

MMS PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

People in Attendance: Libby Black, Shannon Collier, Barb Hoyt, Kristin Kusmierek, Peggy Livingston, Michele Marshall, Paula Moseley, Nathalie Pratt, John Riggs, Amanda Wember, and Deana Zimenoff.

I. President's Welcome - Michele Marshall

Michele distributed a first draft of some new bylaws for the PTO. She would like the others in PTO to review them and approve them by April. The draft is based on bylaws for Douglass Elementary and Nederland Elementary.

II. Principal's Report - John Riggs

A. Open Enrollment

The open enrollment period has passed. We have some projections for numbers. Manhattan will not take any open enrollments for seventh or eighth grade next year, because these grades are full. We will likely accept 180 sixth graders next year. This is more than the historic enrollment average but lower than the current number in sixth grade. The total school enrollment next year should be around 575.

B. Magic Phoenix Money

Of the approximately \$18,000 raised by the Magic Phoenix campaign, the teachers have spent \$3,441.66 so far. The money that was given to the teachers in December needs to be spent by April 1, 2014. This is to ensure that the funds donated this year will benefit this year's students.

C. Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for February 19th and 20th. PTO will be providing meals.

D. School Musical

The school musical will be February 25th, 26th and 27th.

E. TCAP

This year there will be five days of TCAP testing. Last year there were six days. There will be no science tests. There will be six tests for reading and/or writing and three for math. Testing will be during March. Friday, March 21 st , the 6th grade will go on the second annual

6th grade ski trip to Eldora. Brooke Smith leads this trip, and has written and received a grant through Target. Last year was a success; nobody got hurt or lost. See also VIII.D, below.

F. Certification for Ms. McQueen

On March 11th, Ms. McQueen, our art teacher, will be honored for becoming a nationally board certified teacher. Being certified also means a 5% pay increase.

G. Bond Money

Michele, John, Brent Graham (Assistant Principal), and Michael Marlowe (Gym Teacher) met with Tom Balha, our bond coordinator. They asked for a new gymnasium with the bond money. The current gym is only a couple of hundred square feet larger than the size of an auxiliary gym. Along with the new gym, the bond money would be used to move the cafeteria and kitchen to the area now used for a computer lab, moving art rooms into the cafeteria space, and moving one art room to a regular classroom. The art room to be lost would become part of another art room. They also requested an additional outdoor eating space.

H. Razzle-Dazzle Annual Fundraiser

This is an Impact on Education fundraiser. It includes a silent auction and a live auction. The Impact on Education organization is asking for a donation from Manhattan, due by May 14th. Last year Manhattan was awarded \$2,300 by Impact on Education. This was used for bus passes for students in need, which is how it has been spent before. Some ideas for donations were tickets for art exhibitions, theater performances, etc. Deana will be asking for these donations.

III. Teacher's Report - Libby Black

A. Eighth Grade Party

It is time to start thinking about the eighth grade party. We've had an eighth grade parent serve as co-chair with Libby. Michele will send Libby a list of parents who volunteered to help with the 8th grade party.

B. Departure of Ms. Blum

Varda Blum has left Manhattan for a job with an engineering firm. Her last day was Monday, February 10th. Today and tomorrow, Barb is substituting. After that, Meena Raghaven will take over.

IV. Treasurer's Report - Barb Hoyt

Before the Magic Phoenix campaign, Barb put together an annual budget for \$3,900. We still have a good amount of money. We have not yet received reimbursement requests for the winter social. We have budget items for teacher appreciation, volunteer thank yous, RISE ceremonies, and TCAP food. We have \$400 earmarked to give to those who need it; we have given \$100 to a family that had a child's death and have purchased flowers for another family since the mother is undergoing cancer treatment. We have another \$1,600 in discretionary funds to give away, of which we have given only \$100. Barb has talked to John about telling the faculty members that they can request this money through our website, keeping in mind that the request should be in line with our mission statement.

Over and above that, we have money left from dinner fundraisers and additional Magic Phoenix donations. We have decided to buy six more chrome books for John to provide in his discretion to whoever needs them the most. He is planning to talk to team leaders tomorrow. We gave some money to the Art Club for a total of \$300. It had earned \$195 from a community dinner in December.

We have funded Trip Tracker at \$300 and will consider providing more. Manhattan has more Trip Tracker participants than any other BVSD school.

