

Manhattan Middle School

PTO Meeting #1

September 12, 2016

PARTICIPANTS

Co-Chairs: Julie Chang, (8th) (; Shannon Collier (7th), Karen Gall, (8th and 6th - Cole and Julia Ronkowski); Darcy Fan (2 kids); Nicole Wobus (7th)

Additional Participants: Kim Youngren (8th, incoming 6th next yr); Jenn Hardee (7th), Diana Lane (6th), Wendy Baumert (6th), Laura Lambrecht (6th), Natalie Pratt (6th)

Faculty / Administration: John Riggs, Loli Hudson, Barb Miller

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions: Julie Chang

Principal's Report: John Riggs

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

Treasurer's Report: Karen Gall

Committee Reports:

- Magic Phoenix (Manhattan's Major Fundraiser): Darcy Fan
- Projects Committee: Shannon Collier
- Science & Music Gardens: Jennifer Dingman
- Community Dinners: Julie Volckens
- Trip Tracker: Lori Winslow

District and Community Representatives:

- OPEN — DPC
- Jamie Baker — DAC
- Melissa Geller Sharman — SA
- Darcy Fan — BVGT

Volunteering Opportunities:

- Magic Phoenix (another co-chair, volunteers)
- Grocery/OZO Cards (probably 1 hour/month from home)
- School Store (coordinator, volunteers to work the store)

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

Other Comments or Questions –open time for anyone

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 13 Picture Retakes
- Sept. 14 360 at Eisenhower
- Sept. 19 & 20 All-day Community Dinner at Beau Jo's (20%)
- Sept. 23 Magic Phoenix Envelope Stuffing – volunteers needed
- Oct. 1 – 31 Magic Phoenix Fundraiser
- Oct. 3 – 7 6th grade Keystone Science School Trip
- Oct. 10 No School/Professional Development Day
- Oct. 10 – 14 Tall Ships Trip
- Oct. 20 & 25 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Next scheduled PTO meeting: TBD

Community Dinners

- August 31 – ModMarket will be donating \$97.90 to the PTO
- September 19 & 20 – Beau Jo's (all day) – 20% of proceeds, will include gift card purchases
- October – OPEN
- November 7 – Next Door (5-9pm) – 50% of proceeds
- December 5 – tentative CPK (submitted request, waiting on corporate approval)
- January – Mount Everest in Meadows Shopping Center (Sunday lunch buffet for MMS only)

NOTES

Principal's Report (John Riggs)

- Music Garden: Jennifer Dingman has led the effort; \$8k has been spent, 2 instruments have been installed, along with weeding work and mulching.
- Ballot Measure 3A- Proposed Mill Levy:
 - Mill levy ballot item on November ballot (measure 3A),
 - Ballot measure approved August 23;
 - State law changed allowing schools in CO to seek additional revenue; Currently operating on a bond program.
 - 2016-17 budget - \$33.4M. Mill levy funds would amount to about 1/3 of that. Any funds coming from mill levy would free up funds from the regular budget to be spent on other things.
 - Cap is 4 mills; can go up 1 mill per year over 4 years.
 - It would be a permanent new funding source, allowed to go up to 4 mills by 2020

- Unique benefits relative to current bond funds: provide ongoing funds for preventive maintenance and repairs, add more teachers, provide better teacher compensation / retention, etc.
- Handout brochure summarizes what funds could pay for.
- Can be spent on preventive maintenance, technology and capital improvements.
- Will start bond work on school in December.
- BVSD will be adding gym to Manhattan. The fact that a new gym was not added yet was an oversight; all other middle schools have regulation sized gyms and/or second auxiliary gyms, (some new) whereas MMS's current gym is slightly larger than other school's auxiliary gyms.
- Marijuana funds are not available to support BVSD (\$40 million state tax revenues). Those funds will go to other school districts in greater need than BVSD.
- Q&A:
 - Q: With list of deferred maintenance, probably bond won't address all of it; A: This money has to be spent on 3 specified areas, when funds freed up it can be spent on other things. Initial bond- would have been \$800M to cover all needs; voters approved \$500M instead.
 - Q: Will somebody be replacing Mr. Feeney for Bike club? A: No leader has surfaced yet. Julie- recalls huge group of bikers a few years ago. Was very popular.
 - Q: Summary of new staff for this school year? A: One replacement science teacher (Grant Safranek); one replacement math/science teacher (Mark Wright); another part-time math (Michele Billingsley) (sharing with Platt). Phyllis Ashe (new TAG advisor). MMS had been ID'd as TAG lab school, but didn't have resources – now have; Success Program was a separate hire (Sandra Salazar) @ 20 hrs / wk. Need to do a great job w/ TAG program to retain that FTE. MMS will be hosting Jim Webb talk on 9/25 for a BVGT (TAG) community event – Webb is the founder of SENG (supporting emotional needs of the gifted).

