

**Minutes – PTO Meeting
October 12, 2015, 4 pm
Manhattan Middle School Library**

I. Welcome – Michele Marshall, Chair (michelemarshall@comcast.net)

Michele welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Those present were; Nicole Wobus, Karen Urbanowski, Shannon Collier, Persia Houston, Kristin Kusmierck, Sarah Blackford, Darcy Fan, Erica Johnson, John Riggs, Dan Tomlin, and Michele Marshall. Michele thanked Kari Albright for organizing the Walk to School event on October 7th. Michele also mentioned the Impact on Education award for teachers and the nominating process. She also shared that we have received heartfelt thank you cards from our families that received funds from the Chipotle dinner.

II. Principal's Report – John Riggs

Mr. Riggs reported that today was a professional development for the school. The staff had half of a day for class preparation and the other half was for professional development. Mr. Riggs also reported that the SAC (school accountability committee) had its first meeting, and will have another meeting next week Monday. The committee is working on the UIP (unified improvement plan). There are two district goals--literacy and MTSS (multi-tiered system of support)--and a third goal for Manhattan will include the climate data, derived from the survey which was filled out by students.

Mr. Riggs is also working with team leaders and staff on the Vision / Mission statement for Manhattan. He would like to hold a community night to get feedback from the Manhattan community. Manhattan's mission statement has not been updated for several years.

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 27th and 29th. We are once again using the online sign-up program to schedule conference times. This program worked well last year.

Open Enrollment events start at the end of November. We are graduating a large 8th grade class, so there is a need to attract students to keep our enrollment numbers up and not lose faculty members. Many parents started a discussion about Open Enrollment and what Manhattan might do to compete with the other middle schools. Several ideas included: a PowerPoint presentation being shown, a video such as the "I Believe" video from last year's 8th grade class, mentioning what makes Manhattan unique, Zero period, the Focus program, our achievement level (advanced math and LA), teaching to the whole child, students being personally comfortable. Having teachers available at the OE night is very valuable, as well as having some parents and students available to answer questions. It was also mentioned that we should have signs up for our "Future Music Garden & Sculpture Garden"—anticipated to enhance the front of our building in the near future. Mr. Riggs thanked all the parents for their valuable suggestions and hopes to be able to include them this year.

III. Teacher's Reports: Sarah Blackford and Dan Tomlin (DT)

Sarah reported that there is excitement around the Keystone science trip. She is going on the second trip and will be with several of her ILC students. For some of her students this will be their first overnight adventure away from home. There are many discussions taking place to reassure the students. DT is also going to Keystone science camp. He mentioned that in class they would be talking about fears associated with the trip. He also mentioned that there are roughly 22 students that are not going. The hope is that the students will experience bonding

and great growth from this trip. The scheduling for the students remaining at MMS has not been completely worked out yet.

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

Erica presented the treasurer's report for the month and the current year. See attached report. We are in good financial shape; we do have a few outstanding reimbursements.

V. Committee Reports:

Magic Phoenix: Amanda Wember, Chair (awember@yahoo.com)

Michele reported that the Magic Phoenix Fundraiser is taking place this month. The goal is to raise \$30,000. Last year we raised just over this amount, and all funds were distributed into the classrooms. Alaina McQueen (Art) and Zennia Jennie (Counseling) are helping in this campaign. We will track both participation and money donated. We have mailed out the teachers' wish list along with a letter requesting funds. We do have fun events planned during this month, which we hope will generate interest on the kids' part. We will once again be out collecting the last week of the month, and emails will be sent to increase donations.

Trip Tracker: Lori Winslow, Chair (icecreamalchemy@msn.com)

DT reported that he helped the kids with reporting of trips during lunch. Karen and Neva also helped kids report their trips. Karen mentioned that they might even go on a third day to help the kids report their trips. There was an increase in the kids reporting, and Karen mentioned how honest the kids were in their reporting of trips for Trip Tracker.

Grocery Cards & Milk Caps: Kristin Kusmierek, Chair (kusberry@me.com)

Kristin reported that the grocery card program has not had many requests for cards, and at points it is hard to track down parents that do request cards. We are still looking for someone to take over this program, which has great potential to raise funds. Kristin was happy to report that the Sarah Blackford and her students are going to take over the Longmont Milk Cap program. She will be meeting with Sarah to hand over the information about this program. Also, see written report.

Science Garden: See Written Report

Community Dinners: See Written Report

Projects Committee: See Written Report

Tree Carving Event: See Written Report

V. District and Community Representatives:

DPC- (District Parent Council)- Kate Lacroix (katelacroix@gmail.com)

TAG DAC (Talented and Gifted District Accountability Committee) & BVGT (Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented) Kristin Kusmierek (kusberry@me.com)

See Written Report

SAC (School Accountability Committee) & DAC (District Accountability Committee) Troy Thornberry (kusberry@me.com)

See Written Report

VI. Volunteering Opportunities

Secretary (attend the PTO meetings and take notes)

Second Vice Chair (position of training for chair)

Magic Phoenix (volunteers)

Conference Meals (Chair, organize volunteers to bring dinners)

School Store (volunteers to work the store)

Winter Social (January volunteers)

PEN representative (Parent Engagement Network)

Upcoming Events:

Oct 1 – 31 st	Magic Phoenix Fundraiser
Oct. 14 th & 15 th	Solo Performance Slam
Oct. 19 th	Community Dinner at the Kitchen Next Door
Oct. 19 th – 23 rd	8 th grade Tall Ship Trip & 6 th grade Keystone Science
Oct. 27 th & 29 th	Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov 5 th	Creating a Culture of Dignity—Rosalind Wiseman & Charlie Kuhn, PTO sponsored, 7 to 8:30 pm @ Manhattan
Nov 9 th	PTO meeting 6:30 to 8pm
Nov 11 th	No School