

PTO Meeting Minutes

Manhattan Middle School

Dec. 5, 2013

Attendance: Libby Black, Shannon Collier, Mary Dineen, Barbara Dyrmosse, Trina Faatz, Barb Hoyt, Sara Knight, Meena Keuer, Kristin Kusmierck, Michele Marshall, Nathalie Pratt, John Riggs

I. Chair Welcome---Michele Marshall

Michele started the meeting at 10am. We started with Families in Need, until all members arrived. One of our Manhattan families lost a third grade child over the Thanksgiving break, PTO made a donation of \$100 to the Brower family. We will also have this information in the Principal Letter that we will collect donations for this family, and they can be dropped in the office. These donations will be delivered to the family on December 13, with donations from Eisenhower Elementary. Another Manhattan family's, mother is fighting stage four breast cancer. The PTO has delivered flowers and treats for the kids, and will continue to monitor her progress thru her Care Calendar. Finally, Manhattan has a new family that moved from CA. A mother and her four young daughters, they need everything. This family has a 6th grader at Manhattan. Nathalie Pratt said that BCSIS has a coordinator for this family, she has a face book page and they have received almost everything. We will continue to keep track of this family, if more needs arise. The PTO was able to give the 6th grader a new sweatshirt, t-shirt and hat.

II. Principal's Report---John Riggs

John stated that Manhattan is in the Open Enrollment period. Tours will be lead by 360 students on December 12 and also Jan. 9th. Manhattan has an Open House on the 18th from 5:30 to 7pm. There also is another Principal's coffee on January 8th. We currently have a small 8th grade class. We would like to keep the school balanced at this number 549, but we currently have 204 fifth graders in Manhattan's boundaries. We can no longer guarantee a spot at Manhattan during OE. Manhattan is currently 60% neighborhood and 40% OE.

The Tall Ship program was also discussed. We have two trips this spring, but unfortunately not all eighth graders are on the trip. Michele reported from Brooke Smith, that all 8th graders who turned in forms were on a trip. There has been an issued raised that forms were lost or misplaced. Also, 5 scholarships were given at 50% funding to kids, but 12 kids had applied for these scholarships. Our school has roughly 30% income challenged families, this trip is expensive and fundraising currently hasn't been able to cover everyone. We also have limited number of kids that can go on a trip, since each trip takes 30 kids, 6 adults of which 2 are teachers. So we are able to take 90 kids per year if we offer 3 trips. There was much brainstorming, how can we make this trip possible for all? Can we have more

trips? Libby stated that this is hard on the teachers as they have to write three sets of homework plans, which is time consuming, as it is. Maybe we could offer a different trip? Going to Washington D.C.? We would need a teacher to lead this effort. Maybe other outdoors education trips, 100 Elks, which can take up to 160 kids, or another place, where the number of participants isn't limited and the trip is less expensive. But, the most important issue, if this is important to Manhattan, a priority, we need to make this available to all kids. There are no easy answers, we will continue to monitor the situation and have discussions with teachers.

III. Teacher's Report---Libby Black

Libby said that all is well. One question still remained about getting parent volunteers in the classrooms. Michele offered to email the teachers about volunteers and to take emails from the teachers for volunteers and pass along our information from volunteer forms in the beginning of the year. It would be useful to get an on-line form similar to the Magic Phoenix request to help with finding volunteers. Also, we could try to improve the initial volunteers sheet to include specific classroom help.

IV. Treasurer's Report---Barb Hoyt

Barb reported that there has not been much activity this month, not much spending. Barb wrote a check to MMS for \$17,775.50 for the Magic Phoenix Campaign. This about was \$1112.50 less than the stated funding of \$18,888.00, due to the fact that there are matching funds that are still coming to MMS.

V. Magic Phoenix

We were able to fully fund almost all requests. We did deny the LA department request for 12 more chrome books. Departmental requests will have to be revisited before next year, especially if that department is part of the Pay Back Books campaign. The Magic Phoenix was very successful even though it was a trying fall with the flood. The certificates to the teachers will go out next week. The teachers will have until 4/1/14 to spend the money. Mr. Riggs must approve any changes to the requests, such as a fieldtrip being cancelled. The goal is to have the teachers spend the money on this year's students, whose parents have made the donations. We approved Allison O'Neal's request for \$158.48 to purchase 3-inch binders for low-income students, Barb wrote the check.