Teachers' Report (Barb Miller)

- Teachers are very appreciative of the resources provided by Magic Phoenix fundraiser last year, and the work of the projects committee.

Treasurer's Report (Karen Gall)

- Current funds provide a good starting point
- August – good income from school store, registration sales (clothing, etc.)
- Minimal expenses- supplies, etc.
- See separate balance sheet

Committee Reports

Magic Phoenix:

- Goal is \$30k for this year

- Teachers request funds for classroom; maximum request \$1,000 per teacher.
- Sept 23 will do mass mailing prep; take to PO on 26th
- Teachers take part in promotional activities
- Need volunteers to fund raise
- Phoenix progress banner- will re-use banner from last year
- Heavy fundraising push during October
- Need to get fundraising letter approved. Letter was approved.
- Last year raised \$37k, but fewer students this year. This year at 460-470 this year (was 520 last year). Think this is a reasonable goal.
- Last year fundraising amounted to \$71 / student. This year's target would be ~\$65 / student.
- There was about 50% substantive participation, but was closer to 100% w/ small contributions.
- Some teachers didn't submit requests and still got funds.

Community Dinners (Julie Chang, Jenn Hardee):

- Jenn Hardee did a lot of scheduling work but is not able to remain the community dinner planner for the remainder of the year. Julie Volckens has agreed to take over.
- Modern Market- first event for the year – raised \$97.90 across 21 receipts.
- Upcoming – Next Door: last year made \$400 for Manhattan (Creekside made \$800)- will do on take out too. Will do on gift cards?
- Next dinner on 9/19 and 20. Beau Jos will do gift card purchases- will do all day. Ok if just mention. 2 days.
- October open- had hoped to get Under the Sun- but will get them for November and January.
- Have verbal agreement with Mt. Everest. Will open restaurant to just Manhattan for Sunday buffet. Haven't ever done it before.
- Gondolier- trying to get lined up.
- Chipotle- have to schedule beyond 3 months.
- Put names in queue for Whole Foods- could be a 3 year wait.
- Lucky's in south Boulder- may be willing to offer bag credit.
- Lucky's has grocery card too.
- How to disperse funds? In past has been by request.
- Discussed at end of year that it would be spent primarily on clubs. Last year there were also 2 special requests for which allocated community dinner funds. Did designate one dinner last year for the art club trip.
- Right now rolls into general fund.
- Last year allocated \$1,400 for clubs.
- \$550 went to art club. Requests are likely to come later in year.
- Request should be made at PTO meeting and approved.
- No restricted funds- just one pot of money for whole PTO. So requesting funding is for gen fund. Currently not set up to link specific fundraiser to specific club.
- If someone wanted to set up procedure for dispersing to clubs, that could be put before the PTO for discussion.

- Should there be a limit, based on size of group, how many kids participating, etc.?
- Math counts got some funding from PTO. That club uses Benevity funds to support “Donations for Doers”.
- If clubs make request for community dinner- PTO might match up to certain amount. Club would do advertising.
- It was suggested that there could be a date set for clubs to submit funding requests for the year. It would provide a “cliff” date and may help focus the community on putting forward club ideas they may have been considering.
- A small group will have a conversation with Mr. Graham to gain a better understanding of all the clubs should be funded, with a focus on fairness.
- Nicole, Karen and others will follow up and talk to Brent Graham.

