

PTO MINUTES FOR APRIL 10, 2017 MEETING
8 :45 TO 9:45 AM IN MMS LIBRARY

Attendance: Loli Hudson, Darcy Fan, John Riggs, Karen Gall, Jennifer Saal, Julie Chang, Barb Miller, Shannon Collier, Nathalie Pratt, Jenn Dingman

Welcome & Introductions: Karen Gall

Principal's Report: John Riggs

Construction update: Will start digging up the new area for gym this week and will be choosing colors. School had safety presentation last week. Library closes after May 5 (move books out). Work will not impact school day and it will start getting noisy around here. Innovation money is designated for: library, some 13 to 16 classroom furniture purchases (a good majority, general education classrooms, not science who already got new furniture earlier). Will not get everything we hoped (things cost more than when bond was originally funded 5 years ago).

School events:

1. School Talent Show - Last Friday, had a great turn out for the Talent Show and raised \$600.
2. Testing – PARCC testing is done and CMAS starts this week (8th grade science, testing will be during class).

Music Garden: Applied for \$3000 grant. Scored 13 out of 16 requests (need to be in top 8). Have asked John to attend the grant committee meeting on 4/19 to give a 3 min presentation on why Manhattan should receive this grant. Aaryn Kay (grant writer who is helping us) strongly suggested giving a presentation because then it puts MMS on the radar and maybe we can get funding for next year. John will need help to put together the presentation – answer the questions that the committee had concerns about.

Open enrollment/FTE: Will be appealing FTE (math support classes not funded). Size of incoming 6th graders 185-188 students. 487 students total for next year (goal is to hit and maintain 500). Work in progress FTE to be fixed. Can present more info by next month's meeting.

Teachers' Report: Sarah Blackford, Mary Ellen Steele, Barb Miller

According to Barb, the teachers are busy.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Gall

Income: This past month, the PTO received CPK and Chipotle community dinner donations. We also received PARCC donations (monetary and some snacks), Lucky's bag credit (designated for the music garden) and King Soopers grocery card money. Karen would like to move Lucky's (aka music garden money) to MMS. Also made \$457 in school store.

Expenses: These include school store purchases, invoice for 8th grade buses (\$579), \$264 spent for PARCC snacks and some minor PTO pantry purchases.

Right now the PTO has \$21K in the bank. Have some big expenses to come (\$1K at least).

Teacher/Club Funding Requests:

1. **Multimedia (Brooke Smith)** – Magic Phoenix request (extra MP funds) to purchase 4 digital cameras for \$2K. Publications/Yearbook have their own camera. There is no money for new green room equipment. Will have 4 computers in the library for multimedia to use. Anyone can use the green room. Discussion that Magic Phoenix has traditionally been limited to \$1K purchases. Idea: Contact a TV station to see if can get a used news camera.

PTO agreed to fund \$1000 for Multimedia cameras. Will give \$1000 to purchase green room camera (that the multimedia class can use). Money will come from excess 2016 Magic Phoenix funds.

2. **Robotics Club (Phyllis Ashe)** – Magic Phoenix request (extra funds) to purchase another EV3 kit for robotics club for \$375 + \$50 S/H. They are also writing a proposal for another robot. Received 2 in January. The purchase of the equipment is up front. Hopefully will not need to spend as much in the near future.

PTO agreed to fund \$420 for purchase of an EV3 for Robotics Club. Money will come from excess 2016 Magic Phoenix funds.

3. **First TECH (Phyllis Ashe/Darcy Fan)** – Kids are fundraising to raise competition fees. Have made a payment for initial registration fees for next year – can these still be covered?

MMS will fund the \$275 for the FIRST Tech registration fee. John will find the funding.

Other ideas for funding: Math department is putting together a Magic Phoenix request. Future idea: 200 folding chairs/carts (\$1600) for new gym. Jen Dingman suggested contacting Douglass Elementary who will be getting rid of their chairs. See discussion below.

More Discussion Topics/Committee Reports:

Trip Tracker: Jennifer Saal

Peter Hurst would like to know if MMS will continue to participate in the program next year. Cost next year will be: \$504.51. Jenn's stats: For our 458 enrollment, 270 students are registered and 160 (35%) have submitted their trips. 90-95 kids (20%) are regular users with 60 submitting online + 35-40 in cafeteria. Currently TripTracker is having a silent auction to raise about 50% of the program funding. MMS in the lower half % of participating middle schools (Casey below MMS for middle schools).

