

## Oct 4, 2024 | 📅 All School PTO

Board Members Present: Anna Abboud, Carrie Simpson, Jill Walter, Justine Prothro, Lauren Weaver, Megan Maguire, Paige Leonard

### Attendees:

Adi Diner, Brian Sullivan, Bry Myers, Christine Chen, Heather Kelly, Josh Baldner, John Williams, Kathleen Doody, Katie Gage, Pete Minor, Sasha Schwartz, Sunny van der Star

### Welcome from President - Carrie Simpson

- Ice Breaker: What is one thing you like to do that doesn't involve your children?

### DEI Updates - Christine Chen

- DEI has been around for 4 years; committee of staff and parents
- Focused on themes of diversity, inclusion and equity to 3 audiences:
  - Kids (ex: reading to end racism)
  - Principal and teachers (ex: teacher training, professional development)
  - Parents
- Theme for this year → *Allyship*
  - How do we raise children who stand up for others? And how can parents can be upstanders for other parents?
  - 1-2 parent workshops planned this year
- Past work
  - Little Free Lending Library by the 2nd/3rd grade courtyard
  - Buddy bench on playground, if a kid sits there it's a signal for other kids to join
- Upcoming Event spearheaded by Bry Myers:
  - November 14th: Ruby Bridges Walk to School
  - During that week at school see if teacher can read the book, talk about it
    - Ideally teachers would read the book ahead of time; many options of prominent people reading this book on Youtube
    - Nov 15 Mesa will have Reading to End Racism, could tie in nicely
  - 2 meeting points, one north and one south
    - Kids, parents, etc walk to school in solidarity - how this is our school, everyone's welcome
    - For the walk wear purple (Ruby Bridges' color) or blue (Mesa color)
  - One long banner sign, 2 poster signs on yardsticks
  - There is a kit that can be bought
  - No other school in BVSD currently participates in this
  - Perhaps next year apply for the grant, \$500-\$1000, closes in Sept
- Meetings
  - Next meeting is Thursday, October 10, 8:15-9:15am
    - This meeting will focus on goals for the year
  - Most meetings are after school with childcare provided!

- Meetings are once a month on Thursdays; always posted in Mesa newsletter

### THRIVES Update/Debrief - Paige Leonard & Anna Abboud

- 83% participation:
  - 4 years ago average participation was 63%
- We are at \$76,000 (direct parent contributions, does not include corporate matches) with expectation to need \$84,000 - \$88,000 for para salaries
  - Budget of \$10K in corporate match, know of at least \$9K
- We are relieved to be where we are but by no means are we skating through this
- Still important to continue messaging that this money is not for “frivolous” things but for directly paying paras
- Measuring what’s effective:
  - Spikes after Josh’s email and teacher email
- Discussion about whether we can ask for money above the THRIVES goal to do additional things
  - Review of history of THRIVES campaign and how it used to be fundraising all year; we found that just really pushing on funding for paras only during Sept to set up for the rest of the school year, then future income sources (Fall Fest, Fun Run) can go to “additional things”
  - Josh: we need flexibility for additional hours here and there; paras are hired for the expectation of instruction and not supervision (ie watching playground)
- Nitty gritty of funds:
  - 3 withdraws from PTO cash to pay paras
  - BVSD pays monthly
  - Josh & Anna meet to go over reports and hours to see the match-up

### September Minutes

- Carrie Simpson made a motion to approve Sept minutes
- Anna Abboud seconded
- Vote was unanimous

### Principal’s Report - Josh Baldner

- What it means to be a welcoming school
- FET (families educators together) - trying to get the voices of people we don’t hear from as much, different purpose than DEI
- Enrollment Update
  - We are deemed a “smaller school” and in an *advisory phase*
    - Next phase: engagement phase
      - If overall school enrollment is <225 students and utilizing less than 50% of student capacity
        - Mesa could serve 418 students (50% capacity is 209 students)
        - Mesa has 230 students currently
  - We will continue to promote the school and “recruit”

- Handout highlight for BVSD Showcase
- Mesa Open Houses & School Tours
  - Friday, November 8th @ 8:30am
  - Wednesday, November 13th @ 1:15pm
  - Wednesday, December 4th @ 5pm (Kinder/Pre-K)
- Hoping to increase enrollment for current 1st grade class so as to split into 2 classes in 2025 (would need at least 6 new enrollees, at least 32/33 students)
  - Mesa has a high retention rate, over 80%
- October Count, October 1
  - This is not a BVSD thing, it's a statewide policy

#### Fall Fest - Meghan Maguire

- Fri, Oct 18th
- \$27 wristbands for all activities, \$1 tickets for raffles/dessert/cotton candy, \$8 for pizza/hotdogs, chips and carrots
  - Megan researched other school Fall Fests and our pricing is on par
- Ability to pre-buy tickets and wristbands → can pick up ahead!
  - Wednesday/Thursday October 16th/17th before & after school pre-buy/pick up
  - Can also do Cheddar up!
- Volunteers Needed!
  - 30 minute slots
- Donate:
  - Stuffies
  - Trinkets
  - Books
- Fall Fest funds go toward:
  - \$300/teacher for classroom
  - DEI
  - Multicultural Fest
  - Water for teachers
  - Teacher appreciation

#### Bike to School & Sweet Cow, Wednesday, Oct 9th - Megan Maguire

- Morning of Wed, Oct 9th → bike or walk to school
- Table of breakfast treats
- After school “bike rodeo”, organized by James McCreight
- No bike mechanic this year unfortunately
- Also same day as Sweet Cow give back day for Mesa, all day, 40% of sales to Mesa, must mention Mesa at check out

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences- Megan Maguire

- PTO budget of \$1200 for teacher conferences and teacher appreciation
- Conferences in October & February

- \$200 from teacher appreciation goes to provide treats/snacks for teachers during this time
- Any connections to discounted food options?
- October Conferences: Oct 15, 17, 23
  - October 15th: Soft ask for parents to bring snacks/treats
  - Will have a soup night for either the 17th or 23rd

#### Mesa Merchandise Store - John Williams

- John Williams, Bry M and Mrs. Busch are working on this
  - Using the approved logo
- Need some upfront funding
  - They will get details and bring a proposal to the PTO
- May have t-shirts in time for Fall Fest
- Perhaps have option of open store with an honor box for payment