VI. PEN---Trina Faatz

Trina stated that we have a scheduled PEN presentation on Thursday Feb. 6 from 7 – 8:30pm at Manhattan. This presentation is very unique, as it has been custom made to go with the book Wonder. We will have Benjamin, a MMS graduate and Fairview student along with his mother give a talk about living with autism. The theatre focus kids will present a play on the book Wonder, and the 360 kids will help with the tickets and set up for the

program. So this is truly unique, as it is kids who are doing the presentation. We are also looking at a presentation about "Voices Out of Silence", done by the group, Stories on Stage. This presentation is about suicide, based on letters written by a teenager before she took her life. Volunteers from Colie's Closet will assist with this program and be available to answer questions. This will be done during 8th grade PE-health class. Mr. Riggs and counselors have seen this very powerful performance.

VII. Trip Tracker---Trina Faatz

Trina reported that thru October, MMS has registered 3,337 miles in the program. If this pace continues, MMS will have between 7,000 to 8,500 miles, which converts into roughly \$4000, given out to the kids. Peter Hurst is requesting that schools donate back 20% of the money that they receive, so for MMS that would be \$800. But, the program would be happy with whatever MMS could donate. Barb did state that the PTO did give the trip tracker program \$300 at the beginning of the year. MMS has approximately a third of the students participating in this program.

VIII. School Store---Michele Marshall

Michele reported that the new merchandise is in, we also have order forms for special items, as we wanted to see the interest in these new items. We will also try to have this ordering process on-line, Erica Johnson is working on this. We are trying to get the word out, the kids will make morning announcements, and this information will be in the PTO Notes. The school store will be open during the Art Festival. The old logo merchandise has been collected and is in the PTO closet, we will try to give some of the sweatshirts away, and make a quilt with the t-shirts for the Winter Social.

IX. Community Events---Sara Knight

Sara briefly mentioned the last few Community Nights; CPK in Oct. \$153, Twisted Pine Nov. \$400-450 for Tall Ships scholarships, we also have one scheduled for Monday Dec. 16th at 5 Guys Burgers and Spooners in the 29th Street Mall. This will benefit the Art Club. We are also looking into one for the Latino Leadership, headed by Tracie Altomare. We hope to schedule this in early Feb., as we do have the Winter Social on Jan. 23. At this point, a discussion took place as to how we might have the Latino group more involved in a school function, in the past there has been tamale cooking lessons, dancing, and eating. But this occurred when there was a paid Latino Liaison in the building. Meena Keuer mentioned how Uni-Hill does a Latino night. We will try and see how we might approach this idea with both Tracie and Diane Braun the Spanish teacher. Everyone agreed that it would be nice to have more involvement of the Latino population in our school, but we aren't quite sure how to go about this.

X. Winter Social---Sara Knight

Sara Knight is the chair for this event, with Erica Johnson and Kathleen Patrick assisting. Sara reported that the planning has started, and many of the same events as last year will happen. When school resumes after the break, there will be more meetings of this group as they recruit more volunteers to help. The 360 kids will also be a large part of this event, as they help with many of the duties of the evening. Something new that was suggested was a Cake Walk, this sounded like a good addition to the ice cream. We are also still looking for someone to sew a t-shirt quilt for this event that we could raffle off or have a drawing for. This would be a good use of the old logo t-shirts. Dawn Deming and the Art Club have volunteered to sew the quilt, but we aren't sure if there will be enough time. This will need to be addressed again with Ms. Deming.

XI. Fundraising Opportunities

This year thru Box Tops for Education and Longmont Dairy Caps, the PTO has raised \$207.50, \$67.50 came from the Dairy caps. We also had \$125 in BTFE that was unclaimed from last year, which brings our total to \$332.50. We had talked about buying something that would be enjoyable to the kids. We agree to purchase a popcorn machine. We did vote that a bigger model, which pops more popcorn at a time, is the direction to go. A sign will be attached to the machine that states that it was purchased thru BTFE and Dairy caps. There will be an ongoing cost associated with this machine, like purchasing the popcorn supplies. Hopefully, this can continue to be funded thru these two programs. We will also have to either purchase a cart for the machine or have one made.

The grocery card program is also in the works. Our goal is to have these reloadable cards available for sale at the Winter Social. Amanda Wember, Kristin Kusmierk and Michele Marshall will be meeting on Monday Dec. 9th to discuss this new program.

XII. Upcoming Events

- Arts Festival ----Wednesday Dec. 11th
- Open Enrollment Tours----Dec. 12th
- Bands, Orchestra & Choir Concerts---Dec. 17th
- RISE ceremony---Dec. 18th, PTO will supply the light snack
- Open Enrollment, Open House---Dec. 18th from 5:30 – 7pm
- Winter Social—Jan. 23rd

Next PTO Meetings: Jan. 7th & Feb. 4th, 6:30-8pm in MMS library