School Gear:

- Biggest sales at Registration were size small.
- Suggestion for future: Have a sample set available but put most inventory online. Currently carrying much too large inventory.
- Louisville Middle School does everything through RevTrack.
- Karen proposes one that’s used by Fairview, Boulder High; has Nike gear; Southern Hills uses different system. She will provide a proposal at the next meeting.
- No sales taxes when purchase online.
- Propose promotional sales of gear for two weeks at beginning of the year, and holidays.
- Difference in prices? There is a markup on current items as well. Wide range of prices for items offered.
- Give away school gear as a promotion for Magic Phoenix fundraising milestone amounts. Consensus support.

Projects Committee:

- Shannon Collier
 - Teachers request projects for parents to help with so they can focus on teaching.
 - Have group of volunteers helping.
 - Got several sign ups from registration day.
 - Teacher door signs (teacher names), black boards, etc.

TripTracker: Lori Winslow

- Trip Tracker has started this year at Manhattan! Students are keeping track of their alternate trips to and from school for the month of September and will be reporting them from the 1st of October through the 11th. The Trip Tracker office is going to bundle the reward dollars and sort them by students’ study hall teachers and deliver them to the office. A student aid will distribute them to study hall teachers on the 19th.
- During the reporting week each month, Lori is looking for volunteers to go into the lunch room and help kids report. Our goal for this year is 126 kids reporting each month. That is about 105 over last year. If you can help, contact Lori Winslow at icecreamalchemy@msn.com.

District and Community Representatives:

- District Accountability Committee (DAC) representative update (Jamie Baker, submitted by email)
 - Jamie serves as the representative for Manhattan and Creekside Elementary. This is Jamie' 4th year as a DAC rep and this year Jamie was elected to serve on the DAC Executive Team.
 - The District Accountability Committee (DAC) meets the first Tuesday of each month and the first meeting was held on September 6th. The group discussed an overview of DAC responsibilities, norms, and meeting models as well as a general outline of topics to be covered over the course of the year including:
 - Graduation Guidelines Updates
 - BVSD District Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) Review
 - District Budget Recommendations
 - Review of District Accountability Data
 - DAC Working with School Accountability Committees
 - The group also heard a 20 minute review presentation over the new/upcoming Graduation Guidelines that will be in place for the class of 2021 (the same presentation that was reviewed at the Community Forums hosted at Middle Schools earlier this month). DAC presented the district personnel that were present with questions DAC has related to the current proposed guidelines and will revisit at the October Meeting.
 - DAC spent the majority of the time discussing effective ways for DAC representatives to interact with their School Accountability Committees (SAC). Mr. Riggs and I have a meeting scheduled later this week to go over details and discuss this further as it pertains to Manhattan. Stay tuned for more on that!
If you have any further questions about DAC, please feel free to email me! jamiemariebaker@yahoo.com
- Boulder Valley District Parent Council (DPC) representative is David Gould. Responsibilities include attending meetings with superintendent; Good opportunity to learn what other schools are doing and bring that information back to Manhattan.
 - PC met September 14. Discussion topics included the November's 3A Ballot measure regarding the implementation of Mill Levies to fund a portion of the District's operational costs, the school calendar and the ideal school day. [See David's meeting notes at the end of these meeting minutes.]
 - David would like to solicit questions from anyone, school admin, teachers, and parents prior to the meeting so that he can present at subsequent meetings. It's a great opportunity as the School Board's Senior Leadership is in attendance.
 - Contact info: david@mshopper.com

Volunteer Opportunities

- Grocery Cards: need assistance, 1 hour / month
- School store: after school every day 15 min; fun- current volunteers have been doing it for 3 years
- Winter social needs a lead- January

- PTO website- 95% updated
- PEN representative- Parent Engagement Network- community group, host talks; would function as liaison for PEN.

