

**PTO AGENDA FOR JANUARY 9, 2016 MEETING**  
**6:30 TO 8:00 PM IN MMS LIBRARY**

**In attendance:** Karen Gall, Natalie Pratt, Darcy Fan, Shannon Collier, Jen Rieger, Persia Houston, John Riggs, Loli Hudson, Barb Miller , Sarah Blackford

**Welcome & Introductions:** Karen Gall

**Principal's Report:** John Riggs

Bilingual Program

- Mr. Riggs is excited about the Bilingual Pathways program that begins next year. It will initially begin with 6<sup>th</sup> grade only, each year adding a new grade level – in three years all grades will have the program.
- Mr. Riggs handed out a sample schedule for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the program will have LA and reading during one period so that these students don't need to give up an elective. For example at Casey 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the bilingual program do not have PE.
- Information at the program is out at Uni Hill, Columbine and Pioneer. This program is for native English speakers who were part of bilingual elementary program and native Spanish speakers.

**Bond**

- Mr. Riggs presented large format photos/schematics of the construction for the bond. The new gymnasium is included in these. Starred areas on the schematic have major things happening to the building.
- There are two courtyards that will have a lot of work done. The one near the cafeteria will have a raised stage with outdoor seating. The other courtyard, the Encourage Courtyard, will be quieter for reflective work. This courtyard will not be disruptive to classrooms around it. The Science courtyard will have very little work happening.
- The library will have a lot of changes, video production lab, walls blown out, innovative space with furniture that allows us to flex the space into different ways. This will encourage more classes to use the library. We are hoping for possibly three classes in library at once. There will be a large TV, a lot of glass, more light, windows/light from the courtyard. There will be a small group room, a center office will be student/group work room. There will also be Professional Development for teachers to learn how to use the room/space. We are trying to bump up the ceiling in the library as well. TBD. Mr. Riggs will be able to buy 32 chrome books for library bc we are getting rid of computer lab.
- The Cafeteria will be new. There will be sound barriers to absorb some of the happy student noise.
- New gym – There will be a full size high school gym with seating for 300 people. We will be able to hold different events in there. There will be a hallway to get to the new gym, new bathrooms, coaches office/bathroom with shower. Dance studio is staying as is. There will be a new outdoor b-ball court that will be added next to the new gym.
- There will be updated security throughout the school including security cameras installed all over outside.
- Time frame – Construction will be finished and school will be ready to go when school starts next fall. Construction will start right after school gets out in May. They may ask us to close library two weeks early. The new gym may start next month so we might have to shift lunch recess to front of building. In general, if it doesn't interrupt instruction, construction may start earlier.

- Everything that was voted on for the bond has to be completed because they were things that were promised in the vote.
- There will also be a new sewer line installed. Jen Rieger suggested Aqua line – instead of replacing pipes - install liner and then pvc – don't have to remove clay pipes or kill trees/dig up spaces. Denver based company. Mr. Riggs to look into this option.

**Teachers' Report:** Sarah Blackford, Barb Miller

- Sarah – We now have enough milk caps to turn them in and get reimbursement. Not sure on timing for reimbursement.
- Barb - Libby Black is very interested in doing a field trip for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to see Hidden Figures – the new movie about math and civil rights. Barb called the theater and found out it will be \$10/student to go to the movie. There are 166 8<sup>th</sup> graders which would be \$1600 plus 3 buses would be needed. This would be a total of more than \$2000. There was discussion about waiting to buy the video and then watch the movie at school. Teachers could then have time to front load the movie with instruction.
- There was discussion about possibly doing a fundraiser at the Winter Social to raise money for the movie theater. Maybe go to Cinnebar? Jen Rieger will try to go in to the theater to talk about getting a student rate for this field trip.
- A morning in February on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday could work. 9:15 is the earliest the buses can get to Manhattan. It was decided that since it's a field trip, students who can pay will pay and there will be a percentage that will be scholarship.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Gall

- We are \$4212 over where we were last month for Magic Phoenix. Mr. Riggs can go out to teachers to get more requests from teachers on how they want to spend this extra money. Do we spend money on one or two big things, or each teacher makes requests if they have them. PTO just wants to touch as many kids as possible.
- Maybe Miss Smith needs things for her Maker Space?
- Teachers can submit their request from the website or come present to PTO if it's a bigger item.
- Loli suggested looking into the marquis for the outside of the building or a marquis on the front of the building might be less expensive? The marquis was discussed a few years ago but was just too expensive.
- Manhattan's first Lucky's check for came in for \$63. King Soopers is up 19%.
- Karen proposed closing the savings account and running all money through the checking account. Motion is passed.
- School store – food is up 156%. Clothing is flat. We've sold clothing at a discount rate so this means we've sold more clothing at this point. This does include all sprit wear giveaways for MP. School store is up overall.
- This year we've spent \$323 on clubs. There are three upcoming community dinners for club fundraisers. Dates listed at the bottom of the notes.
- Karen resigned as Treasurer for next year. She will continue to be active in the PTO. Duties are roughly 1-2 hours per week. MP is a busier time, but overall not more than that.

