

PTO AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 6, 2016 MEETING
8:45-9:45AM IN MMS LIBRARY

In Attendance: Karen Gall, John Riggs, Julie Chang, Shannon Collier, Darcy Fan, Shirley Chacon, Barb Miller, Mary Johnston Parker, Jennifer Saal, Debbie Cardineau, Jamie Baker, Eli Karplus, Nicole Wobus, Loli Hudson, Jenn Dingman, Megan Friday

Welcome & Introductions: Karen Gall

After quick introductions, the meeting immediately started with presentations from four student groups requesting funding. Summaries of each presentation and notes from the subsequent PTO discussion regarding each group's request are included below during the "Discussion Topics" section (which follows the Principal, Teacher and Treasurer's Reports.)

Principal's Report: John Riggs

- Mr. Riggs was moved by all of the presentations and mentioned that this was why we do what we do – for the students.
- He encouraged everyone to come to Fall Arts & Academics Festival tonight.
- Thank you to everyone who voted for the 2017 school bond. In addition to the work that was originally planned in the bond (including changes to the library, adding a video production lab, boiler room updates, remodeling of restrooms, etc.), Manhattan will be receiving an additional \$3M to add a new full-size gymnasium. This was not originally included in the bond. Thank you to the PTO parents who started the process two years ago by asking the district for the gym. Mr. Riggs shared the plans for the construction, which now include the new gym. Construction could start as early as February but these pre-summer projects will not impact classrooms and learning.

Teachers' Report: Barb Miller (Sarah Blackford & Mary Ellen Steele were not able to attend)

- Everyone says that they love the PTO and really appreciate the PTO. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Gall

- We gave about \$14,000 in two accounts. We started about \$10K at the beginning of the PTO year. This includes some Magic Phoenix money that still needs to be distributed.
- Community Dinner deposits: We are waiting for the Next Door check of \$921.30 and should be receiving it anytime soon (about 4 weeks after the event).
- Grocery Cards: The income from King Soopers grocery cards is down about 7.4% from this time last year. We need to promote the use of cards because this is one of the few sources of income for the PTO. Perhaps income is down because people didn't want to shop at the Table Mesa store with all the Lucky's Market construction. At Creekside, the PTO purchases cards, then wipes them clean (no need to collect pre-loaded \$5), distributes them freely, and leaves them in the front office. Currently we record a name with the card so we can return the card if lost. Do we need to continue to do this? **We need a grocery card volunteer who can take over grocery cards from Darcy (who is just babysitting the program), make these decisions and take this program to a new level.**
- School Store: The store continues to make a little money (~\$200 since it opened in August). We are starting to see an increase in the amount of money earned by sales of Spirit Wear. This is temporary and reflects the reduction of prices in October at conferences. We currently have about \$2800 in inventory on the books, but this does not yet include the amount that needs to be deducted from the spirit wear giveaways during Magic Phoenix.

- Recent Expenses include: Lanyards for Staff/Volunteers, Fall Conference dinner. Still need to reimburse school for \$240 MathCounts registration.
- Karen also worked with Erica Johnson (previous PTO Treasurer) to determine what to do with a ~\$350 carryover of PayPal fees from 2013(?). Karen decided to balance our quickbooks account by changing this fee into an expense.

Discussion Topics:

Student Requests for Funding – Manhattan Rocks, First TECH Team, Santa Fe Art Trip, Robotics

Note: all Discussions occurred without the students present.

MANHATTAN ROCKS (MR) -

Group Request/Presentation:

- Supported by the Manhattan Rocks director Ashley Hanson, seven members of Manhattan Rocks (Macy F., Sophie C., Estella B., Coco R., Ethan W., Samo K., and Guanyu H.) performed “Dog Days Are Over” for the PTO.
- The students shared that they meet on Wednesday mornings, sing and choreograph songs (some of which they get to choose), and will perform at the end of the Arts Festival tonight. They have both group and solo opportunities. Last Sunday, they performed at a cabaret showcase at the Bohemian Beer Garden (which raised \$750 during the silent auction).
- Per Ashley Hanson, the goal is to have 15 singers. They will meet February to April for the Spring semester. For fundraising, another cabaret will be scheduled in early May. The tuition is \$120/student (\$10/session/student).
- In addition to working with Adventure Arts, the students get an opportunity to perform in front of different audiences, including at a CU Basketball game and also at a Rockies games in the spring. The goal is to perform in front of audiences to accumulate experience, work on stage fright, etc.

