

## **PTO MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 18, 2016 MEETING**

### **8:45 to 9:45 am in MMS Library**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Saal, Jamie Baker, Darcy Fan, Julie Chang, Barb Miller, Loli Hudson, Brent Graham, Karen Gall, Mary Johnston Parker, Karen Goubleman Beesley, Kim Youngren, Shannon Collier

**Welcome & Introductions:** Karen Gall

**Principal's Report:** Brent Graham (for John Riggs)

- District has a new program, VISLAB, which puts all the district/school data into a nice format. Current data = standardized testing results. Teachers can start to add other data to your student's record. You may get a copy of the initial VISLAB report from a teacher during conferences.
- Reminder: Please vote for 3A – If this passes, the funds will be used for construction bond money.
- Manhattan has \$400K Innovations Funds for this year. School is looking at how to transform our current library to a 21<sup>th</sup> century learning environment. This includes: choosing appropriate furniture, adding windows for natural light, opening the space up, adding a green room and more. The goal is to start as soon as the school is over. Note: This is separate from construction/bond money.
- Gym update: We are moving in the correct direction. The district will fund the gym using part of the bond money, which is separate from the innovation and maintenance money. Hope is to start the work in January to be completed by August. Construction will affect outside lunch/recess space (where the gym is slated to go in).
- Goal is to be done by Fall 2017 for bond money.

**Teachers' Report:** Barb Miller (Sarah Blackford, Mary Ellen Steele unable to attend)

- Teachers are heading into conferences after settling into school routine. They very much appreciate dinner/food so they don't have to plan another meal during the long days.
- Teachers are excited about the changes coming for next year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Gall

- Monthly report presented.
- Magic Phoenix money doesn't match report because PayPal money hasn't been transferred to PTO account.
- School store income is higher than school store cost.
- School gear sale is coming up (during conferences) so income will go up for a little while (have over \$3K in clothing already paid for).
- Grocery cards are making money.

## Committee Reports

### **Magic Phoenix (Manhattan's Major Fundraiser): Darcy Fan**

- Entering 3<sup>rd</sup> week. About 60 families have donated (out of ~400) for a 15% participation rate to raise about \$12K.
- We want community involvement. Not only dollars, but also “all” families contributing whatever they can.
- Have incentives to keep the hype going – have been giving away Dairy Queen cones weekly during both lunches.
- Have an online sign up for donation collection during Pick up and Drop off. Will hand out candy this week, bagels/donuts in the AM and Bhakti Chai in the PM.
- Will have a PTO table at conferences to collect MP donations. Will have card reader so can process credit cards. Also will be selling spirit wear (up to 50% off).
- Tomorrow: Handing out MP slips to 6<sup>th</sup> graders during Advisory.

Request for next year: Clarification of different donations at registration/beginning of the school year

### **Projects Committee: Shannon Collier**

- Have been working on little projects (like filing) and big projects (NYC quilt of artwork).
- If you are interested in helping out, please contact Shannon.

### **Science & Music Gardens: Jennifer Dingman**

- See attached report. Jen was unable to attend the meeting.
- Jen is looking for someone to take over for next year (she has an 8<sup>th</sup> grader). Also, please contact her if you are interested in helping with the garden.
- Music Garden: Jen has also been instrumental in putting together the music garden out front. Planning to apply for another potential grant to get another instrument outside (grant due in April).

Suggestion 1: Maybe would get a better response from community if science department makes the request for help and for someone to take over.

Suggestion 2: Does ILC want to get involved somehow? Barb Miller will follow up on this.

### **Community Dinners: OPEN**

- Beau Jo's fundraiser was 9/19 & 20. Raised \$175.87 with 29 sales tickets (20%).
- Skipping October to focus on Magic Phoenix. Also November dinner is early in the month.
- Next Door Community Dinner is Mon 11/7 5-9pm. Will give back 50%.
- California Pizza Kitchen is set for Wed 11/30 and Thu 12/1. Will give back 20%.
- Mount Everest is tentatively scheduled for Sun 1/22. Bhattarai family is an MMS family. Will open restaurant for Sunday brunch for MMS families only. Because is small restaurant, may want to try and have a sign up for times. Will give back 20%.

- Need to set up dinners for Feb/Mar/Apr/May.
- Post meeting update: Need to find new volunteer to help with the dinners.

