

**Volume 13 Issue 3
Sept., 8, 2009**

**Learn Today, To Lead
Tomorrow**

**Liberty Common School
Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense
1725 Sharp Point Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80525, (970) 482-9800**

**A National Charter School of the Year, A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School,
A Certified Core Knowledge Visitation Site School,
A John Irwin School of Excellence**

**Liberty Common School
Board of Directors
2009-2010**

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Craig Horton– 207-1454
Dave Kleen- 377-9579
Dan Provaznik– 223-0188
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Bill Werst– 631-8379

*Board Member e-mail
addresses are on our Liberty
Common website,
libertycommon.org

**Board of Directors Meeting:
September 17, 2009**

BOD AGENDA

**Financial Review, Math and
English Specialist Report,
Initial Review of Accountabil-
ity Report and SIP**

What Is Happening Now?

Sept. 10– Back to School Night–
6:30 p.m.

Sept. 16-18– Eco-Week-6th
Graders, Pingree Park

Sept. 17– BOD Meeting-7 p.m.

What is Happening in Oct.?

Oct. 2– Fall Festival-6 p.m.

Oct. 2– School Pictures

Oct. 9– Upper School Dance

Oct. 9– Hearing/Vision
Screening

Oct. 13– Upper School
Concert-6:30 p.m.

Oct. 15-BOD Meeting-7 p.m.

Oct. 16– No School

Oct. 23-No School

**The History of Liberty Common School
PART 2 of 3**

The following is a continuation of "The History of Liberty Common School" written by Maureen Schaffer.

The huge demand for the educational program offered at Washington Core Knowledge School prompted the school's founders to begin drafting an application for a Core Knowledge charter school. By the summer of 1995, unresolved issues about the permanence of Washington Core and the authority of the parent board over the academic program spurred a full-scale charter effort.

Meeting after work and on weekends, parents meticulously defined and documented the charter school's mission, goals, curriculum, governance, budget, facility plan, employee relations, and more. On October 31, 1995, the Core Knowledge Charter School (CKCS) Partnership submitted its application to the PSD Board of Education.

Rather than proceed with negotiations, the PSD board requested more and more information, explanation, and detail. The CKCS board, led by Chairman Phil Christ, diligently responded to each request, but to no avail. On December 11, the PSD board voted to deny the charter application without ever having met to negotiate with the parents.

Undaunted, the CKCS board appealed the decision to the Colorado State Board of Education. In February, the state board sided with the parents and instructed the PSD board to negotiate an agreement in good faith with the charter group.

Weeks of meetings ensued. It appeared the two sides were slowly coming together. However in an 11th hour surprise, the PSD board suddenly voted to "approve" the charter with several major restrictions, not previously discussed: the charter would be limited to two years, enrollment would be capped at 300 students, and the school would be limited to a K-6 program, thereby eliminating the school's innovative junior high program.

PSD further directed the charter school to find space in a non-district building and execute the charter contract with PSD no later than June 1. The constraints made it virtually impossible to open the school.

Disappointed, the CKCS board filed a second appeal with the State Board of Education. In an apparent attempt to quash the charter school, PSD unleashed its attorney. A paper war erupted as the lawyer threw legal obstacles in the path of the charter school. The charter group managed to fend off the legal challenges and was finally granted a hearing before the state board.

At the April 23 hearing, the final punch was landed when PSD announced it had filed suit against the State Board of Education and CKCS Board of Directors! Concerned that the lawsuit could result in an injunction preventing the charter school from opening, the state board recommended the charter group try to open a school with PSD's restrictions.

Dozens of outraged parents criticized the legal shenanigans at the next PSD board meeting. PSD director Bob Bacon denied they had sued parents and accused charter supporters of promulgating a "big lie." But PSD President Mike Liggett confirmed the lawsuit had indeed named five parents: Phil Christ, Randy Everett, Timothy Gilmore, Cheryl Olsen, and Maureen Schaffer, as defendants.

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Join Us for Back to School Night, September 10, 2009– 6:30 p.m.

