

PTO MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2017 MEETING
8 :45 TO 9:45 AM IN MMS LIBRARY

Attendance: Karen Gall, Jennifer Dingman, John Riggs, Julie Chang, Darcy Fan, Persia Houston, Diane Lane, Shirley Chacon, Loli Hudson, Nathalie Pratt, Barb Miller

Welcome & Introductions: Karen Gall

Principal's Report: John Riggs

Bilingual Pathway: Moving forward. Goal is to have a 50/50 balance of native/English speakers, primarily from bilingual elementary programs. Pioneer students may be late to OE into the school. How does this program impact the students here? Will phase in with incoming 6th graders with option to take LA and/or social studies in Spanish.

Open Enrollment: Hoping to get the OE numbers this week. Goal is to have an incoming 6th grade class of 175 students. Currently have 165 leaving in 8th grade and 6th grade class in the mid-140s.

New staff to hire: The school needs to go through the process of hiring new staff. Currently hoping to hire for 2 full rounds for Spanish Language Arts. In addition, Morgan O'Brien and Sarah Blackford will be moving to the new Erie K-8 school (Meadowlark) and Mary Ellen Steele will be retiring.

Bond: Will start construction on the new gym in mid-April – the plan is pour the slab in 2 weeks. August 1 is the current finish date for the construction on the entire building. The library will be completely renovated to include a green room, collaboration rooms, and a partial maker space on the side. Bids will be reviewed for library furniture tomorrow. The cost for the construction is going up and eating into innovation money. Instead of purchasing a new conference table, the money will be used to purchase a big TV. Work on the library space will start by the Wednesday following Memorial Day. During spring break, the bond work will focus on asbestos mitigation in the boiler room.

Magic Phoenix: All the teachers have spent their Magic Phoenix money. \$1270 has been granted in extensions and \$1300 more is unspent, aka teachers' savings.

Principally Speaking: Have about 180-190 readership of Friday newsletter.

Conference sign up: Will go live at the end of the day.

Teachers' Report: Barb Miller (present), Sarah Blackford & Mary Ellen Steele (not present)

Teachers are getting ready for conferences. They thank the PTO for the meals!

Treasurer's Report: Karen Gall

Last year's end of year expenses: We are trying to estimate expenses for the rest of the school year. Last year, we had expenses of: \$327 PARCC snacks, \$120 Teacher Appreciation, \$260 conference food, \$800 for Jovan Mays, \$90 Winter Social, \$675 TripTracker, \$150 Impact on Education. ? for 8th grade field trip.

Where are we? Will be comfortable leaving \$5K for next year. Option: Do we leave more in our account because of upcoming construction and potential unexpected expenses?

Future Club spending? Still have ½ year stipend for Noah (CU student helping with robotics club), potentially First Tech team requests (heading to State), extra TAG expenses including Brain Bowl fees for team heading to State.

Teacher Requests:

Adam Hunt – Jovan Mays, slam poet

Mr. Hunt asked the PTO for funds to bring Jovan Mays back (has been here for last 2 years) sometime in mid- to end of April. Jovan Mays is a slam poet who has national awards and currently lives in Aurora; the students love him. Jovan Mays is able to get students interested in literacy in a way that the teachers aren't able to (with his skill and energy). For \$800/2 consecutive days, he will come to school and interact with every single student. The kids get super pumped during his visit. He works off the cuff – a different experience in each class, even in the same year. FYI teachers do talk to Jovan Mays ahead of time.

PTO Discussion: Currently bank account has \$14K in checking and have \$6K in savings. Should be fine to help support.

PTO Vote: Unanimous agreement to fund Jovan Mays for \$800 this year.

Libby Black – 8th grade field trip to movie/planetarium

Libby Black talked about how exciting it would be to take the 8th graders to see the movie “Hidden Figures” – a combination of civil rights, math, engineering, and STEM in the movie plot. The students will go one week from today (Monday 2/13). Afterward, they will go see the “Black Holes” show at Fiske Planetarium. The total cost will be \$15/movie + \$5/planetarium, and the students will bring sack lunch. Note: two years ago, the price was the same for the movie.

Request: Ms. Black asked for a PTO contribution of \$548 for the buses and possibly \$100 for scholarships (which may or may not need). The % of kids who will need scholarships is currently unknown (varies each time). Currently MMS has 45 students who qualify for F/R lunch. The teachers are encouraging the students to ask parents to give extra towards scholarships.

Last week's 7th grade trip – self-paid for buses to Boulder Public Library.

PTO Vote: Unanimous agreement to give \$650 towards the field trip.

