

PTO Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2016

4:00 to 5:30 pm in Manhattan Library

Attendees: Michele Marshall (Chair), Mary Dineen (Vice Chair) Nicole Wobus (Secretary), John Riggs (Principal), Julie Chang, Jenn Hardee, Anna Karplus, Kristina Lane, Darcy Fan, Karen Gall, Loli Hudson, Sarah Blackford, Ethan Wobus, Madeline Hardee

Welcome & Introductions: Michele Marshall (michelemarshall@comcast.net)

Michele thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and for adjusting his or her schedules for this earlier meeting.

- **Snacks for PARCC** testing were a hit. Parents donated both snacks and money (\$329), and we spent \$327 for the purchase of the remaining needed snacks.
- **Impact on Education** has contacted the PTO for a donation basket. Impact has in the past given money to MMS for the benefit of our kids, most recently used for bus passes. This year we have an option of writing a check for \$150, and Impact would make the basket, this was well received and a check will be mailed to Impact on Education for \$150.
- **Chrome Cart** Shanie Armbruster, an 8th grade language arts teacher, made a request to PTO for the purchase of a chrome cart at a cost of \$1250. She currently has 30 chrome books in her room. Purchasing the cart would make the chrome book easier to share, and have them in central location in her classroom. The PTO did approve the purchase of this cart. (*When the cart was purchased the price had been reduced to \$875*)
- **Compostable Products** Michele will purchase compostable products from Tundra for school use. The PTO was granted \$500 from the Magic Phoenix for the purchase of these good.

Principal's Report: John Riggs

- **Enrollment** Manhattan will be staffed next school year for 470 students. The current 8th grade class is roughly 200 students and the incoming class of 6th graders is 157 students, so total enrollment will be down next year, which means losing 1.67 FTE. Kim Greene, 8th grade science is retiring, and the additional 0.67 FTE will come from Art. All students who requested art will be able to take an art class.
- **Dual Language Program** Manhattan is being considered for a dual language program that is similar to Casey Middle School. This would mean that MMS would continue to offer Spanish LA, and expand on its Spanish program.
- **DAT/DAC Meeting** These meeting were held this past month. The DAT will have 4 meeting about the bond issue and construction at MMS. Bid for the final project should go out in January. The track is being built now, and should be ready for the start of the new school year. There will be a turf field in the middle of the track, for soccer and football use. Along with the track, MMS should be receiving new bleachers and all the necessary track items, i.e. hurdles and pits.
- **Mission & Vision** There have been several meeting with Team Leaders, parents and students about updating the Mission and Vision Statements for MMS.
Mission: At Manhattan Middle School, students learn to combine artistic discipline, academic excellence, and social mindfulness to design solutions and successes.

Vision: Manhattan's arts integration and passionate educators inspire confident, connected, capable human beings who innovate and think critically.

These versions have 97% and 94% buy in by the staff. Sarah stated that the Mission and Vision statements need to be inclusive all of all students and learners. Two suggestions were made; one being in the Mission to put academic excellence before artistic discipline, and the other was to include Individuality, as many parents think this is what makes Manhattan special. There isn't one box that all students need to fit in, and that MMS is able to recognize the many individuals that we have.

Teachers' Report: Dan Tomlin (DT), Mary Ellen Steele, and Sarah Blackford are the teacher representatives. DT and Mary Ellen were absent. Sarah Blackford provided the teacher's report

- **Testing Relief** The teachers are glad that the PARCC testing is over. Most of the testing was completed within a week. The 8th graders will continue to take the CMASS test in science, having one test for 3 weeks during block period. The 6th graders also took one extra LA test. We has 190 students opt out of the testing
- **Peer Mentoring** Sarah mentioned the program in her special education classroom, where her students are paired with students who assist them. This has worked out well.
- **Meadow Library Program** Anna Lull, a MMS parent and Boulder city Librarian has started a teen program that meets on Wednesday mornings during our late start.

Treasurer's Report: Erica Johnson (erica@onthedivide.com)

- Erica was not present. Michele handed out the treasurer's report. One item to note is that we have set aside the remaining \$8,500 from Whole Foods bag credits. The beautification committee will use this money, for the front of the school, once both the district and the teachers approve the project.

Committee Reports

Ozo Cards, Kristy Lane

- Kristy ordered our first set of Ozo gift cards. These cards are not reloadable, so we will need to continue to order these on a per need basis. Parents can either write a check or go on-line thru paypal and pay for the cards. We will received 10% of the purchase price from Ozo. We will pay 10% less for the cards, then the purchase price. For this first order, the PTO made \$27.50.

