

Nov 1, 2024 | 📅 All School PTO

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

Attendees:

April Busch, Bry Myers, Chelsea Colwyn, Chris Jerard, Jade Blakeway, Josh Baldner, John Williams, Kathleen Doody, Katie Albee, Katie Gage, Pete Minor, Rachel Tittle, Sasha Schwartz, Sophie Berglund, Sunny van der Star

Welcome from President - Carrie Simpson

- Ice Breaker: Halloween highlight/lowlight and/or favorite candy?

Budget - Anna Abboud

- Fundraising update, explained how Thrives went from an all year request to a one month ask
 - Reiterated all Thrives money goes to Paraprofessionals (paras)
- As of today, we can fund the paras all year based on the forecasted budget provided to the PTO by Josh
- Thrives raised \$76K
- Fall Fest raised \$10,694
- PTO is on target to fund annual budget

October Minutes

- Carrie Simpson explained what the minutes were and where to find them
- Carrie made a motion to approve Oct minutes
- Lauren Weaver seconded
- Vote was unanimous

Principal's Report - Josh Baldner

- Great turnout at the PTO meeting, SAC (School Accountability Committee) - we have lots of parent participation
 - Mentioned we need more PTO leadership next year
- Pete gave a plug for the different committees
 - Great way to get insight into what your kid is doing, what happens inside the school
- BVSD has really gone into differentiated funding, BVSD takes into account fundraising capabilities
 - Mesa could not do what it does without support of PTO
- Great year regarding student behaviors; ie kids rarely sent to office
 - Celebration of family/community: Mesa is having an outstanding year overall in terms of kids
- Oct attendance count, 230 students grades K-5

- Mesa is still on the watch list, which is an advisory phase
- Mesa's capture rate is over 80%
- Mesa has a student capacity of 418 students, once Mesa falls below 209 students, that's when the community has to be pulled together
- BVSD is in an open enrollment period
 - Josh reviewed open houses & tours
 - Please tell friends/neighbors
 - Mesa would love to have any Mesa parent at the open house/tours
 - Josh will host a coffee for parents at the Mesa preschool
 - PTO will send out open house/tour flyers to preschools

Teacher remarks - April Busch

- April thanked everyone for the meals during teacher conferences
- Teachers are very grateful that the PTO takes care of the teachers all year long

Fall Fest - Meghan Maguire

- Carrie celebrated & appreciated everyone's help, especially Megan's
- Carrie put the request out that we need new leadership for the Fall Fest; Megan cannot continue to run this event
 - This event is a well oiled machine, would be very easy for someone to take over
- Asked the room for celebrations/feedback
- April said the next time Fall Fest is indoors, she would offer her classroom for the Cake Walk
- For the Cake Walk, to make it last longer, maybe put in filler items? Win pumpkins, other prizes?
- April mentioned how great the Photo Booth was
- For next year's Fall Fest, perhaps add in a costume exchange? Someone would need to run this
- Keep the message out there that we have financial assistance for Fall Fest
 - We do not want anyone to not come because of money
- Teachers/staff were very grateful that wristbands were complimentary
 - PTO Needs to get that message out earlier to staff
- It was a bit tricky that Fall Fest was the same week as two parent/teacher conferences
 - PTO is going to let Josh/teachers decide Fall Fest date, with the requirement that Fall Fest stays in Oct
- Carrie mentioned Fall Fest had a few challenges with some of the middle schoolers that attended
 - The middle schoolers need to be respectful and deferring to elementary kids

Multicultural Fest - Anna Abboud

- Event will be in Feb, exact date TBD, will be decided soon
 - Place holder is Feb 6, but most likely will move to Feb 4

- Need to finalize leadership
 - Anna will do it this year, but this is her final year
 - Angela Bojar will most likely co-chair
- Anna gave a brief overview of the event, this is only the 3rd year of the event

Ruby Bridges - Bry Myers

- The message: to celebrate differences; diversity makes us strong
 - Celebrate Ruby's bravery & courage
- Even takes place Thur Nov 14
 - Meetups at 3 spots: north, south, east
 - At 7:25 will start walking to school
 - Will converge at the front of the school, short speech, donut holes for kids
- Teachers all have the I am Ruby Bridges book
- Mesa will put a reminder in that week's Monday Message

Volunteers

- PTO can always use volunteers
- Need someone to take over the PTO website

DEI Updates - Carrie

- Carrie read the notes provided by the DEI
- Carrie mentioned DEI is also looking for new leadership
- November 7: Next DEI Meeting, 3pm library
- November 8-9: CU Children's Book Festival
 - On November 8, Mesa classrooms will receive a visit from Julie Leung, author of "Mr. Pei's Perfect Shapes: The Story of Architect I.M. Pei" a book which features the NCAR building
- November 14: Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
- November 15: Reading to End Racism

DPC (District Parent Council) Update - Pete Minor

- The hot topic for BVSD is the policy regarding personal technology devices
 - DAC (District Advisory Committee) and DPC were not talking about this last spring, but now it's a main point for both
 - This subject matter is moving very quickly
 - BVSD is proposing increasing restrictions
 - Bell to bell removal of devices from kids
 - School board will vote on this, not superintendent's choice

South Boulder Rec Center - Sunny van der Star

- Sunny has been on the Parks & Rec Advisory Board (PRAB) for a few years now
- SoBo Rec center has reached its end of life
- A committee of citizens have been formed to save the SoBo Rec Center:
 - Reimagine South Boulder Rec Center

- A Facebook page has been created, but currently it is empty
- Parks & rec ideally needs to work with the community; ie BVSD, senior center, residents
- Potential ideas for new rec center:
 - Gathering spot for teens
 - Expand on current offerings
 - Add cafe
 - Need to have local access
- Do you know anybody with experience to help generate ideas for a new rec center? Architects, landscape architects, mental health counselors, etc?
- Reach out to Sunny to see how to get onto Reimagine South Boulder Rec Center
- PRAB meetings are once a month on Mondays, held virtually