We have another amount of approximately \$2,000 earmarked either toward an outdoor marquee or an indoor electronic sign. John said that we should be receiving an estimate any day for this. We are thinking of a thumb drive mechanism to load information to it. The outdoor marquee is included in the current bond fund request. It was in the original bond fund but was removed in favor of other items.

The Magic Phoenix has raised over \$24,000. Donations continue to trickle in. We received some large donations at the end of December that increased the amount of money that was raised.

V. On-Line Resources / Books

The mother of a sixth grader, Nathalie Pratt, pointed out that students are not bringing home books. John said that a lot of BVSD books are now on-line. Some parents said that sometimes they and/or their kids have been unable to find homework or source work on-line. Our health room para-professional, who has also coordinated some on-line instructional materials, has moved on. We are looking for a replacement, who should be bi-lingual. We are also looking for a volunteer for coordinating on-line instructional materials, until a replacement for our health room para is hired. Since the hours for the health room para are not full-time, the additional hours for on-line instruction make this position more desirable. Brent Graham and Nancy Golaszewski have been managing the on-line calendar.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Winter Social - Sara Knight

The Winter Social was a success. Sara Knight was the chairperson. We went through twelve gallons of ice cream, nine pints of sorbet, and 500 bowls. The 360 students served food and did very well. There was some discussion of having more activities for the 360 students.

Deena's mother-in-law made a quilt for from the outdated t-shirts. This was raffled off at the Winter Social; it brought in an additional \$45, after the costs of making the quilt.

B. PEN & Trip Tracker - Trina Faatz

The February 6th PEN event at Manhattan was reported as being fabulous. See Treasurer's report, above, for Trip Tracker. Trina was not present.

C. International Festival - Diane Braun

The festival has been scheduled for April 8th. Diane was not present.

D. Food for Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences - Kari Albright

Baked goods, burritos, and water bottles will be sold to parents on the Parent-Teacher Conference nights. Kari was not present.

E. Community Events

There will be a California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser this week for the Latino Leadership group. Recap of some prior restaurant fundraisers: The first CPK event raised \$150, and the Chipotle one raised \$1,100.

VII. Fundraising Opportunities

A. Box Tops & School Store - Deena

We are offering candy for every five box tops received by March 1st. We will need to bundle them.

The school store is making a profit. Mark-ups are not much on clothing but are greater for candy. We are discontinuing some school-spirit clothing that had been special orders and isn't selling well. We have also been issued our first our first RISE cash reimbursement of \$50 from Mr. Rigg's. This means that over 200 certificates have been used in the store.

There was some discussion of whether we should be selling food with artificial coloring and sweeteners.

Allison Farand, our volunteer coordinator and our Costco shopper, is not available to do the school store shopping as she is dealing with a family issue. Currently, the PTO has two Costco cards, one in Barb's name and one in Allison's. The cards are linked to the tax-exempt status. Barb said that she would get a Costco card in Deana's name, for school store purchases.

B. Grocery Cards (King Soopers & Safeway) / Longmont Dairy Caps - Kristin

Kristin is selling grocery cards for King Soopers and Safeway. She distributed a status update handout about them. She has produced several educational and marketing sheets. People get cards for \$5.00 and reload them at the store so they can use them to buy more groceries. Money does not start coming to the school until people reload them. The cards were sold at the Winter Social. Kristin will continue selling and publicizing them. Some parents have contributed money for cards for staff. As of February 11th, 138 cards had been distributed.

Longmont Dairy gives us five cents per cap that we return. They caps have been deposited in a box in the lobby. So far, we have redeemed enough to collect \$70, and there are 750 more caps in Kristin's garage waiting to be redeemed.

VIII. Upcoming Events

A. Parent-Teacher Conferences: February 19th & 20th

PTO and volunteers to provide meals for teachers; Barbara Dyrmore, Chairperson.

B. School Musical: Feb. 25th - 27th

C. Manhattan Palooza: March 11th

This is a music fundraiser. It starts at 6:30 pm. This will also be Mr. Johnson's 40th birthday. Camille Hook is in charge.

D. TCAPs: March 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, and 12th

PTO will assist with snacks. Over the five days, 550 kids will be taking the test. There is only one test the last day, so we would do only four days of snacks. We bought the snacks from Costco for previous years.