Attention Parents: You are cordially invited to Liberty Common School's Back to School Night, September 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to meet your student's teachers and gain information on what they will be learning this year. This is an adult only function and we ask that you leave your student(s) at home. We hope to see you on Thursday evening.

The Big Clip Competition

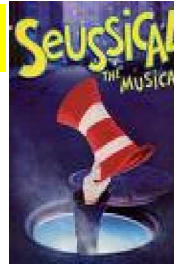
Coming Soon to Liberty– Box Tops for Education Classroom Contest–**The Big Clip**. The contest will run **Sept. 21st–Sept. 27th** and the class with the most points wins an ice cream party. See the Monday Note insert for more information. For answers to Box Top questions please contact parent volunteer, Cherie Young at 493-6187 or testyoung@aol.com.

Carpool Lists Available in Front Office

Carpool lists are completed and available for pick up in the Front Office. Thanks to our great parent volunteer Beth Scott, you can now save gas and time by connecting with other Liberty families. The carpool list is divided by zip codes and neighborhood schools which makes the process a whole lot easier. Thanks again, Beth Scott, for taking the time to compile this list.

Chess Club Coaches Needed

The Liberty Chess club has several students eager to play chess, but no coaches to lead them. We would like to have at least two coaches. If you enjoy playing chess, please consider sharing your knowledge with the chess club once a week after school. For more information about the chess club and how you can help, please contact Sondra Iverson at 206-9007.



Seussical Jr., The Musical Meeting and Auditions

Informational meeting on **Sept. 21st at 3:15**
Auditions will be **Sept. 29th at 3:15 p.m.**
Please note this year the musical will be on December 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Liberty Common Soccer Schedule

Sept. 8th vs. Ridgeview at Liberty
Sept. 10th vs. St. Joseph School at Liberty
Sept. 14th at Windsor
Sept. 15th vs. Heritage at Liberty
Sept. 17th- Bye
Sept. 21st at St. Mary's

Liberty Common Volleyball Schedule

Sept. 9th at KQA
Sept. 14th -Bye
Sept. 16th vs. New Vision at Liberty
Sept. 19th at Heritage (Saturday tournament)
Sept. 21st at Resurrection
Sept. 23rd at Ridgeview
Sept. 28th at St. Joseph School

Fall Festival Fast Approaching

Our annual Fall Festival is fast approaching, (Oct. 2), and we are still in need of a chairperson. Responsibilities include but are not limited to organizing booths and activities, recruiting volunteers, meeting with Mr. Churchill to discuss budget and food/beverage options and collecting receipts and compiling notes on the festival. Please think about this great volunteer opportunity and contact the Front Office if interested.

**** We are in need of another family who is interested in running the hay ride. A flatbed trailer and truck are a necessity. Please contact Mr. Churchill if this something you can provide. Thank you!**

Join New Math Clubs at Liberty

There is a new Math Club forming at Liberty for 3rd and 4th graders called Math Bee. Beginning September 14, this group will meet Mondays after school until 4:00 p.m. Sign your child up by contacting Cassy Turner at Cassyt@gmail.com.

Attention 5th and 6th Graders– Math Olympiads will meet on Wednesdays til 4:00 p.m. in Mrs. Crisafulli's room. The goal of the club is to stimulate enthusiasm and love for mathematics while learning problem solving techniques and building confidence in math. Contact Sondra Iverson at sondra@pleasingsoftware.com

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The clock was ticking down to the June 1st deadline. Charter parent Peter Kast, a commercial realtor, conducted yet another survey of potential properties to accommodate the PSD-imposed school configuration. A near match was identified. However, two adjustments to the restrictions would be necessary:

- 1) Increase the charter length to 5 years to amortize building improvements
- 2) Increase the enrollment cap to 364 students to meet the annual lease and maintenance obligations.

The charter group entreated PSD to consider adjusting the restrictions. The PSD board refused to consider the request. "The Board of Education will not take any further action," came the response in a May 3rd letter to the CKCS board.

The June 1 contract deadline expired, and PSD dropped its lawsuit against the parents. The clock had run down. There would be no charter school in 1996.

Continued Next Week