Other

Scheduling:

- PTO meeting times: Typically do 2nd Monday of the month. In October, 2nd Monday is Columbus Day.
- Consistently night time? Karen: At Creekside alternated between evenings and mornings- had more involvement from parent community overall because could draw on broader population. Made morning meetings 1 hour long.
- **Next meeting: 10/18. School start time. John will send Brent.**
- Tuesdays generally John's hardest day with meetings.

Clubs:

- Manhattan Rocks- singing club: New; led by professional musicians Ashley Hansen and Brian Laidlaw; had one informational session so far and the club will start meeting regularly on September 21 on Wednesday mornings. Nicole Wobus (nwobus@gmail.com) can provide more information.
 - Given the program structure used for electives at Manhattan many students choose a focus area and don't have an opportunity to participate in more than one art discipline at school. However, many kids at the school have a strong interest in a variety of different arts disciplines. Some parents feel it is important to offer additional artistic opportunities in the form of clubs so art-focused students have an opportunity to explore multiple art disciplines through the school / extra-curricular experience.
- **Destination Imagination – needs a new leader(s)**; District will fully fund this club and provides a great deal of support (Darcy)

Next Steps

- More information to come soon on separate meetings for Magic Phoenix fundraiser planning, and requests for assistance needed
- Develop a plan for using community dinners to fund clubs. Meeting w/ Mr. Graham about clubs- Darcy, Karen, Shannon, Nicole
- Identify a new community dinner lead
- **Next meeting: 10/18. 8:45-9:45. Mr. Graham will represent John Riggs.**

I.

APPENDIX.

BOULDER VALLEY DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL (DPC)

SEPTEMBER 14 2016 MEETING NOTES

A. 2016/2017 AND 2017/2018 PRELIMINARY CALENDARY DISCUSSION (SANDY RIPPLINGER ASST SUPERINTENDENT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

1. Calendar approval cycles - every 2 years
2. Coordinated with CU
3. Members of council are not allowed to report details of calendar back to school, other than saying that the calendars are nearly identical to the current school year calendar

B. IDEAL SCHOOL DAY INITIATIVE

1. Details about the current Ideal School day are accessible at <http://www.bvsd.org/idealschoolday/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Some of the ideal school day recommendations.
3. Longer periods for recess - at elementary
4. Longer periods for lunch - at elementary
5. Later start for all high schools. Right now, Boulder and Fairview have later starts
6. A lot of ideas are being held up by transportation schedules. New transportation director - he/she is working on a new schedule - changing transportation schedule always cost money - trying hard to bring costs down.
7. 17/18 is goal for implementing the ideal school day
8. Feedback on the Ideal School Day - open for feedback. There will be forums
9. The process that led to current recommendations was "Research based" - task force goals are on the website.

C. BVSD 2016 OPERATIONAL LEVY - IT WILL BE INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER BALLOT. ON 8.23.2016 BVSD APPROVED A RESOLUTION- BALLOT MEASURE 3A WHICH WILL BE VOTED ON 11.8.2016

1. 7. Mill levy can only be used for funding operational activities, not capital construction bonds. Think maintenance, custodial, etc
2. There are 33.4 million in current general fund expenditures that can be reallocated as a result of the levy. Monies in current general fund that may be freed up by the levy can be used elsewhere at the discretion of the Board
3. Mil - one mil = 5.9 million dollars of tax revenue based on current assessed value
4. The cost of the 2016/2017 levy for a \$500K value house is projected at \$70 per year in tax increase. The levy can increase by up to 1 mil every year for the next four years. Total increase cannot exceed 4 mils.
5. The levy is perpetual if approved.
6. District gets no marijuana revenues. Funds go to districts with low assessed values. GOOD
7. Colorado is one of the most underfunded public education systems in the country

D. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND.

1. Phase 1 is mostly complete
2. Phase 2 design is ongoing with construction slated for Summer 2017

E. AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL - NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND IS GOING AWAY. TO BE SUPERSEDED BY THE "EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT"

1. New regulations coming soon.
2. Schools districts have input.
3. There will be more state level autonomy
4. Testing is still in there...

NEXT MEETING IN ONE MONTH.