Discussion Topics

Winter Community Social

Winter Social is tomorrow night. Please come! We have plenty of donations, including Ice Cream Alchemy donating ice cream (will be dropped off today). Currently have 9 families signed up to contribute a salsa for the Salsa Tasting Contest. PTO is providing the tortilla chips. For the Sphero drawing (for the Robotics), the money will be collected by the team/Darcy Fan. Jen Dingman volunteered to help sell grocery cards so PTO needs to set up a table.

Magic Phoenix Surplus

Can put \$5600 back into pot (\$1300 from teacher savings + \$4300 PTO). How should these funds be spent? John Riggs would prefer to hold for a bigger request rather than having teachers make requests. He feels that the teachers did a good job asking for MP funds this year. Will continue this discussion offline.

Volunteers Needed

PTO needs volunteers, especially for next year. Suggestions include having recruiting event at coffee shop in the spring, also talking to incoming 6th grade parents at the (scheduled for May 22nd. Good place for PTO to recruit.

February Conference dinners

Sign up forms will be online. A Manhattan dad (Robert Nolan) has volunteered to BBQ for one night. For the conference by invite evening, PTO will provide tamale dinner (courtesy of Manhattan parent) – will set up in the kitchen and the teachers will eat in the library.

Science & Music Gardens

Manhattan will be applying for a \$3K grant (March 15 due date). The garden committee hopes to purchase 2 new musical instruments with this grant (and with the \$500 Magic Phoenix money). Julie Chang will contact Lucky's Market about the Bags for Change fundraiser.

See "Committee Reports" section below for Trip Tracker, Magic Phoenix, Grocery Cards, Community Dinners summaries.

PEN (Parent Engagement Network) - Nathalie Pratt

Had a discussion on 1/25 with PEN representatives (Paula & Kate), MMS counselors Alison & Zennia, about hosting a screening of the "Screenagers" documentary at Manhattan. Sandra Salazar previewed the movie and thinks that the documentary will be a good fit for our Latino families – we can do a bilingual showing (with subtitles).

Where do we go from here? Manhattan should pick a date. PEN will pay the \$300 license fee to screen the movie, ask for suggested donation (in the past, \$10/adult, \$2/students) and offer scholarships as requested. Manhattan needs to determine what would be most effective for our community. For example, Platt had a very impactful night with break out sessions and speakers, but this took a lot of work and planning. Southern Hills did not have break out sessions just a discussion after the screening with many asking questions and PEN handing out flyers with references. Perhaps we can get a hold of the presentations given by the Platt presenters?

PTO concerns/questions include: (1) Even if scholarships are offered, some families will not ask for them. (2) Jen Dingman mentioned that at Platt's screening, they ran out of "child" tickets so she paid for an "adult" ticket for her child. Also it was standing room only and you needed to be on a list to go in. (3) If both Eisenhower and Creekside would like to partner with MMS, do we have enough room to accommodate these families and does any potential Manhattan discount apply to these families? Note: We can fit 375 into our auditorium.

Potential Dates: Maybe a Tuesday in April. April 11?

PARCC testing -- Week before Spring Break; CMAS will be in 8th grade block day.

See "Committee Reports" section below for DPC (District Planning Committee) and BVGT (Boulder Valley Gifted & Talented). Also Phyllis Ashe submitted a TAG program report to the PTO.

Next scheduled PTO meeting: Monday March 6, 2017 6:30 to 8:00pm

Committee Reports – *submitted in advance of the meeting*

TripTracker (Jennifer Saal)

Trip Trackers is starting up again after a small break over the holidays. Trip logs are generally sent out the first week of the month. Be checking your emails early February. Your child should also receive an email to their school email. Either person can fill out the logs. Distribution typically happens mid month. We will continue to distribute the earned dollars in the cafeteria. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Saal at jennifersaal@sbcglobal.net

Magic Phoenix (Darcy Fan)

We sent out the tax letters. Yeah!

What to do w/ surplus funds?

Club funding - possibly ask clubs if they need supplies

FYI- we are the only school that I know of that doesn't charge for clubs

Grocery cards (Darcy Fan)

Just short of \$5,000 min. for KS so no money for Dec. should get something for Jan. No one appears to be using Safeway card

BVGT (Darcy Fan)

- 2/15 at 7PM Manhattan Middle School
Speaker Ian Byrd on Creating 21st Century Innovators
- 2/24 Keynote speaker Nadia Webb at the Beyond Giftedness Conference in Arvada go to BVGT.org website for more information
- 3/8 7PM Summit Middle School will show movie with panel discussion
2e: Twice Exceptional Film Viewing

Community Dinner

Mt. Everest Cuisine raised \$200

Next Dinner at Chipotle on Pearl St. REVISED date is Wednesday February 22 – We moved the date back a week to avoid a conflict with 8th grade transition nights at BHS and FHS.

