

PTO Meeting Minutes September 8, 2009

- I. Attendees: Josh Baldner, Jennifer O'Brien, Renae Foxhoven, Christy Earles, Stephanie Swope, Betsy Shehigian, Chris Hunt, Aneka Finley, Debbie Gould, Tara Mohr, Sarah Knoebel, Mary Lippi, Sarah Thompson, Diana Fields, Cathy Tallerico, Katie Edmunds, Gail Johnson, Sarah Heilbronner, Debbie Pentz, Cassy Matthews.

- II. The minutes from the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved.

- III. Update from Josh
Handout titled "Mesa CSAP Results." In summary, it shows that our kids are doing well, they're having academic growth and our teachers are making a difference. All the teaching staff district-wide has received curriculum and grade-appropriate binders clearly and consistently defining end of year standards.

Discussion ensued about how the school is working to improve writing scores. Sarah Thompson described in detail how she and Mr. Dayhoff are working with the 4th graders on their writing and the school-wide "writers' workshop" program.

- IV. Update on Events
Directory – Christy has cover art for attendees to vote on.
Pictures – Volunteer ID pictures will be taken at 8-8:45.
Fall Fest – It's scheduled about 3 weeks earlier this year to take advantage of more evening light and warmer temps for outdoor activities.
Parent/Teacher Conferences – We'll have online registration around Sept. 17.
Book fair will take place at the same time. Lisa Gillespie will arrange the dinners.
Mini-Grants – The applications are out. PTO allocates about \$6K every year for teachers' needs. This year it will be \$1k for the 5th grade musical, plus \$5K for other teachers' requests. Deadline for completed applications is Sept. 25 with review and approvals in October. Applications should be tied to school improvement goals. Most requests can generally be funded at least in part.

- V. Budget
 - a. 2008-2009 Budget Summary – We were budgeted to break even but ended up with a surplus of almost \$10K. Some of it is earmarked for ongoing projects.
 - b. 2009-2010 Budget – The requested donation estimate was reduced to the amount needed for a break-even budget. We're only \$3k short of meeting that goal. The biggest difference on the expense side is that last year we budgeted \$24K for tutors—that's up to \$28K for this year. New to budget are Destination Imagination, Science Fair and 4th and 5th grade science enrichment. PTO needs to help make these activities all-inclusive. The teacher appreciation luncheon is now a line item-it

had been included in misc. It was requested that the budget be reworked to reflect the PTO's nonprofit status.

VI. Other Updates

- a. PEN (Parent Engagement Network) – will sponsor 3 nationally known speakers this year. The week of October 16 will feature the author of “Odd Girl Out; Raising Strong Daughters.” An upcoming meeting will form a PEN team to work on events. Surveys are being distributed to discover what parents want to learn about.
- b. SIT (School Improvement Team) – There is a good core group of parents, but always glad to have more. Meet once a month on Mondays to write achievement goals for the school and the school climate goal— are kids happy, productive and safe.
- c. DPC (District Parent Council) – Meet with BVSD Superintendent to speak about important issues. Recently it's been revamping school cafeterias and menus. It was suggested that Mesa reps to the DPC let them know of our success in helping to purchase bulk school supplies for all the students.
- d. G2T (Garden to Table) – Has been implemented now for 1 ½ years with support from the Growe Foundation. Working with teachers to develop garden tie ins to the curriculum and become the lead school in the district with sustainability. There is a focus on healthy cooking with the kids this year. There will be some delays this year because of the build-out of the school over the current gardens and future garden space is currently occupied by playground equipment. There'll be minimal planting this year. We will focus on fundraising for raised beds and irrigation of the future garden space.
- e. DAT (Design Advisory Team) – DAT was put together last spring to help guide the facility improvements. DAT will work to hold architects and builders to the plan for what we need and that taxpayers approved. They will meet every 2 weeks until December. Then we'll start getting bids for construction and ground will be broken in Summer 2010. Construction will continue until school opens in August 2011. There was a suggestion to have a neighborhood liaison on the committee. Concern was expressed about diligence for safety of the students during construction.

VII. The budget was approved. Revisions will be made when we have the final dollar numbers on tutors.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12.

Adjourned.

Submitted by co-secretaries Betsy Shehigian and Stephanie Swope.