TripTracker IS impacting 20% of our student body in a positive manner and anyone can participate including staff.

PTO agreed to pay \$504.51 to participate in the 2017-2018 TripTracker program.

Magic Phoenix Surplus

Ideas: (1) Donating \$4K to fund to replace the marquee, (2) rolling over to pay for teachers to pay for clubs for next year, (3) use as seed club money for next year, and (4) teacher requests.

Karen – would like to keep this year's MP funds focused on paying items for this year. The PTO has money to put towards club seed money for next year without using the MP funds. The question is can we sustain putting \$4K towards clubs every year? This year the PTO raised \$2300 in community fundraisers, \$3500 in retail sales (includes discounted school gear sales). The donations for Teacher Appreciation/PARCC balanced.

General consensus is that because we stated during Magic Phoenix that the excess MP funds would be spent this year, we need to do this. Next year, we can put the money aside in (leave a line item in MP).

Projects Committee: Shannon Collier

Library clean out is done. Still working on the quilt project.

Science & Music Gardens: Jennifer Dingman

Science garden is coming along. The goal is to transfer the responsibilities to 5-6 parents. Jenn has a google doc with this info. Would also like to get more teachers involved. Currently, the garden is perceived as a "science" garden. [Maybe change the name: to "Learning Garden"](#) not just a science garden. Maybe this will encourage any teachers to use. The Science team has started seeds in their classrooms (Brooke Smith wants to do a pizza project). Have a bed with greens. Also have planted peas with ILC kids. Need to get more students out there somehow.

Currently have 6 beds – have 2-3 open (anyone can make suggestions for what to plant). Will set up a sign up for summer maintenance. Jenn will compose email and forward to Barb to send out to staff.

Have \$500 Magic Phoenix money + \$1100 for Lucky's bag credit + leftover funds from last year

Community Dinners:

May is a crazy month. Currently BJ's Brewhouse is the last scheduled community dinner for the school year. Would like to schedule one over the summer.

PEN (Parent Engagement Network): Nathalie Pratt

~100 people currently signed up for "Screenagers" documentary showing on April 25. Karen was able to get this showing into Creekside's blog. FYI "Screenagers" is recommended for 10 years old and up, depending on each individual child. Nathalie requested having John Riggs, Sandra Salazar and one of the counselors to be available to speak at this event and to help answer questions. Need to finalize discussion afterwards – would like to the students to participate, maybe prepare a few students ahead of time to ask a question or ask 360 kids to help facilitate discussion. There may be issues re: signing up for the talk – Nathalie will check into this. Tickets will also be available at the door. Full scholarships are available (families need to contact Nathalie, Sandra or PEN to set this up). This will be the last screening of Screenagers for PEN. There will be a cap of 375 tickets.

PEN is also having a stress/anxiety Symposium this year, scheduled for 2 weeks from the past Saturday (4/22). This will be a 4 hour long program (8:30-1:30pm) at the old Sam's club/Ascent Church in Louisville. \$10/adult. Youth free.

Incoming 6th Grade Family Picnic

This is scheduled for Monday 5/22 (5:30-7:30pm). All incoming 6th grade families have been invited to a BYO picnic dinner. This would be a good time to talk to new parents about the school and the PTO in an informal setting and to dispel the myth that parents are needed/wanted in middle school. The PTO will have a table and plan to hand out King Soopers cards. Will ask for 360 parents and PTO volunteers to attend. PTO does not provide food but will provide school gear to give away.

Volunteering Opportunities:

PTO Secretary (take minutes during the meetings)
Grocery/OZO Cards (probably 1 hour/month)

2017-2018 Future Committee Volunteers Needed:

PTO Treasurer (Karen will help with the transition for next PTO year)

Magic Phoenix Co-Chair
PTO Secretary
Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation Chair
Science & Music Garden

Upcoming Events:

Apr. 20	Community Fundraiser at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 5 to 8pm
Apr. 25	PEN "Screenagers" showing, 6:30 to 8pm
May 1 to 5	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 3	Teacher Breakfast
May 8	PTO Annual Meeting, 8:45 to 10:45am?
May 26	Last Day of School, 8 th Grade Continuation/Party

Next scheduled PTO meeting: Monday May 15, 2017 8:45 to 10:45am