

Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes

Nov 3, 2023, 8:30am

Attendees

Adi Diner, Anna Abboud, April Busch, Carrie Simpson, Christine Chen, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner, Lauren Weaver, Madlena Measelle, Megan Maguire, Paige Leonard, Pete Minor, Randi Larson, Shayna Linn, Sunny van der Star

Introductions

- One prop in your job as a parent that you are proud of/ happy about?

Budget - Anna

- Mesa Thrives raised amount needed to cover tutor budget
 - Technically fully there yet, but with corporate matches and recurring payments will get there
- \$79587 raised right now; \$84000 budget for paras - 5 paras this year
 - 5th para is Vanessa, spending most of time in kindergarten
- Looks like we will hit our budget; maybe have \$4k excess
- Very successful Fall Fest
 - Total raised \$8677 (expenses minus income)
- Carrie reiterated that our goal is to be as transparent as possible about the money

Principal's report

- Will offer a principal coffee, most likely in December
- Celebration for PTO, so much happens at the beginning of the year
- We're at the point in the school year where we're just doing it, things are moving
 - Open enrollment coming up
- Wants to celebrate Mesa
 - All BVSD schools have the same curriculum - our differentiation is in the small cultural things
 - Our PTO supported a 5th para
 - Mesa/PTO is small and nimble
 - Very supportive community
- Elections are approaching, 4 BVSD board seats are turning over
- LRAC (long range advisory committee) looking into declining enrollment
 - Guidelines that the board is operating under: 1.5 teachers per grade
 - When you get to that point (ex, 9 grade level teachers for K-5), then you pull community together to talk/brainstorm
 - Mesa has 11 teachers
 - Other smaller schools will hit 9 before Mesa, we can see what steps they take
- Open Q&A
 - Shayna: Is there a website explaining the new open enrollment process?
 - Ie pick the school you want, you'll get it
 - Open enrollment dates: Nov 9 at 8:30am, Nov 14 at 1:15pm, Dec 6 at 5:00pm (kindergarten focus)

April's comments

- She loved the community breakfast; she asked the teachers their thoughts, it was all positive
 - She suggested maybe a spring one too?

DEI - Christine

- Over the course of 2 years, developed a set of bias protocols - how to handle a situation if a bias situation comes up. Currently nothing at the district level, but schools around the country do have them
 - Protocols are done, but can always be adjusted as needed
 - Meant to handle individual incidents, student:student, student:teacher
 - Link on DEI website
- Activities until end of year
 - Next week bringing in RER (Reading to end Racism), do read aloud and do discussion about the book
 - RER parent training session, Nov 29 & Dec 6, two purposes:
 - You can volunteer if you want
 - Build capabilities to talk to kids about this
- DEI is writing a letter to BVSD board for support for equity levels, encourage as many people to sign as possible
 - At BVSD 2 people work on DEI for 50ish schools
 - Only have time to out out fires, rather than being proactive
- Next meeting Nov 16
- Multi Cultural festival will be on Feb 8
 - Planning meeting on Jan 11
 - Save the date
 - Encourage families to host tables
 - Going to repeat last year's event

Fall Fest Recap - Megan

- Was a success; no one at the meeting had anything to add
- Josh liked having the M&M's at the end

Oasis - Sunny updated

- Will update next Friday via video
- Moving forward with basic things, such as bench in pergola
 - Need ground cover
- Gave a shout out to Josh, he sets the tone & culture of the school; the school is small which is both scary and a huge positive

Silent Auction - Megan

- Megan asked if anyone has access/info to silent auction software
- Goal is to launch it at the end of Nov, before Christmas
 - "Shop locally for the holidays"

- Website/QR code
- Money raised will go to the 4/5th grade musical

Mesa Bakers

- We need more
- Maybe clarify on the website?

Field Trips

- What are the guidelines? Protocols? Plan?