

Minutes of PTO Meeting

January 7, 2014

6:30 – 8:00 pm in Manhattan Library

People attending: Kari Albright, Libby Black, Diane Braun, MaryKay Cicio, Mary Dineen, Trina Faatz, Barb Hoyt, Heather Janelle, Kristin Kusmierck, Peggy Livingston, Michele Marshall, Nathalie Pratt, John Riggs, Amanda Wember, Deana Zimenoff, and Jamie Zimenoff.

I. Introduction - Michele Marshall

- Michele welcomed everyone and announced the following.
- We have received thank you notes from the Magic Phoenix campaign and the Brower family (who lost a third grader recently).
- Deana, with help from Jamie, is taking over school store from Jules Hauck, who is now working with the school's music program.
- Suzanne Lee is no longer with PTO, because her son Kolton has left Manhattan for the Watershed School.
- We have a new popcorn machine, paid for with box top clippings and Longmont Dairy bottle caps. (The rest of us were eating popcorn during the meeting.)

II. Principal's Report: John Riggs

- We are in the open enrollment season. The final coffee and group school tour will be Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Open enrollment ends on January 17th. The current sixth and seventh grade classes at Manhattan each have almost 200 students. There are 205 fifth graders for whom Manhattan is the neighborhood school, although not necessarily all of these will choose Manhattan. John is telling OE parents that if they do not list Manhattan as their first choice, their students may not get in. Due to rising enrollment, John is asking for more lockers. Our building is close to capacity, and not every teacher will be able to have his or her own classroom. We are not telling people that everyone will have the opportunity to go on the Tall Ships trip, because of limited capacity on the ships.
- Next week, students will perform a play based on Wonder, by R.J. Palacio. This is a One Book One Manhattan book. The students in the performance have adapted the book to create the play. Performances will be on Wednesday, January 15, and Thursday, January 16, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., in the Manhattan auditorium. Each night a different cast will

perform the same show.

- On Wednesday, January 15th, or Thursday, January 16th, intramural basketball for girls and wrestling for girls and boys will start.
- The homework club is meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays after school.
- Rehearsals for the school musical started tonight, and performances will be on February 25th - 27th.

III. Teachers' Report: Libby Black

- Libby thanked the PTO for dinners during parent-teacher conferences and for everything else the PTO is doing.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Barb Hoyt

- Because the previous meeting was so recent, Barb did not have any new information to report.

V. Trip Tracker Program: Trina Faatz

- We have received a request from Peter Hurst, who administers the Trip Tracker program, for a donation. Eighty to 85% of the Manhattan students who have enrolled in Trip Tracker have been picking up their dollars. Peter has predicted that Trip Tracker will pay about \$7,000 to Manhattan students, and he has suggested a donation of about half that amount. There was some discussion of criteria for programs to qualify for donations. One is being open to all students. Peter received \$300 this year, which was for last year's program. The request for donation is being referred to the budget committee. It may also be possible to organize a community dinner as a fundraiser for this program.

VI. PEN: Trina Faatz

- Trina announced these upcoming events:
- Thursday, January 16th: "Child Safety in the Digital Age." The topic is safety advice about children and the internet. It will be in the cafeteria at Eldorado K-8, 3351 South Indiana Street, Superior. It is free. There will be childcare, but the event itself will be adults only.
- Wednesday, January 22nd: "High Expectations." This will be a presentation by Ray Lozano about drugs, especially marijuana (now legalized in Colorado). It will be at Monarch High School, 329 Campus Dr.,

from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

- Thursday, January 30th: “Depression Awareness and Suicide Risk Reduction.” At the BVSD Ed Center.
- Thursday, February 6th. “Breaking Barriers” Embracing Inclusion and Acceptance.” This will be a program about autism. It will be at the Manhattan auditorium, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Benjamin Tarasewicz, a Fairview High School student, and his mother will make a presentation. Manhattan students will perform a condensed version of the Wonder play. Adults and children fourth grade and older are invited. For the February 6th event, we need five or six parents to help. Nathalie and Trina have been working on this.

VII. Winter Social (January 23rd)

- Sara Knight is running this but was not present at the meeting. We need a volunteer to sew a quilt. The popcorn machine will be debuted at the Winter Social.

VIII. Community Events

- Sara Knight is also running these.
- From the December 16th event at 5 Guys Burgers & Spooners, we collected \$194. This benefits the Art Club.
- There may be an event in January or February for Latino Leadership. It may be at the Gondolier restaurant. For three years, PTO held some funds for this group that were turned over to the school and spent before John became principal.

IX. Fundraising Opportunities

- As mentioned above, the popcorn machine was funded with money from the box top and Longmont dairy cap programs. Someone suggested using box tops at the school store.
- At the Winter Social, Kristin Kusmierек will sell cards for use Safeway & King Soopers. She has 50 for each store. The PTO has invested \$5 in each card. People can buy them and, if they use them to purchase groceries, especially after reloading them with more money, Manhattan will benefit.
- Target has a program for people to funnel money to Manhattan. John received an \$800 check from this program.

X. School Store: Deana Zimenoff

- Deana will sell clothing with the new logo at the Winter Social.

XI. International / Diversity Festival: Diane Braun

- Diane suggested having an international festival at the school some evening. She has seen international festivals in south Florida, which has a diverse population, where students participate in processions with flags of different countries, introduce themselves on stage, and eat food from different countries. There was interest in this idea. Anita Krol has been helping on this. We will help get the word out about this event.

XII. Summary of Upcoming Events

- Open Enrollment Tours - January 8, 10-11:30am
- Wonder Theater Production - Jan. 15th & 16th, 7- 8:30 pm MMS
- PEN Event - Child Safety in the Digital Age - January 16th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm – Eldorado K-8 Cafeteria
- Winter Social - January 23rd, 6 - 8pm, MMS
- PEN Event - High Expectations - January 22nd, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Monarch High School
- PEN Event - Depression Awareness and Suicide Risk Reduction - 6:30 - 8:30 pm, BVSD Ed Center
- PEN Event - Breaking Barriers: Embracing Inclusion and Acceptance - 7:00 - 8:30 pm, MMS Auditorium
- International / Diversity Festival - probably March

XIII. Next PTO Meeting

- Feb. 4, 2014; 6:30-8 pm in MMS library

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Livingston