

Mesa Elementary School PTO General Meeting Notes Sept 2, 2022, 8:30am

Attendance: Holly Martin, Sarah Thomas, Shayna Linn, Amabel Akwa-Asare, Rachael Tittle, Kristin Burrell, Vanessa Gerhards, Rosanna Koren, Therese Wykoff, Peter Minor, Susan Traube, Niki Thomas, Carrie Simpson, Kristen Reiss, Anna Abboud, Megan Maguire, Madlena Measelle, Paige Leonard, Sunny van der Star, Jill Walter, Josh Baldner

Carrie welcome comments

- Supporting teachers, which in turn supports our kids
- Building community/connections, supporting each other
- Respect for each other during the meeting, tone matters more than content
 - Carrie will step in if something is going off the rails/getting disrespectful
 - Also for respect, start meetings on time, our time is valuable, being here for this hour is a gift to our kids/school
- Went around the group and did introductions of everyone

Principal's report

- Theme of positive energy
 - Excited to see so many people here, wants the meeting to be fun so that everyone comes back
 - If you want changes/additions/revisions let him know, because he wants to hear it and wants everyone to come back
- Loves the infusion of energy around Mesa Thrives
- Back to school night reframing, he wants to focus on: the idea/the goals/what we are trying to accomplish
 - It was an example of thinking about things differently
- Email about achievement sent yesterday, trying to connect welcoming school umbrella with achievement, and how welcoming school connects to everything
- Aims for each month for DEI update
 - Haven't met yet, 1st mtg, Sept 16th after school
 - Will send out updates
- District update: lots of mention about declining enrollment last school year, it is real in CO, in 10 largest school districts, 7 of them are in declining enrollment
 - BVSD is moving slowly and carefully, and hopefully thoughtfully, for long range plan, not in discussion of closing schools
 - BVSD going to have a committee to think creatively, value, thinking about all parts of school (choice, focus, open enrollment), the committee had 250 applicants, selected 30, Josh is one of them
 - SAC: will do better job about posting notes/mtgs. Big part of SAC is working on budget
- Chrome books: last spring BVSD reclaimed many chrome books, some had been BVSD purchased, some purchased by PTO, took back 70-some end of life chrome books, susceptible to virus, BVSD is trying to refurbish/redistribute, BVSD can replace 30ish of them
 - 1:1 chrome books K-4, to be able to test all kids at the same time, can save instructional time, it's been a luxury to have 1:1
- Vanessa asked about enrollment this year, because at May PTO mtg Josh mentioned enrollment was going to down

- We have 260 kids, we have 2 classes per grade (2 section school)
- Therese mentioned that for Mesa Thrives, people like to touch & feel for money, maybe make announcement that PTO just funded chrome books
 - Per Megan: we should say met our goal last year, so also able to purchase chrome books

Chrome book vote

- Josh coming to PTO to ask for chrome books
- Replacing 49 chrome books, \$11564
- Anna made a motion for PTO to purchased the chrome books
- Kristen second the motion
- Took a vote: unanimous
- PTO had a surplus (return to reserve, not a profit) from last year, Kristen went to Josh end of last year, and mentioned we were going to have a Return to Reserves

Mesa Thrives, update from Pete

- Pete reviewed what Mesa Thrives is, talked about paraprofessionals
 - Helps keep class sizes small, allow for small instruction
 - Paraprofessional, not helpers, one has a PhD, three have over 15 years experience, they are highly professional
 - Mesa Thrives funds these professionals
 - \$350 may seem like a lot, it's \$35/month, not much compared to swim lessons, karate, etc
- Explained new theme of Mesa Thrives
 - Participation rates have gone down
 - We're making the \$\$ but the rate going down which is scary
 - Really want to get to 100% participation
 - Need everyone to be an ambassador for Mesa Thrives
 - People are going to drive it, not just signs
 - Pete emphasized that the \$350/child should not stop anyone, that if you can't give the \$350, give what you can, participation is most important
 - Amabel had the suggestion to push it as \$35/mo, that \$350 seems like a lot
 - Rachael mentioned that perhaps we can have a message so that we can send onto grandparents, extended family
 - If there was an email specifically people could forward to families, that has bios of paraprofessionals
 - Josh mentioned that classroom teachers should state how one of the paraprofessionals specifically helped in their classroom, ie Ms. Hickey helped us today doing X (he said who this idea came from, but I missed it)
- Amabel asked about PTO decision not to do other fundraisers
 - Carrie said the other fundraisers (ie fall fest) we don't push 100% participation, the other fundraisers are fun events, you get something for it, those are more community building
- Pete needs help to make packets on Wed, around lunchtime

Fall Fest, update from Megan

- Sept 30, 4:30-6:30
- Megan is going to chair Fall Fest committee
 - Taking Darcy's plan and "not fix what isn't broken"
- \$25 wristband, all the events: all the walks, bouncy house

- Will have teacher raffles
- M&Ms, 4th & 5th grade singers will do a little performance at 5:00 during it
- Megan will be looking for volunteers
- Meeting Tues, the 13th and Tues, the 20th at 8:00, at playground, if you're interested, please come
- Shaina asked about emails for volunteering
 - Megan is making a flyer, info will go out in next Tues newsletter, and Sunny will put on facebook
- Need stuffy & book donations
- Carrie mentioned that at the Oct meeting all other volunteer opportunities will be presented
 - Sunny put a plug in for PTO Facebook page, Mesa PTO website, and told new people to look for Tues newsletter, that if you don't have it, it's probably in your spam

Communication update

- Paige mentioned new Mesa PTO website
- No PTO email anymore, Tues newsletter will have PTO info and link to website
- Visit MesaPTO.com
- Donate to Mesa Thrives
- Join Mesa Facebook group
- Volunteer at Fall Fest

Other Comments

- Shaina wants to know if we can have more signage at drop off about Mesa PTO, because not everyone is on Facebook or reads the newsletter
 - Paige said yes, they talked about outdoor signage
- Carrie asked to keep giving suggestions, but keep in mind that it is a work in progress
- Amabel asked about Dine Out
 - Carrie said yes, but we're going to focus on that in Oct
 - Amabel is already taking care of Abo's for us, second Tues for Sept
- Pete asked about King Soopers donations
 - Talked about families still having King Soopers going to old preschools, or other schools
 - He said after Mesa Thrives to focus on families to change their KS affiliation to Mesa
 - Paige said the website makes mention of KS, Amazon Smiles, Grand rabbits
- Shaina asked if we can ever do meetings at end of school
 - Kristen mentioned after school activities

Housekeeping note:

- We, as a board, have come to the decision that Anna Abboud the new Treasurer will be upgraded to a responsible party on the Mesa Elementary PTO bank account. Next, as Nicole Moore is no longer a member of the Board she can be removed from the bank account completely.