

Feb 7, 2025 | 📅 All School PTO

Board Members Present: Carrie Simpson, Jill Walter, Justine Prothro, Lauren Weaver, Megan Maguire

Attendees: Bry Myers, Christine Chen, Jade Blakeway, Josh Baldner, Karen Colbert, Kate Speckman, Kathleen Doody, Michelle Duvall, Pete Minor, Sarah Thomas, Sascha Schwartz, Sunny van der Star

DEI - Sarah Thomas & Christine Chen, with some comments from Josh

- March 13 Allyship training
 - Will have childcare
 - Betsy Gonzalez, facilitator, former BVSD teacher, specialized in bilingual families, Director of Teacher Preparation at Friends School, focuses on equity/mindfulness
- April 10, second part of training
 - Will practice behaviors for allyship and inclusion, safe space to make mistakes and learn
- DEI going to examine their focus/goals moving forward
- FET, helps families that are underrepresented - which is a broad term
 - Traditionally has meant international families
 - Can DEI and FET collaborate more next year?
- Next DEI meeting is Thursday March 6, after school with childcare
- This is Sarah's last year, Christine has one more year
 - Need more participation of parents with younger kids
 - Don't need to be a person of color, or a parent of a neurodivergent child to lead the group, anyone can be an ally
- BVSD always has a non-discrimination policy/value, reiterated will protect all groups
 - Schools are protected spaces
 - BVSD is doing outreach to students if they notice attendance patterns have changed
 - District is looking at this seriously, doing outreach to families that may be more vulnerable
 - BVSD's values have not changed, still doing what they do, but don't feel the need to write editorials about it, just continuing the work
 - Mesa is a "Welcoming School"

Fun Run - Michelle Duvall

- Michelle explained how fun run worked, what the kids did, we had it historically to fill fundraising gaps
 - This year we raised all the funds we need through Thrives to fund paras

- Mesa currently does not need funds for any one specific thing at this time
 - Bry requested a couple more lunch tables as lunch time gets crowded
- Had discussion if we should still have the Fun Run, kids really enjoy it
- ***Sasha Schwartz and Kathleen Doody offered to chair the Fun Run***, Michelle will help them this year

Budget - Carrie filled in for Anna

- No real updates, still on track for the year
- Budget can always be found on the PTO site

Principal's Report - Josh

- Illness is wiping out kids/adults, cleaning as much as they can
- Justine purchased filters for air purifiers, Mr. Andy will put them in the rooms
 - Jade gave the PSA that illness is part of life, builds immunology
- Parent/teacher conferences in Feb
- From SAC meeting: best overall K-5 reading performance mid year that Mesa has ever had as a school
 - Math good too, strong performance on math i-xcel, first year with the tool
- Mesa Spring calendar one pager will happen soon
- Mesa sometimes administers "Restorative justice"
 - Was there harm, how to fix the harm, etc
 - A few kids snuck away from jump rope and took prizes from a prize box, prizes were bought with money from PTO
 - With parent blessing, some kids are going to do some service work
- Playground: there will be updates in 2026 to make it more ADA compliant, not much more information than that at this point
 - Very limited options for Mesa-driven requests; it's a district decision
- Long Range Advisory Committee (LRAC), some people countered that we have a big open enrollment and changing boundaries may not make a difference, but there's no evidence supporting that

Multicultural Fest - Carrie again filled in for Anna

- Need a few more volunteers to help set up
- 25 tables signed up
- Free event with suggested \$10 donation per person to help defray costs

Parent Teacher Conferences - Megan Maguire

- PTO/community providing dinners for teachers during the parent teacher conferences
 - PTO uses the teacher appreciation money for both teacher appreciation week, which is later in the year, and for parent/teacher conferences
- Feb 19: Efraims dinner
 - Justine will pick up at 2:30
 - Food will be out from 3:00-5:00
 - Bry will clean up at 5:00

- Feb 25: Various types of salads
 - A Help at School has already been sent around, please take a look
- Feb 27: Soups

DAC Update - Pete

- Budget cuts, state is looking to cut \$100M from education, will flow down to BVSD
 - Superintendent will let us know if/when we need to contact legislators about defeating the bill that's going to defund education
- School safety advocates; have one advocate for a couple schools, schools should build relationship with that advocate
 - Maybe have ours come to a PTO mtg?
 - Would rather know your SSA before an incident rather than meet them during an incident