

# Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes

## Oct 6, 2023, 8:30am

### Attendees

Adi Diner, Anna Abboud, Danny (CU), Jade Blakeway, Jenny Zuckerman, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner, Lily (CU), Paige Leonard, Pete Minor, Sarah D-S, Shayna Linn, Slater (CU), Sunny van der Star

### Introductions

- What was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid?

### Principal's report - Josh

- Josh read a thank you note from April Bush, covering:
  - Bottled water
  - Decodable texts
  - \$300 classroom budget for teachers
  - Food on conference nights
  - Paying a volunteer for yearbook support
- CO had extra Covid funds, used it towards Donors Choose as grants
- Josh introduced the CU landscape architect students
  - The CU students have a master plan as part of their project
    - Will have more focus on our main areas
  - 3rd time CU students have been to Mesa, interviewed 4th graders last week for their ideas
  - Anna asked if there would be different budget levels
  - Adi asked if teachers would giving their input
- DEI update:
  - Have funds for DEI through the PTO
  - Staff training around ADHD and executive function
  - Will later have a staff training for neurodiversity and ADHD
  - Reading to End Racism is coming Nov 6
  - District doesn't really have a structure around DEI
    - Can Mesa network to others? Model to other schools that want to start DEI?
  - Mesa's new counselor will handle concerns that parents don't think need to go to the level of the principal yet the student doesn't want the parent to reach out to the teacher and put them in the spotlight
    - BVSD has a very specific checklist if someone uses the word bullying
- Josh reviewed the lockdown/secure buttons, upgraded over the summer
- Mentioned the paraeducator budget
  - Original plan was for ones we always had, but we able to add in additional intervention for math and kindergarten (Vanessa Watson)

### Pete - DPC

- Preschool rollout was reviewed
- The rollout has been difficult, the legislation was rushed, serious turn arounds (hours were cut)
- Preschool was rolled out by 3rd party, not by school districts
- Kind of went with throw it out there, see what works, fix the rest

- As for the program itself, all very positive, people taking part of it are happy
  - No aftercare for preschoolers, probably not going to get fixed soon or ever
- 20% of seats still open
- Open enrollment:
  - BVSD moved to full open enrollment, advocating it
  - Trying to make sure every child gets their first choice
  - 80% of families who wanted open enrollment got it
  - Remaining 20% wanted charter schools and didn't get it
  - BVSD is embracing it to address shrinking enrollment
  - BVSD will not float a school that isn't cutting it
    - Minimum 2 sections per grade
  - Schools should focus on how to differentiate themselves
    - ie STEM focus, language focus, etc
  - When Mesa goes to 9 grade level teachers, then Mesa has to get community together to start talking; currently at 11
  - 30% of BVSD enrollment is open enrollment

#### Thrives - Paige

- Thrives has gone very well
- Hired a 5th para
- 88% participation, \$77.2K raised, \$9500 promised in recurring payments, this does not include any company matches
  - There was a very generous donation to Thrives this year that really helped with our overall raised amount
- This big donation shows that we never truly know what we are going to raise
- Never a hard deadline on donating, PTO will always take funds

#### Budget - Anna

- Didn't go through it, due to time limitations
- Had a copy of the budget in case anyone wanted to see it

#### Fall Fest

- NEED Volunteers
- Pay now online, if you pay ahead of time it'll be easier the night of Fall Fest

#### Vote

- Jill moved to approve May & Sept meeting notes
- Pete seconded
- Approved unanimously

#### Oasis - Sunny updated

- Sunny gave an update on the meeting she went to last night