### **Trip Tracker: Jennifer Saal**

- Jennifer is taking over Trip Tracker from Lori Winslow. Jennifer has experience running the program at Southern Hills Middle School.
- Current stats: 295 students enrolled in TT. Only 28% filled out surveys for Aug/Sept.
- What worked in SHMS: Handing out the money during lunch. Kids see it and want to know how to get TT dollars. MMS transitioned from this model (handing out at lunch) to the current one (hand out during advisory) at the end of last year because of difficulty finding volunteers to come in at lunch.
- Jennifer would like to start distributing the TT dollars again during lunch. Could follow up and get the leftover dollars to students during advisory.
- Need to get the number of students up to 50% for the program to be successful here.
- Future ideas: have TT shirts/capes for volunteers to get students attention at lunch.

Plan: Go back to distributing TT dollars at lunch (Jennifer can commit to this). Also record trips/sign up kids at lunch (Karen G and Kim Y are willing to help again).

Suggestion 1: Write a longer informative blurb and submit to the Friday newsletter. Remind the kids some of the incentives, and mention that riding the school (and RTD) bus also counts. Barb M can talk this up on announcements.

Suggestion 2: Look into advertising on bus. Contact Peter Hurst about this.

Suggestion 3: Ask PE teachers to explain the program during PE and Health. Do this during registration time while volunteers are in lunch room to catch those kids.

### **District and Community Representatives**

#### **DAC (District Accountability Committee) – Jamie Baker**

- Meets first Tues of the month. Last meeting discussed UIP (Unified Improvement Plan) goals including Literacy and implementing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.
- DAC has participation from each of the schools. MMS has its own School Accountability Committee (SAC meets 3 times/year). Ideally want full representation across the district level in addition to the school level.
- How can DAC work with SAC? DAC uses a survey to ask each SAC re: district spending priorities. Based on these results, DAC will make recommendations to the school board for the next year. Will work with Mr. Riggs to complete this survey for MMS as MMS SAC will not meet before the survey is due.
- What are these priorities? DAC asks PTOs what they are spending their money on. In other words, what is so important that the PTO will raise funds.
- See [bvsd.org/DAC](http://bvsd.org/DAC) for more info.

- VISLAB – district has provided this to school (not has not been reviewed by DAC). Jamie mentioned that Data is a hot topic this year. Need to get a better understanding of the data and how to bring this info back to school.
- This is Jamie's 4<sup>th</sup> year on this committee.

### **BVGT (Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented) – Darcy Fan**

- Nov 15 8:45-10:00 am – TAG coffee in the MMS library. Meet our TAG Advisor, Phyllis Ashe, who will present our school's TAG programming. Michele Dubois (BVSD TAG Instructional Specialist) will give a talk about the district TAG services . Kristin Kusmierrek (BVGT co-president, former MMS parent) will introduce BVGT.
- Brian Housand spoke at Mackintosh Academy on 10/12 re: technology and gifted students. Gave ideas and recommended websites/games. His talk and power point presentation are available on the BVGT website (bvgt.org).

### **DPC (District Planning Committee) – David Gould**

- See attached report (submitted post-PTO meeting). David was unable to attend the meeting.
- Per David's email, there was lots of discussion about the Mill Levy vote. The district is pushing hard for this to pass. There are concerns about a \$6M deficit if the levy does not pass.

### **OPEN Discussion**

**Lucky's Market** - Now have reloadable grocery cards (\$10 preloaded). Will get 7% back when card is filled. Also got Lucky's Market South Boulder bag credit for November/December/January. Thank you to the many people who voted for MMS on the Lucky's Market Facebook page. Had a couple days to turn in forms and tell Lucky's how we will spend the money. Decided to add this unexpected money (probably \$500-\$2000) to the school beautification project to contribute towards another instrument for the music garden.

**Lanyards** – PTO agreed to pay for new lanyards for the teachers/staff/volunteers. PTO purchased these 2 years ago as a teacher appreciation gift. Will cost around \$200. Loli has ordered the lanyards. Vote taken: All present agreed to fund.

### **Lunch recess –**

Suggestion to have space set aside so that those students who want to run around, play tag, etc. have the room to do so. Have this be a tech-free area. There are many kids milling about (talking, playing on phones) who make it more challenging for those who would like more space.

Have not implemented Tech-Free Tuesdays. Discussion about why MMS has phones at lunch.

Suggestion: Can we put have a ball cart for lunch recess? Have at Southern Hills. Karen B will email Mr. Riggs with this suggestion.