**Discussion Topics:**

**Winter Social**

- Persia – Sending out signup genius for sprinkles etc. donations. We are hoping that Alchemy will be donating all ice cream. 360 leaders are very involved with helping assist/station work for that night's work. We really don't need volunteers for scooping etc. There will be a lot going on that night including ice cream/popcorn, sandwich making for Robotics, and a salsa competition.

- Darcy suggests we pre-scoop and freeze or set out the ice cream the earlier. Maybe 30 minutes earlier than the event.
- Darcy has received a Sphero/Spark – BB8 from Star Wars and Wristband (\$60-\$80). Maybe we could do a drawing for this donated merchandise from Darcy at the Winter Social.
- There was a discussion about doing a silent auction and putting up student artwork to auction off, as well as donated merchandise. Decided that students are empowered to pay their own money to participate in the drawing more than the silent auction where parents are paying. Teachers can let the kids know about the drawing.
- Sandwich making – Jen Rieger suggested we bring canned goods in to donate instead of doing sandwiches? Maybe kids can bring in canned goods as their admission/payment to the winter social to give to the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless.

### **Open Enrollment**

- Closes Tuesday, Jan 10 at 4:00. Mr. Riggs will know how things are looking soon.
- He will know FTE before Spring Break.
- Two teachers have already gotten jobs at the new Erie school, including Sarah Blackford.
- Mr. Riggs will know more next month.

### **Volunteers Needed**

- See below

### **Committee Reports:**

- Magic Phoenix Wrap Up: Darcy Fan
  - Getting tax letters ready to send. Loli will get to it next week. Karen needs to get her piece organized as well.
- Projects Committee: Shannon Collier – nothing to report
- Science & Music Gardens: Jennifer Dingman – not present
- Community Dinners: Cathi Wielgus/Julie Chang – not present
- Trip Tracker: Jennifer Saal
  - January is typically a down month. It will pick back up in Feb
- Winter Social: Persia Houston – listed above

### **District and Community Representatives:**

- David Gould — DPC (District Planning Committee)
- Jamie Baker — DAC (District Accountability Committee)
  - Meeting tonight. Working on budgets, exec committee meeting, spending recommendations go to the board tomorrow.
- Melissa Geller Sharman – SAC (School Accountability Committee)
- Darcy Fan – BVGT (Boulder Valley Gifted & Talented)
  - Feb 15 from 7-9 Ian Byrd, Innovative Thinking. He is an amazing speaker according to Phyllis Ash.
  - Nadia Web, wife of Jim Web, coming in Feb to Beyond Gifted Conference. Darcy will get flyers out soon.
  - TAG at Manhattan Brain Bowl previous Sat and they did really well. 6<sup>th</sup> graders find out next week if they make it to championships.
  - Informational meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled.
  - Manhattan parents are the best parents – super-supportive, and super-chill!

### **Volunteering Opportunities:**

- \*\* PTO Secretary (take minutes during the meetings) –

- Thanks to Nicole Wobus for her past year of volunteering as the PTO Secretary. Still wants to be involved in PTO.
- Grocery/OZO Cards (probably 1 hour/month)
- Winter Social (January volunteers)
- PEN representative (Parent Engagement Network) –
  - Nathalie Pratt volunteered. ☺
  - There was a discussion about Screenagers documentary – has it been played too much in the community? Is there a time in February/March? Would want to have the panel after the movie. Engaging the parent community to bring people together.
- Website (probably 1-2 hr/month, volunteer from home) –
  - Nathalie Pratt volunteered. ☺
  - Darcy mentioned that Aidan Warner?, a student in multimedia, was excited to maintain the website.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- There was a discussion about recruiting volunteers and how we start that inclusion process earlier. How do we let families know how fun it can be and how we really do need their support. It's different support than in elementary school.
- Creating community events like the Winter Community Social might be a good way to bring families together in a more social way and also get volunteers. Include everyone instead of just the kids.
- In the flyer for the social, make sure the family is invited too.
- There was discussion about using evite but due to privacy rules, we don't think this an option. Nathalie Pratt was going to test an idea with Mr. Riggs about sending an evite to Mr. Riggs and he then forwards it to the community. Maybe this is possible.
- Is signup genius enough of an invite or way to be included?
- At parent/teacher conferences PTO got a lot of one on one time with the parents when we were selling gear and pushing MP. This was including them and informing them.
- Karen suggested doing something at the new 6<sup>th</sup> grade event in the spring that includes parents too.
  
- There was also discussion about doing a "Thank You" to the parents – maybe host something for the parents – have teachers talk to the parents and connect. Barb was going to follow up on this with the staff.

### **Other Comments or Questions – Open Time for Anyone**

#### Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 22            Community Sunday Lunch Buffet at Mount Everest (20%), 11am to 2pm
- Feb. 7             Winter Community Social/Salsa Tasting Contest
- Feb. 15           Community Dinner at Chipotle (919 Pearl St), 5 to 9pm – benefits Sante Fe Trip
- Mar. 12 to 18    Community Fundraiser at Wahoo Fish Taco, all day/all week - benefits Robotics

#### **Next scheduled PTO meetings:**

- February 6, 8:45-9:45am
- March 6, 6:30-8pm
- April 3, 8:45-9:45am
- May tbd