Trip Tracker, Karen Gall

- The last trip tracker of the year has been recorded. It's not clear whether the program will continue at the middle school level next year.
- This year the PTO paid \$675 to be part of the program.
- At the beginning of the school year there was more 6th grader involvement than toward the end of the year.

District Accountability / TAG, Darcy Fan

- A speaking event about grit took place recently. No additional information to report as much of the activity for the year has wound down.

Other Discussion

Palooza Event and Art Night

- Fundraiser for Jazz Band, 4/26
- A variety of bands will perform, including Variables from Google, Funk Knuf, CU Buffoons, Waite Street Ramblers, as well as the Jazz Band.

Destination Imagination

- The club recently successfully completed their competition for the year.

Singing Club

- Nicole shared a summary of a proposal for a singing club prepared by Ashley Hanson and Brian Laidlaw, musicians who would lead the club. The club would focus on singing pop music, and would be open to all students interested in participating. It would be offered as an option for those students who love to make music, either in addition to taking music-related electives, or because they want to take non-music focused electives but still want an opportunity to sing.
- Ashley and Brian have talked about including an instrumental component.
- Mr. Riggs made the point that he would not want this club to compete with Jazz Band or choir. Mr. Riggs is not concerned about competition with choir since 50 kids are enrolled for next year. It was noted that Jazz Band is selective and not all kids are accepted for participation.
- The instructors propose to offer the club at a charge of \$4,500 per semester for their services.
- Mr. Riggs was supportive of the club in the interest of offering students as many opportunities to take advantage of the arts as possible. He is confident that there will be a solution for securing a teacher chaperone for the club, particularly since the club will be meeting on Wednesday mornings when teachers are present.
- The club leaders requested input for an appropriate fee for participation so that the club will be as inclusive as possible. Mr. Riggs suggested \$10 per club meeting, or \$120 per semester. Ashley and Brian are supportive of offering scholarships for those who can't afford to participate.
- Ashley and Brian's initial summary assumes that 30 students would participate, and that the PTO fundraisers and ticket sales could make up the rest. At a previous PTO meeting it was discussed that a combination of community dinners and funds from grocery cards could support clubs and was determined that a committee would form to develop a plan.

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2 – 6)

- Michele and Persia are preparing plans to provide special treats for teachers throughout week
- They make a sign up genius form for parent volunteers to support the efforts

8th Grade Graduation

- Michele asked for parent help, particularly with food setup
- It will take place on the last day of school, 5/26
- The location is still being confirmed given the construction of the track. Mr. Riggs would prefer to conduct the event on school property if possible.

Fundraising Dinners

- The PTO was in need of a volunteer to organize a schedule of monthly community dinners for the school year. Jenn Hardee volunteered to fill this role.
- It was noted that a parent at Creekside has a list of information about restaurants interested in participating, and she can share that with Jenn.

Future PTO Meeting Times

- In May there will be a meeting to review responsibilities and priorities for the following year, and to elect officers.
- Nicole expressed a preference for meetings outside of 9-5 working hours so that full time working parents feel welcome to participate. She is aware of parents who want to participate but are unable to when meetings take place during work hours, and they need more advance notice for meeting times.
- Some other schools alternate between day and evening meetings to accommodate the range of schedules.
- Meetings that start right after school are preferable for teachers.
- Some parents who work full time noted that they could generally attend daytime meetings if provided enough notice for scheduling.

Next Steps:

- Parents should contact Michele if they are interested in helping out as a volunteer for upcoming events (Palooza, Teacher Appreciation Week, Graduation, etc.)
- The PTO parents will work toward forming a group to think establishing a policy for funding clubs going forward (e.g., using grocery card funds as seed and supplementing with club-specific funding from “dine out” events).
- Recruitment of PTO participants for next year.

Additional Information

Committee Representatives:

Grocery Cards: Kristy Lane klane@earthnet.net

Projects Committee: Julie Chang Julie@groudan.net

Parent/Teacher Conference Dinners: Persia Houston persiahouston@yahoo.com

District and Community Representatives:

TAG DAC & BVGT- Darcy Fan bdkefan@comcast.net

Kristin Kusmirek (kusberry@me.com)

SAC & DAC- Troy Thornberry (kusberry@me.com)

Volunteering Opportunities:

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2 – 6)

8th Grade Graduation Ceremony & Party (May 26th)

Next scheduled PTO meeting: TBD