PTO Discussion:

- Everyone agreed that the group did a fantastic job performing.
- Eli Karplus (Sam’s dad) shared how MR has really helped his son. Sam does not like school but loves going to school on Wednesdays because of MR.
- How does this club differ from choir? This club is an after school extension activity. Any child can join.
- MR Background: Because the school was unable to find anyone on staff to run a glee club, professionals were brought into the school to run this club. This is the only club in the school that requests kids to pay (\$120/semester).
- This fee can make this a difficult club for some kids to participate despite scholarships being offered.
- For next semester, other options include: (1) MMS looks for a grant to apply to fund MR in its entirety to anyone can join with no fees, (2) see if Fairview HS Honor Society has students who need community hours
- Positives about Adventure Arts program: Professionals are running the program and have community contacts so that the group can get practice singing in front of groups of people.
- All the money requested is to pay Ashley/the MR directors. At beginning when first proposed, \$3600 was requested.
- Is there are way to fund this so that all kids can participate without charging.
- Question: Does Mona get paid for after-school productions? Yes. This is from a different budget.
- Challenge: Communication from Manhattan Rocks needs to come from the school, not from Ashley. This is not typical situation so are learning how to work with an outside organization.
- **Proposal: Give Manhattan Rocks a community dinner.**

- **Vote passed community dinner to raise funds for MR – however they need to submit a PTO request form.** Will ask Ashley and Nicole (parent) to submit the form and an amount requested by Friday end of school.

FIRST TECH TEAM -

Group Request/Presentation:

- The four members of the First Tech Team demonstrated their robot (Zach M., Kiana F., Dylan K. and Welton).
- The First Challenge is a world-wide robotics competition. Teams compete in various activities/games score points. The state qualifiers occur in January & February.
- The Manhattan First Tech Team is requesting funds to pay for the qualifiers \$150 and \$50 to finish their robot (ball launcher).
- There are two robotics teams at school – this team (invitation only) and a robotics club that meets after school.
- One of the goals of the First Tech Team is to demonstrate the robot at school (and possibly elementary schools) to STEM programming possibilities.
- The First Tech Team also plans to mentor the robotics team after the competition season is over.
- The team has been working for about 3 months. They have been programming in Java.
- They have asked for donations from local businesses but have only gotten food contributions. They have learned that they need to start fundraising in January (all corporate donations have already been made/determined by September).

PTO Discussion:

- First Tech Team's request is for \$200 = \$150 competition fees + \$50 for additional equipment for the robot. A copy of their formal request was made available during the meeting.
- **Proposal: Give First Tech Team the January community dinner at Mount Everest.** Darcy Fan is a co-coach and is already helping to organize this dinner.
- **Vote passed to give First Tech community dinner.**

What happens if not enough is raised at a community dinner? PTO can make up the difference.

What happens if there is surplus funding from a dinner? Should this go to another club or is it fair to limit their request if their event is very successful? Jenn Dingman made a motion that the club can request the surplus and if it's not needed, then the money can be distributed elsewhere. The vote passed.

SANTA FE TRIP -

Group Request/Presentation:

- Charlie (art student) who attended the trip last year talked to the PTO about his experience.
- He learned a lot as an arts focus student. They visited artists in their studios, went to a bronze casting facility, got to go to galleries. They learned about the principals of design and about portfolios.
- One of the biggest positives of this trip is that Charlie got to know other arts students and has a stronger sense of community with the other students.
- Last year, the trip was 4 days (2 days of travel, 2 days in Santa Fe).
- This year the trip will be open to all the focus kids (including art, theater and music).
- The cost this year will be \$500/person for 5 days. A lottery was recently held to choose the students who will attend.
- The Santa Fe trip is requesting opportunity/scholarship funds for those students who cannot afford the entire amount.

PTO Discussion:

- Alaina McQueen made a generic request for a community dinner to help raise scholarship

funds. At this time, it is not known how much will be needed. A copy of her formal request was made available during the meeting.

- **Proposal: Give Santa Fe Trip the February community dinner at Chipotle.**
- **Vote passed to give Santa Fe this community dinner.**

ROBOTICS CLUB -

Group Request/Presentation:

- 3 student from the Robotics club (including Tobias, Zach M.) showed off their Mindstorms NXT robots during the meeting. Phyllis Ashe, the MMS TAG advisor, was also present during the presentation.
- Robotics club is comprised mostly of 6th and 7th graders and is open to the entire school.
- Robotics club has really old equipment.
- Honors CU engineering student Noah comes every week to run the robotics club. He is paid \$20/week. He teaches the students about programming and also gives them engineering lessons (ex. center of gravity).
- In the spring, First Tech will mentor Robotics team. Many kids are in both groups. The Robotics Club equipment is different than that of the First Tech Team.
- The current robotics equipment at the school is the Mindstorms NXT model, which was retired 2 years ago (over 7+ years old, no longer supported, cannot purchase replacement parts). Out of 7 kits, the team currently uses 4 "brains". The team doesn't always have enough pieces to create their ideas.
- Zach currently gives little challenges for the team to try to solve. Goal is to do a BattleBots competition in the spring.
- Requesting funds to pay CU student.

