

Manhattan Middle School PTO Minutes 12/01/14

Attendance:

Michele Marshall, Mary Dineen, Erica Johnson, John Riggs, Loli Hudson, Stepahnie Spencer, Jamie Zimenoff, Kristin Kusmierек, Troy Thornberry, Karen Urbanowski, Shannon Collier, Meena Keuer, Paula Moseley.

Welcome: Michele Marshall

Principal's Report: John Riggs

Open Enrollment Season; 8th graders are looking at high schools and 5-7 graders are touring Manhattan. Tours are scheduled for 12/4 and 12/11. Wed 12/10 open house with teachers. 12/15 and 1/9 OE principal's coffee. Parents are needed for the two tour dates. MMS is growing with 180-190 kids per grade.

Changes; no longer have the option for the tall ships trip. Art Focus is taking a trip to NYC in the spring. Parents and students are interested in an all class outdoor education experience for all 7th graders and/or a trip to Washington DC.

Teacher's Report: Stephanie Spencer

Magic Phoenix money has been awarded and the teachers are spending their money on the students. The teachers very much appreciate the support from parents.

Treasurer's Report: Erica Johnson

Please see attached treasurer's report and profit/loss statement. Erica is requesting a budget meeting be held sometime in January.

Magic Phoenix (Manhattan's major fundraiser): Amanda Wember chair. Report given by Michele Marshall. Each teacher was awarded the amount of money requested up to \$1000. All requests were honored. Teachers who did not request money were awarded up to \$250. The matching funds did well this year. All agreed that Amanda did an amazing job as this was the largest amount collected in MMS history.

Committee Reports:

District Accountability Committee (DAC): Troy Thornberry

Troy represents MMS at the district level. Troy attended the Board of Education's work session this fall. Items discussed included; student privacy policy, testing regimes, and school improvement plans which include a strategic plan and budget priorities. He is recommending we form a MMS accountability committee. The duties would include; be an advisory to the principal, suggest a school budget and complete a school climate survey. The mission would be "what can we do to make the school academic

and climate better?" The school advisory committee (SAC) would consist of the principal, at least 1 teacher, 3 parents and 1 community member.

Talented and Gifted (TAG) District Accountability Committee (DAC): Kristin Kusmierek

We need to have the parents, teachers and administration involved. Audits are done by the Colorado Dept. of Education. Our school isn't conducting an advanced learning plan which is a process required by the state. The advanced learning plans that were looked at found that many schools were under resourced.

Universal testing of all 2nd and 3rd graders has been recommended.

What would we do with more money for TAG programs?

Currently 115 students at MMS, 20%, have an ALP. Our TAG advisor works 7 hours a week.

Parent Engagement Network(PEN)

We have had positive feedback from the Natural Highs presentations. All 8th graders will participate on 12/1 and 7th graders on 12/2.

Trip Tracker distribution 12/15.

Box Tops from food containers have net us \$225 this fall.

We discussed what items could be purchased to benefit most students in the school and it was suggested a new sound system at around \$1000 may be something we purchase in the near futures.

It was suggested to have someone professionally audio/videotape the various student concerts and performances and sell the recordings as a fundraiser.

Volunteering Opportunities:

Second Vice Chair (6th grade parent), School Store, Science garden and Grocery Cards Coordinator.

Winter Break 12/20/2014 -1/5/2015

Next Scheduled PTO Meeting: Monday January 12th 2015 6:30-8:00 pm in MMS Library, all are welcome.