council part of planning.

Thank you for coming. Next PTO General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 8:45 am in the Multi Purpose Room.