**Marquee** – Should start to look into replacing the marquee in front of the school. Blew open during one of the windy October days. School has looked into this a couple years back. Loli will check to see if she can find the quote.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Contribute dishes/money to parent/teacher conference dinners on 10/20 and 25. Persia has a sign up online. Will get a tax receipt.
- Magic Phoenix (another co-chair, volunteers) - collect MP donations and sell discounted spirit wear at conferences on 10/20 and 25.
- Magic Phoenix - help collect donations last week of October at drop off and pick up every day. Help us hand out food/prizes to those who drop off envelopes. Collect spare change.
- Grocery/OZO Cards (probably 1 hour/month from home)
- Winter Social (chair, January volunteers)
- PEN representative (Parent Engagement Network)
- Website (probably 1-2 hr/month, volunteer from home)

**Next scheduled PTO meeting: Monday November 14 6:30 to 8:00pm (tentative)**

## Committee Reports

### Garden

Had a great summer garden, we grew snap peas, lettuces, basil, tomatoes, beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, zucchini and pumpkins. In the spring we paid to have the drip system redone so that the lines better fit the new configuration of the 6 raised beds. I have done some minor repairs to the drip system over the summer. We lost our two 'champion' teachers for the garden when Mr. Feeney and Mrs. Greene left. I have been working with DT this fall to continue to get students involved in the garden. He had students harvest basil and make pesto in class...and I brought in some zucchini bread made from some zucchini from the garden. He might also be harvesting some beets and roasting them with the students. Mrs. Kuczynski will be harvesting some gourds and pumpkins to use for a still-life sketching project in her art class.

Would like to make the garden available to more teachers and students. Would like input on how best to do this. Would also like to do a bulletin board if there is room in the school somewhere to do a "What's Growing in the Garden" board. Thought this would be a good way to publicize the garden to students, parents and visitors.

I need to reach out to garden volunteers for future projects and to take over for me next year. Will try to send out an email to the list of volunteers I have thus far prior to the meeting.

### DPC

#### **DPC (District Planning Committee) Meeting Minutes from 10/12/2016**

##### **Superintendent Update - Dr. Bruce Messinger**

- Operational Levy
  - Needed b/c current budgetary need as not being addressed due to lack of school funding at state level
  - Funds would go to purchase of literacy materials that had to be suspended b/c of lack of funds

- o Levy monies must be used for operational needs
- o BVSD will have a \$6M budget deficit next year without Levy
- Bond Issue- Phase 1 mostly completed and decision/designs being worked on for Phase 2
  - o <http://bond.bvsd.org/Pages/index.aspx>

**Parent & Family Partnership Update – Madeleine Case, Director of Parent & Family Partnerships**

- Why partnership? – Because wanted to foster a collaboration between teachers & families
- Struggles – Equality vs. Equity
- A Communications Toolbox is being rolled out to teachers for use

o Ideas taken from many schools and parent organizations during Listening Sessions throughout the last year

**Graduation Requirements Changes – Dr. Bruce Messinger** (Michele DeBerry unavailable due to scheduling conflict)

- New graduation requirements to take effect for 2016 8<sup>th</sup> graders that will graduate in 2021
- <http://bvsdsuccesseffect.org/priorities/graduation-guidelines/> (please visit website for more details)
- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/graduationguidelines> (please visit website for more details)
- Change in requirements was done to give students options in showing their competency to graduate
- Proposed changes to go before BVSD Board in Dec 2016 and more parent meetings to happen in Spring 2017

**Next Meeting: 11/30/16 @ 6:30 in Black Diamond Room**

**Trip Tracker**

The trip tracker program is struggling. At Manhattan, we have 295 enrolled in the Trip Tracker program. We had 82 students fill out surveys this month or 28%, we should be at 50%. That is down 6 students from the last reporting period and 58 students from this time last year. This is a great program that requires little support from the parents or guardians other than a one time registration process by the parent or guardian. The kids can do the rest. This program not only helps the environment by reducing our carbon footprint but, it gets the kids start or end off their school day in a positive way.

**Projects Committee**

- Keystone Outdoor Ed - Helped Julie Chang with paperwork, money accounting/counting, and coffee distribution for sixth grade trip
- Miss Brindle - Labeled and organized chrome cart for LA classes - Donna Axel/Shannon Collier
- Miss Armbruster - long term art installation project using textile art pieces from NYC trip and making a “quilt” - Missy Gellar/Kim Franco/Shannon Collier
- Miss Brindle - created file folders for each student - filing her students’ work before conferences