

Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes  
April 7, 2023, 8:30am

Attendees

Anna Abboud, April Busch, Carrie Simpson, Holly Martin, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner, Kristen Reiss, Megan Maguire, Michelle Kalinski, Mike Lakritz, Paige Leonard, Rosanna Koren, Sunny van der Star

Introductions

- What is one wish for all/one of your children for the school year?

Fun Run

- Date overlaps with one of the CMAs days
  - Josh to talk to Jacy and upper teachers about timing
  - Update: Times are as follows:
    - Kindergarten - 2nd Grades: 9:45 - 10:30 am
    - 3rd Grade - 5th Grades: 10:45 - 11:30 am
- Kristen ordered the bibs, should have them next Friday the 14th
  - Kristen getting pins
- Not doing a fundraising push
  - Technically is a fundraiser, money goes to multicultural event
  - Information about the run and fundraising going out today in the newsletter
  - On the PTO website, has link
  - Paige making half page flyer for fun run with QR code, Megan buying paper
- Michelle has all the necessary items: bubbles, stickers
  - Michelle mentioned kids should be told to bring water bottle, use sunscreen and wear sneakers day of the race
- April said once we get bibs, teachers at their discretion will have kids decorate them
- April is going to find out if we need sharpies
  - Michelle has some already for marking the bibs, so she can share them with the teachers before the run

District Parent Council

- Mike Lakritz is the Mesa rep, he gave an update
- Last DPC meeting was a few days after the swatting at Boulder High
  - Superintendent and head of security were there
- District installing cameras at all middle schools, are already in high schools
  - Not in any learning areas, mostly outside, entrances, some common areas
  - In November all MS principals asked for cameras
    - MS wants cameras for transparency and accuracy; help in difficult situations and greater safety concerns
  - Cameras not being monitored, strictly reactive
  - Proactive cameras will be coming at some point
- The 911 swatting calls went to CU police, not the district, big rush of CU police, quite a disruption, kids walking to school had nowhere to go
  - The swatting incident exposed some holes in the process

- New curriculum adoption for K-8
  - Director of academic services was there
  - Rolling out literacy curriculum in 2023-2024 in half of the schools, other half in 2024-2025
    - Made decision based on science, how does the brain learn, etc
    - Orton-Gillingham is still a part of it
  - Math curriculum rollout after literacy curriculum rollout is complete
  - Kids who have alternative learning methods will still be included
  - Big change is BVSD has changed the condensed/combined for advanced learners, realized doing two years in 6th grade is rough
  - 3 paths: High support, traditional path, advanced path
    - Advanced path changes from compacted 2 years into 1, will do 1.5 years into 1 year in 6th grade
    - Making it easier for kids to move from traditional pathway into advanced
- Mike's last year as DPC rep for Mesa
  - Can have two reps per school
  - PTO members not allowed

#### FAQ document

- PTO has made a FAQ sheet as there are some things that parents are not aware of
- Megan is going to work with Ms. Moore as she's also working on a FAQ
  - Ms. Moore's is more from the angle of FET families
- Josh and Arlene are looking into redoing Mesa website, right now geared more towards families that are looking to attend Mesa, not families that already attend
  - Want to collectively think about Mesa FAQs for any Mesa family
- Things to include:
  - Direct lines of communication
  - Explain why the PTO asks for funding, ie CO is ranked 48th in state funding, meanwhile Mesa is ranked quite high in the state because of additional funds from various resources, including PTO

#### Mesa Bingo

- Bingo board will most likely be at the second part of back to school night
- PTO will have people at the different tables to answer the bingo questions/squares
- If you have any thoughts/edits about Bingo or the FAQ, please let the PTO know
  - Add infinite campus portal

#### Mesa Mentors/New Mesa Families

- Reimagining the family treehouses
- Information went out in room parents emails, going out in today's newsletter
  - Will send out in the Friday folder
- Will need about 40 people to commit
- Will continue with a Mesa welcome bag
  - May include: shirts, pencil, sticker, tote bag, schedule of next fall activities/events, lunch calendar, welcome note, safe routes to school walking

map, Mesa water bottle stickers maybe, perhaps a letter about the PTO donation - schools are underfunded, mention school clubs - Olympiads, battle of the books (Paige already has a letter, can modify it to for the bag)

- Idea is to send the bag out in June
- Remind teachers that we have welcome bags for kids that join Mesa throughout the year

### Budget Update from Anna

- **May is our budget meeting**
- BVSD hasn't finalized paras cost
- Anna hopes that by May's meeting, we'll know exactly how much money we need for this year, and next
- Using projections, looks like we have \$38K excess
  - won't know until BVSD finalizes costs
  - Only have exact numbers though Dec 15
- We are pretty well balanced
- REALLY advertise the May PTO meeting as it involves the budget
- Spending form: Mesa PTO website home page and fundraising page

### May Meeting

- Mesa Oasis
- April's request for the curriculum (Story works reading materials)
  - Great non-fiction reading, high interest readers tied to the phonics piece
- Christine Chen had specific requests from DEI
  - Anna asked her for the numbers
- Have to vote on the PTO board for next year

### Principal's Report

- Josh is feeling good on the budget pieces, has a tighter understanding for next year
  - 8% COLA for staff
- Priorities feel good on the discretionary meeting
- DEI Piece, has committed to some really good professional development cost
- As preschool is coming, Mesa has been using all the preschool stuff that we got with the last bond measure, now need to give it back to the preschool
  - Might need some extra stuff for the kinder/1st classes who have been using that preschool stuff until now
- CDE 100% driven by CMAs, does percentile ranking by all CO schools
  - Snapshot of test scores, then growth metric piece
  - Growth piece is comparing how kids do versus kids who did the same as them the year before, those kids are put into a cohort and see how they do the following year
  - Mesa is considered high performing school by state and BVSD
    - In high tier of BVSD so we don't get additional funds
    - Pros & cons of being small school: half time counselor and librarian (all PTO funds makes librarian 4 days a week)

- Ideal BVSD is 3 classes per grade, get full time people
- Mesa is always willing to try many things if needed to support a student
  - Expectations will remain for each kid, Mesa will raise support as needed, but expectations will not be lowered
  - Mesa is looking for answer and solution

### Mesa Oasis

- Need to move forward
- Will vote on funds next month
- Anna wants to put expense into budget for Mesa Oasis
  - We will then vote on the budget
- There is a BVSD mandate to do some green/outdoor classroom spaces at schools
- Sunny has already secured:
  - City of Boulder will give us stumps/logs
  - Fuentes will give us boulders
- Other ideas to get free supplies:
  - [Tree give away at McGuckins April 29th](#)
    - Anyone want to try getting Mesa a tree?
  - City of Boulder gives away tulip bulbs
- Might have a CU student will give us a design
- Sunny will go to a teacher meeting to touch base with them for buy in/ideas
  - Gita has a questionnaire that Sunny can use/modify
- Need to talk to Phil McQuaid (Mesa maintenance guy)
- Neighborhood grant is open again

### Earth Day Clean up

- April 21 from 3:00-5:00, clean up at school grounds
- Rosanna and Henry spearheading, they held this event last year
- Rosanna is going to talk to Ana to list in the newsletter