

Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes
February 3, 2023, 8:30am

Attendees

Anna Abboud, April Busch, Carrie Simpson, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner, Julie Saurit, Kristen Reiss, Madlena Blagalia, Megan Maguire, Melanie Love, Michelle Kalinski, Paige Leonard, Pete Minor, Sunny van der Star

Introductions

- Shared one thing we value about our kids experience at Mesa:
Community X 10, leadership, care for each others children, teachers know the kids, skills of the teachers, paraprofessionals that actually execute the plan, staff/support, modern values, the way that the kindergarten teachers have come together to support the kids, South Boulder community, Josh, kids love it here, staff recognizing kids for who they are

Budget Update from Anna

- Mesa thrives, with corporate matching, is on track to cover our paraprofessionals
 - Thrives only covers paras, other PTO events for the year go to other budget items
 - We need to increase messaging, let the parents know if/when Thrives is met and paraprofessionals are covered
- Have \$93K in our bank account
 - Remaining expenses:
 - \$58-\$60K
 - \$20K; per bylaws we have to carry over 20% of operational budget
- Leaves \$10-\$15K to spend for the year, it's a surplus from 2021/2022
 - Megan reiterated this is a one time surplus, not ongoing
- Anna mentioned we ask the school what they want, and also want to use the money that benefits the most kids

Extra Funds idea - Converting Garden Space

- One idea is a feasibility assessment of repurposing the space where the garden is into a seating area with picnic tables (permanent tables, benches, sun cover, little library, etc).
- Garden has not worked as intended
- This would be a space for lunch but also outdoor lessons and different programs within the school could use the space (e.g. a sensory pod)
- Sunny has taken on re-imagining it as a community space, gave a brief update:
 - Covid taught us a lot about the benefits of outdoor space
 - Garden isn't being used, water doesn't even go there anymore
 - Put down 6 picnic tables, reconfigure the pergola - get rid of table, put in U-shaped seating, umbrellas for table, bird feeders, adding some color, if we put in concrete then paint it, lots of rocks/stumps to sit on, nature gathering spot
 - Call it the Mesa Oasis?
 - Open to all sorts of suggestions
 - Thinks we can accomplish a solid phase 1 within the budget

- Have Sunny send out plans?
- Would highly appreciate parents in the community who have any specialization.
- There would be a subsequent vote once there is a more detailed estimate.
- Pete mentioned some parents would like to have a Spanish option, whether it be paraprofessional, or before/after school option
 - Josh mentioned maybe it's a Lifelong Learning deficit, maybe could be added there
- Carrie made a motion to vote on feasibility assessment only (not allocation of budget) of outdoor space
 - Michelle seconded
 - It was unanimous
 - When we vote on the final plans, make sure it's well known to the community

Eldorado Spring Water update by Anna

- Eldorado water CEO had 4 kids go through Mesa
- Charging us \$5/gallon; roughly \$40-\$60/month
- If you have a big event, don't go to Costco, call him
- April mentioned how it's already made such an impact to the teachers

Principal's Report

- Jill to post Josh's enrollment email on Nextdoor
- Superintendent Dr. Anderson visit
 - Came by last Friday for visit with teachers
 - Does an annual visit to each school
 - Message is that we're holding steady, good financial position in the district, sense of stability - leadership, financial, etc
 - Visit went very well, rich conversation with Mesa
 - General sense of how we feel about Mesa is how leadership also perceives Mesa
- Enrollment
 - 9 open enrollment kinders, 5 were siblings
 - Have 15 kinders enrolled right now, magic number is 30
 - Better than how we are usually doing at this point in time but it's still early to know where our numbers will land.
 - Dual enrollment has pretty strong rules about canvassing, etc
 - Josh is going to see from those who came to our enrollment tours, did they sign up for Mesa?
 - Only 1 in-coming 1st grader
 - We can continue messaging to friends, family neighbors about enrollment (cannot do canvassing, flyers, etc).
 - During the early open enrollment window kids would land a spot in Mesa whereas in the May timeframe they may be waitlisted
- A lot of family involvement across different initiatives at Mesa
 - DEI & FET, families educators together
 - Families typically under-represented, open to anyone
 - Now in year 2, getting momentum
 - Theme of communications, calling it a FAQ

- The FET families are generating really good questions that we never thought of, questions that may not be getting addressed today in typical FAQs
 - Lunch with kids?
 - If you're a family that enrolls in the middle of the year
- Preschool
 - There will be at least 1 preschool class at Mesa in the fall
 - Some amount of room shifting as they will be using one of the rooms
 - Need more communication about pre-school coming to Mesa.
 - Paige asked Josh to send a big announcement that we're going to have preschool, celebrate and promote it
- Communication
 - Megan asked, do we for sure have a mesa rep at each preschool?
 - Josh said all preschools were willing to take our flyer

DEI

- Next DEI meeting, Thur Feb 9 at 3pm in the library
 - Good one for people who have never come before, brainstorming meeting
- Feb 16, 6:00-7:00 BVSD youth equity council to speak
 - Council is a two year old group of middle and high schoolers of color, doing advocacy work all around the districts
 - They will talk about what it's like to be a student of color in BVSD
 - Inviting parents of Mesa, Bear Creek, 4th & 5th graders; parent discretion if you want to invite younger kids
 - Child care provided; RER readers to be with younger kids

Multicultural event update by Anna

- New date: Thursday May 11
- 8 families have signed up
 - Need more families to sign up to represent a culture, and also need more volunteers, in order to have event
- \$1000-\$1500 from PTO to fund event
 - Funds will be raised by fun run

Fun Run update by Michelle

- Wednesday April 19
 - Before field day so hopefully the two won't be confused with each other
- Planning underway
- To support community building at Mesa
- Will have stickers to mark kids laps
- Cones will mark distance for kids also participating in the run club.
- Michelle will buy more bubble makers, most from last year broke
- Michelle was grateful that the fun run is a low key event regarding funds, that the fun run does not have to raise money to pay paras