

Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes
Sept 06, 2024, 8:30am

Attendees

Adi Diner, Anna Abboud, April Busch, Brian Sullivan, Bry Myers, Carrie Simpson, Chelsea Colwyn, Issa Odriozola, Jade Blakeway, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner, John Williams, Justine Prothro, Kathleen Doody, Katie Albee, Katie Gage, Lauren Weaver, Megan Maguire, Paige Leonard, Pete Minor, Randi Larson, Sasha Schwartz, Shayna Linn, Sophie Berglund, Sunny van der Star

Carrie

- Welcomed everyone to PTO
- Introduction question: Put in one word/short phrase of what you value in a school, whether you're experiencing it now or want to have

Budget - Anna

- Passed around a copy of the PTO budget, mentioned it's also on the website
- Thrives goal is \$88K: \$78K from parents, \$10k from match
 - **Thrives funds Paras**
- Currently at 42.8% participation, \$46.4K
- Anna mentioned how bulk of our budget is for paras, remaining money is for smaller things, ie Teacher Appreciation, \$300 classroom money per teacher, etc
- Pete mentioned that from the data he's seen on SAC, the additional resources do make a difference, it shows up in the data
 - Mesa Thrives campaign is a meaningful contribution
- Paige reiterated that Thrives is our main fundraiser, no wrapping paper sale, no gala
 - Megan mentioned Fall Fest, said Thrives is for Paras; Fall Fest fills in the rest
- Lots of talk about Thrives - can pay ACH, what the money goes to:
 - Randi asked if the PTO tells a story about what exactly Thrives funds; led to discussion that PTO messaging still isn't getting through
 - Adi asked how we got to \$375 suggested donation, Anna explained the math formula
 - John said his company requires the tax ID; PTO needs to do a better job of posting it to make it easier for parents to donate
 - Paige reviewed the Thrives communication plan
 - April mentioned that her kids' school has merchandise they sell
 - Bry will help April with Mesa merchandise, John is willing to help too
 - Paige will touch base with them so that the logo is all the same
 - Along those lines, Mesa has a merchandise donation bin
 - Need to get the word out about the gently-used merchandise bin
 - Much discussion about how to reach families about Thrives
 - Idea to do even more storytelling for Thrives
- Unrelated to Thrives, Shayna asked for sheet of all Fall Mesa dates

Principal's report

- Gave an enrollment update: 233 students
 - Additional 25 preschool students
- Covered LRAC (Long range accountability committee) & declining enrollment.
 - BVSD is in a good fiscal position even with overall declining enrollment as a district
 - Any hard decisions about schools, LRAC makes recommendations to BVSD, it's a very long regimented process, schools aren't closing overnight
 - If Mesa drops to 209 students, deemed a "small school"
 - If Mesa reaches that, then one of the steps in the process starts
- All the new hiring has been great, 3 new grade level teachers this year, great energy around that
 - We have two counselors, come on separate days
 - Great to have two options for kids
- Mentioned all the groups we have, FET/DEI etc
 - SAC, which happens in every school, advises on achievement, budget
 - BVSD has differentiated funding for schools
 - No one should feel guilty about our need or ability to fundraise, BVSD relies on it
- Reviewed paras
 - Will be hiring a 5th para
 - Josh waited until the year started to then see where the holes are, talked to teachers, realized they needed one more para
 - Main goal will be to help with 1st grade math 3 days a week
 - He has a lot of qualified candidates for this 5th position
- Passed around a one-page document highlighting Mesa achievements and a two-page document "2024 Preliminary School Performance Framework"

Volunteers - Megan

- Megan mentioned how we still need some more volunteers at Mesa
 - Put in a specific plug for the Fall Fest chair

DEI - Carrie

- Christine/Sara couldn't attend so Carrie gave an overview of DEI
- DEI will start staggering the meetings between morning and afternoon
- Next DEI meeting: Oct 10 in the morning

May Meeting Notes Vote

- Carrie moved to approve the PTO minutes from the May 2024 meeting
- Anna seconded
- Vote was unanimous