

**PTA General Meeting  
October 9, 2018  
Steele Elementary Office**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Attendees:** Crissy Lucado, Kim Kobernusz, Pattie Welch, Mary Beth Thacker, Nisha Ashley, Jen Freeman, Maureen Savage, Cindy Kapeller

**Number of Attendees:** Approximately 30 people including board members.

- 1. General meeting agenda items: 6:00-6:30pm Library**
- a. Welcome / ice breaker (Kim/Crissy)
  - b. Approval of September general meeting minutes (Pattie)
    - i. Meeting minutes approved. Pattie Welch motioned for the minutes to be approved. Kim Kobernusz second. All were in favor.
  - c. Principal update (Cindy)
    - i. Sign up for conferences.
    - ii. Kindergarten tours start on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. Once in October, two every month after that. You do need to sign up on Website. Last year we had too many people. We are offering more and limiting the number of people.
    - iii. Phase 3 of Innovative Bond: Bond for schools to breath innovative life in their schools. We are part of the final phase. Schools have renovated library, auditorium, etc. lots of different things we could. Meeting with PM on Thursday. Biggest question is what can and cannot be changed based on historical status of our school. Staff will help put together ideas about what we think would be a benefit to the majority of our teachers and students. Then it will be presented to CSC and PTA Meeting. Proposal to be turned in for review in December.
    - iv. Principal coffee on Oct. 12 at 8:30 in the cafeteria.
  - d. CSC updates (CSC Committee Member – Ali/Tawny)
    - i. Collaborative school committee: group of teachers, parents, community
    - ii. Looping and Multiage Classrooms:
      1. Purpose to gather questions and concerns about looping and multi-age classrooms to make sure we are addressing concerns.
      2. Teacher’s goal is always to meet the needs of each and every child. Teachers love teaching in multiage classrooms.
      3. Superintendent search is still going on. This is the time to voice your concerns, needs, etc.

- e. Committee updates:
  - i. Grocery cards:
    - 1. Ali Sweeney presented. You can purchase cards tonight or directly from Ali Sweeney. They are \$5 each and loaded with \$5.
  - ii. Fall fundraiser (Jenn / Dedra)
    - 1. Dedra presented about Fall Fundraiser.
    - 2. Venue: Botanic Gardens
    - 3. Theme: Masquerade Ball
    - 4. Most big decisions have been made.
    - 5. Donations are due no later than this Friday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>.
    - 6. If you know you want to do something but don't have exact details, we can still get you squared away and work out details.
    - 7. We also have a few things/ideas that people have hosted in the past so if you need an idea, see Dedra.
    - 8. Rich Haynie is running Handbid app. Ticket sales: last year at this time 34 sold, this year 63 so far. Any issues with Handbid, see Rich Haynie, he's happy to help get you squared away.
    - 9. Also taking wine donations. Wine wall is a new event and we'll take as many bottles as possible. Each bottle needs to retail for \$20 or above. At party, give \$20 then you get to pick a blind bottle to have at the party. Every bit of money is money for the school. Question or want to make a donation, see Daniela Meltzer, Dedra Haynie or anyone on the Fundraising committee.
    - 10. Deadline to provide a bottle of wine is Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - iii. Garden: Dig it Day (Nisha)
    - 1. Sunday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-1pm. Help put garden beds to rest. Bring kids, whole family. Sign ups on My School Anywhere or just come.
  - iv. Volunteers needed: Rainbow Week and Book Fair (Nisha)
    - 1. Promote healthy foods throughout the week using the colors of the rainbow.
    - 2. April Amiel is head. Questions you can reach out to her.
    - 3. Need volunteers. Opportunities are on My School Anywhere or contact April to help as well.
    - 4. Book fair needs sign-ups as well. Shifts to set up and tear down and sell books throughout the week. Opportunities are also on My School Anywhere as well. Sign up there.

- v. Swag approval (Nisha)
  1. Looking for budget approval to purchase new swag: hats, shirts, stickers, etc.
  2. Not looking at it as a money maker for the school. Just to promote community awareness.
  3. Looking to get approved \$5,000 to make new swag.
  4. Budget was approved at PTA meeting. Kim Kobernusz made a motion to approve and Pattie Welch second. All were in favor.
  
- vi. Communications: Amendment 73 (Jim)
  1. Great schools. Thriving communities.
  2. Jim Grimes gave a brief overview of the Amendment that will be up for vote on Election Day.
  3. If you want more information, see Jim Grimes.
  
- vii. Kids of Steele:
  1. Mary Beth Thacker reported on the Walk For Sudan this weekend. 8 students and 6 parents. Not the largest turnout, but still successful and a lot of fun.

## **2. Middle School Presentations**

**6:30-7:30pm Auditorium**

- a. Merrill
  - i. 575 kids
  - ii. Only middle school newcomer program in all of DPS
  - iii. 33 languages are spoken within our student body
  - iv. % of neighborhood families has increased over 15%
  - v. 60% neighborhood families are choosing Merrill
  - vi. Highlights included families diversity and diversity of enrichment, activities offers, etc.
  - vii. Kids love school when they go to Merrill. They are happy to be there.
  
- b. Hill: did not attend
  
- c. McAuliffe: did not attend
  
- d. Morey
  - i. Diverse community
  - ii. 42% HGT or GT – HGT magnet of Denver Public Schools
  - iii. 320 kids/just a middle school – cap is 350 kids
  - iv. Vision is to build on every child’s unique capabilities. Self directed and
  - v. Personalized learning school. Personalized to them specifically. Self-directed learning time in
  - vi. Success seminar: 4/week to meet with an advisor how they are doing with their goals, socially, emotionally, academically, etc.

- vii. Habits of success: SUCCESS
  - viii. 40 minutes advisor class 4 days per week // one day per week is a discovery seminar – choose a different elective to build on knowledge of additional interests
  - ix. Double block classes: 83 minutes of each class
  - x. Electives: PE, Art, STEM, Drama
- e. DSST
- i. Denver School of Science & Technology – STEM school
  - ii. Morning meeting we have 3 times per week makes our school unique
  - iii. Emphasis on relationship between teacher and students. Strong knowledge of each other.
  - iv. Belong and be yourself.
  - v. Focus on core values: respect, integrity, responsibility – these are integral in how we respond and treat each other.
  - vi. Strong emphasis on college. In our sites from 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - vii. Fulltime college coordinator that goes all the way through high school.
  - viii. Strong advisory community too. This teacher is an advisor to 16 girls.
  - ix. Discouragement of clicks, etc.
- f. GALS / The Boys School of Denver
- i. Movement is a part of every class.
  - ii. Relatable, able to be just me, be your genuine self.
  - iii. Single gender school.
  - iv. Core classes include Girls Series, Boys School: social/emotional well being, social justice, health, sex ed, etc.
  - v. Grades are valued as equally as math, language arts, etc.
- g. DSA:
- i. Denver School of the Arts
  - ii. Audition to get in
  - iii. 11 different majors: pick that and that's what you would audition for
  - iv. Preview days: end of November/beginning of December
- h. DCIS:
- i. Denver Center of International Studies
  - ii. Broadway and 6<sup>th</sup> avenue
  - iii. 750: middle and high school students / small school
  - iv. Specialize in languages: we are not an immersion school but we expect proficiency and students take the same language throughout
  - v. Dates available for shadowing if you are interested

### 3. Next General Meeting: November 13, 6:00pm