District Planning Committee (David Gould)

Meeting notes from the 01.18 meeting are attached. A majority of the discussion centered on the upcoming State Assessment Tests. Our next meeting is scheduled for 02.15.17. Please let me know if you have questions about this.

District Parent Council Meeting Minutes
1/18/17

- I. A majority of the meeting was spent discussing the upcoming Colorado State Assessment Tests - Jonathan Dings is the BVSD person in charge of the BVSD Assessment Testing programs

1. Link regarding testing dates & opt out for 2017 testing period
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/13UVkaIvD_h_FC8vVbSOLEwGxgTi2QMN_Yqtbo-3A-Sik/edit?usp=sharing
2. Parent discussions/Questions w/ Jonathan Dings:
 - Why doesn't BVSD make a stronger message about their stance on testing?
 - BVSD cannot actively discourage students from taking test per restriction of legislation. But, BVSD must make everyone aware of how to opt out of the testing.
 - The "Every Student Succeeds Act" was reestablished out of No Student Left Behind Act- <https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=ft> still contains federally mandated participation requirements and it is unknown the impact on education funds for districts that don't meet those requirements.
 - Elementary test time requirement still seems quite large, why can't there be less testing?
 - Why do 3rd & 4th Graders have to type their answers on the English Language Arts Tests? Are we testing for writing skills or computer/keyboard skills? ? How do we as parents address the need for tests? Etc.
3. Data-warehouse (VisLab) is now available to school admin & teachers. Hopefully making it easier for school to access assessment info and see trends in the data of students.

II. Superintendent Update:

4. School financing a big concern this legislative year. The Negative Effect most likely to increase.
 - <http://www.bvsd.org/communications/blu/Pages/Jan202017LegUpdate.aspx>
5. BVSD very lucky that Operational Levy passed as this will lessen the impact of possibly reduced funding for the 2017-2018 school year.
6. BVSD graduation rate still nearly 20 points higher than national average
 - <http://www.bvsd.org/news/Pages/graduationRates2016.aspx>
7. BVSD Budget for 2017-2018 – the process in full swing.
 - Presentation from DAC to BVSD Board - identified the 2 top items for funding are Social Emotional Learning (Counselors in school) and Equity

III. Bond Update & Innovation Update: Rob Price, Kiffany Lychock and Dave Eggen

8. Link to Bond Program: <http://bond.bvsd.org/Pages/index.aspx>
9. Phases are progressing quickly and will continue to move ahead because construction industry is very competitive right now and want to stay ahead of the need.
10. MMS budget is \$10.143 million, plus an additional \$400K for the innovation lab.
11. To date a large portion of the innovation \$'s are being used Library renovations and creative/learning furniture.

Next DPC meeting date: Wednesday, Feb 15th 2017 @ 6:30pm in the Aspen Room

Talented & Gifted Program Update (Phyllis Ashe)

MMS Spelling Bee Champion

How many students participated ?

Reid Hunter (7) will compete in the local spelling bee Sat. Feb. 25 at Platt

MMS Geo Bee

19 students participated

Aiden Smith-Fattor will compete at the State Bee at DU in March if he is one of the top 100 on the State Bee Qualifying Test

Brain Bowl (already announced last meeting)

The 6th Grade Brain Bowl Team will participate in the Brain Bowl Championship Tournament after winning 5th place overall in the 6th grade category at the North Region Brain Bowl in January. Only the top 6 teams in each grade level are invited to participate in the Championship Tournament in Denver on February 25. Congratulations to Lucy Harrison, Mia Jones, Nichole Loran, Franny Parker, Aislinn Troxell, and Sydney Wu, who comprise the 6th grade team.

The TAG Group project, funded by the Magic Phoenix, will be unveiled on February 14 in the hallway between the Gym and the Cafeteria. A group of students programmed the music notes with the help of Noah H. Moritz, our robotics coach and engineering expert. A large group of TAG students have been working on the project since December. The Latino Leadership group contributed the artwork for the project. Thank you Magic Phoenix and the PTO for making this exciting project possible. Please stop by Manhattan during the day on February 14 for the unveiling of the Hallway Symphony.

The Robotics Club is thrilled with their new EV3's purchased by the PTO. They are working as a club on an M & M sorter. The new EV3's have a light sensor that can distinguish colors which is where the idea for an M&M sorter began.

First Tech Team, the Terror Bytes placed 3rd in both State Qualifiers that they attended. They will compete at the State Tournament in two weeks.

Conferences: TAG Student's ALP goal sheet will be available to view during conferences. They will be placed in a file in front of the TAG office, located in the back of the Library, alphabetized by students last names. TAG Advisor, Phyllis Ashe, will be available during the February 16th conference times only.