

Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes

Jan 12, 2024, 8:30am

Attendees

Anna Abboud, April Busch, Carrie Simpson, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner, Kathleen Doody, Kristen Lupfer, Megan Maguire, Paige Leonard, Pete Minor

Introductions

- What do you want more/less of in 2024?

Budget - Anna

- In light of some new faces at the meeting, Anna gave a quick overview of the Mesa budget. She highlighted that paras are our first priority, and that recently we had excess funds that we used for the Mesa Oasis
- Mesa is in a good spot, if everything goes as projected for the rest of the year, Mesa will be right at budget, which includes the 20% cushion
- Pete mentioned that the coffee machines are now 1.5 years old, wondered if we should start saving for new machines
 - Carrie asked Pete if he could talk to Andrea/Emily to see what is the projected life expectancy of the machines

Carrie

- Voted on Oct & Nov minutes
 - Carrie raised the vote, Anna seconded
 - The two new moms (Kathleen and Kristen) abstained, everyone else voted to approve
- Megan said silent auction raised over \$1000 (\$1009.80 to be exact)
 - Software cost \$50
 - Megan made a motion to move silent auctions funds, minus the \$50 software fee, to the music program, Carrie seconded
 - Unanimous vote with the two new moms abstaining
 - \$959.80 going to the music program
- Carrie explained the Fun Run, and mentioned Oasis.
 - Pete said he wanted to see a full plan with full costs of the entire Oasis
 - Josh answered that no we don't have that right now, but that we do need the basics (tables, ground cover) for Oasis and everything else after that is cosmetic and nice to have
 - Jill will put together a document outlining all the costs
 - Michelle is willing to organize the Fun Run again, she needs to do it on a Friday
 - Postponing to the Feb mtg, the vote on where funds will go
 - May 3 projected date for the Fun Run, to be confirmed

Principal's report

- Some parents had approached Josh to have an opportunity to learn Spanish at Mesa
 - Josh Had a conversation with Boulder Spanish, parents would pay, \$20/session
 - This will be outside of Lifelong Learning
- Enrollment going well, 20 families have put Mesa down for kindergarten, but Mesa doesn't know if they put Mesa as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice

- Josh reviewed Great Schools
 - Mesa back at a ranking of 9/10; Josh did not emphasize this, he is not a fan of this site
 - Median growth percentile aka growth aka progress, key factor for rankings
 - Achievement at Mesa has never dipped, but growth has gone a bit wonky
 - We had a huge uptick in our math growth data, ELA went up too but not as much as math
 - If ELA growth had been a few points higher, Mesa would've gotten a 10/10 on Greatschools
 - Josh reiterated that he hates sites like this, as they do not truly reflect the school
- Students took a school climate survey in Oct, Josh reviewed the results
 - If Mesa is doing well in certain areas, then great, Mesa keeps doing what they've been doing
 - If Mesa is lagging the district, Mesa will take actions to address those areas
 - Last year our 5th graders lagged behind the district
 - 2nd-4th graders mostly above the district

Multi Cultural Event - Anna

- BVSD has a DEI grant available, up to \$3000
 - Sara is going to apply to use it for Multicultural event and for a school assembly later in the year
- Will be held in cafeteria and auditorium
- Testing a new format: tables/food truck 5:00-6:30, performances at 6:30
- We'll see how it works, if needed, changes will be made for next year
- Have 17 tables, half are from last year, 9 new families
 - A lot of families dropped from last year, Anna reached out to them to see why
- Spread the word to get people to sign up at Help at Schools!

DEI - Carrie read Christine's comments

- Feb 1 parent workshop on executive function/ADHD
 - Will be in the evening
 - This speaker trained Mesa staff earlier this school year
 - The speaker focuses on executive function, frontal lobe, etc; can be applicable to anyone
 - Megan asked if we could have recording available; Josh will ask the speaker
- DEI wants to have a 2nd parent night on neurodiversity; will have an autism focus

Funding Request Form - Carrie

- Carrie explained the form for the new parents attending the meeting
- Josh wanted it noted, as it pertains to the para budget, this is the time of the year we worry that we don't have enough money, that the projected expenses were too low
 - Mesa has made one payment for the paras, we never quite know how much the second payment is going to be
- Carrie mentioned that in May, if we don't have enough money for the tutors, any funds earmarked for "extras" would go to fund paras