PTO Discussion:

- Robotics not typical club in middle school.
- TAG program has formally requested requested \$200-520 to pay for Noah. A copy of the request was made available at the meeting.
- NXT equipment is falling apart. How much does this equipment benefit the school population? If purchase new equipment, it will be used in future years.
- This year, the TAG budget will pay for the spelling bee, geography bee and brain bowl fees. Last year, TAG only had to pay for the spelling bee and used funds to pay for a CU student.
- Discussion on why the school is not paying for the spelling/geo/brain bowl fees. All students can participate in these events. Because MMS did not have 100% participation for the optional contribution fees at the beginning of the school year, the school does not have enough to pay for these other fees. The optional contribution is used to pay for each student's planner and yearbook and in-school events and will be short this year.
- Discussion on how to improve communication with the families about this fee.
- Loli emails the families prior to registration about what to do. Perhaps didn't get enough because of issues with paying online and because the financial line was long.
- **Proposal - Fund \$520 to Noah by assigning Robotics a community dinner.**
- **Vote passed to \$520 to pay for Noah**

Status of Clubs Funding Protocol - Nicole Wobus, Karen Gall, Shannon Collier, Darcy Fan and Julie Chang have been working on updating the PTO clubs funding protocol documents. The goal is to finish this by the end of the school year but to start requesting the teachers/clubs to submit the online form now.

Future PTO Dates – PTO had a quick discussion about whether or not to keep alternating morning/night meetings. ***A motion was made (and passed) to continue alternating morning and evening meetings for the rest of the year of the response to having the students be able to be apart of the meeting.***

Committee Reports/District and Community Representatives:

Because the time of the meeting ran over, the PTO chose to skip the following Committee Reports: Magic Phoenix Wrap Up, Projects Committee, Community Dinners., DPC, and SAC. The rest of the reports were abbreviated in length.

DAC (District Accountability Committee): Jamie Baker

Jamie had to leave early. DAC meets the first Tuesday of every month. Jamie discussed DAC recommendations to the school board for spending priorities. The District Financial Officer gave a presentation about the budget process. John Riggs mentioned that a few years ago there was \$2M+ in budget cuts . This really took away from club funding. He would like to see restoration of funds – from the students’ presentations, we can see what we have been missing in our school.

Science & Music Gardens: Jennifer Dingman

Karen will follow up with the grant writer for garden and will connect John Riggs and Jen Dingman with her.

Trip Tracker: Jennifer Saal

Last month Jennifer worked the lunch on her own to get a feeling how much time was needed. It would be nice to have 2 people working recording the trips. Last month, 100 (may be up to 120) students have reported as of Tue morning. See details in the attached committee report.

Winter Social: Persia Houston was not present

Quick update: Winter Social is now on the school calendar for Tuesday February 7. This will consist of ice cream + salsa tasting competition + sandwich making for the homeless.

BVGT (Boulder Valley Gifted & Talented): Darcy Fan

The TAG coffee with Phyllis Ashe from MMS, Michelle Dubois from BVSD and Kristin Kusmierек from BVGT was well attended.

Volunteering Opportunities:

- Grocery/OZO Cards (probably 1 hour/month)
- Winter Social (January volunteers)
- PEN representative (Parent Engagement Network)
- Website (probably 1-2 hr/month, volunteer from home)

MMS Open Enrollment Events:

- Open House for Parents and Students – 12/8 5:30 to 7:30pm
- Parent Coffee Break with the Principal, MMS Library – 12/12 9 to 10am

Upcoming Events:

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| Dec. 6 | Fall Arts & Academics Festival, 6:00 to 8:30pm |
| Dec. 7 | Latino Night, 5:30 to 7:30pm |
| Dec. 19 – Jan. 3 | No School/Winter Break |
| Jan. 4 | School Resumes |
| Jan. 22 | Community Sunday Lunch Buffet at Mount Everest (20%), time TBD |
| Feb. 7 | Winter Social/Salsa Tasting Contest |

Next scheduled PTO meeting: TBD

Committee Reports

Trip Tracker - Jennifer Saal

Last month was the first month the kids were directly involved. They had an opportunity to report their own logs and pick up their dollars in the cafeteria during lunch. I wanted to do this month alone to see what kind of help would be needed on a monthly basis. It will take two people to start on opposite ends of the cafeteria with chrome books to get to the kids before they go outside. Distribution was fine with one volunteer. With the High School tours going on the week of distribution, I have kept the Trip Trackers that were not picked up. This was mostly eighth graders. They can claim this money in the November distribution. There will be no distribution for the month of December. This decision was made to be able to stretch the program dollars a bit farther. I am still not on the master email list so I often get my information too late for the Principal's Blog. I have put in another email to Peter.