

Polaris PTO
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2017

In Attendance: Anne Sterrett, Principal; Lee Cooper, Instructional Superintendent, Stephenie Falcone, Secretary; Megan Webber, Treasurer; Colin Lamb, Vice Chair; Tim Kirkwood, Chair; Kara Chitwood, Volunteer Coordinator; Vanessa Pierce, Fundraising Chair; Cedra Goldman, RTV Chair; Kris Heilbron, teacher; Meg Freidman, Communications

1. Call to order - Introductions
2. Motion to adopt meeting minutes from Feb -
 - a. Megan will send edits
3. Board Reports:
 - a. Chair's Report –
 - b. Vice Chair's Report –
 - i. Sent email regarding meeting with school board member, talked about SPF and growth versus achievement
 - ii. Anne says there have been changes made, waiting to see what it's going to be, will let us know
 - c. Treasurer's Report – Megan
 - i. Family Dance Party was non-money making event, made \$150, broke even.
 - ii. Monthly ACH and Colorado Gives numbers updated
 - iii. Up \$8000 this year, giving is down but expenses are down
 - iv. STEAM budget, \$10K – Kristen Alex was running the committee, back in grad school, Kristen Heeres is interested, want to utilize STEAM materials in other ways.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Romancing the Vine – Cedra
 - i. Over \$15K worth of auction items so far
 - ii. All the liquor vendors in line, liquor license
 - iii. Sold 50 tickets so far
 - iv. Yard signs March 15th along drop off/pick up
 - v. Paperless post with list of auction items will go out
 - vi. 200 person capacity, can sell 180 (have some people comped)
 - vii. Teachers need to sign up 2 weeks before for discounted rate
 - viii. Vanessa – Wishing Wall/Tree, less restricted the better
 - ix. Vanessa – Recognize Cedra for elevating this event
 - x. One of the packages is Disneyland package, need air miles or hotel points, please put the word out
 - b. Volunteer Committee – Kara

- i. Grandparents Day April 7th – Corrilee and Anne worked out a schedule so every grade is with another grade, time in the classroom and concert in the auditorium, volunteer need is minimal
- ii. Wed April 26th - New Family Night 6-7pm, providing light snacks, volunteers to watch kids on the playground, all PTO attending, maybe student ambassadors to represent classes
 - 1. Colin, Vanessa and Kara will speak, Anne and Melinda will speak
 - 2. No teachers will be in attendance
- iii. Spring Showcase Thurs May 11th
 - 1. Will invite new families, have family welcome table
 - 2. Food trucks want to guarantee certain amount of sales but that means long lines for fewer trucks
 - 3. Buy-a-Shares for kid activities, Megan and Vanessa and Stephenie with Carmen, for over the summer
 - 4. Each class used to do a basket/project to sell – maybe just the ones that want to can.
 - 5. Kids want to sell their crafts/ homemade items
 - 6. Community Service tables
 - 7. Book Fair happening also
 - 8. Danny will have art on all the panels
- iv. Summertime Community Builders – 2 playdates over the summer and meet the teachers at Back to School Social, No lemonades
- c. Fundraising Committee – Vanessa
 - i. We are now at 65% of our goal, slightly ahead on Annual Fund, RTV has the potential to go above \$10K
 - ii. A lot of little things not happening that we need to make up for
 - iii. 67% of families are participating
 - iv. Might want to invite new families to RTV
 - v. Megan – Employer Match last year was \$8k, this year is \$9200, and \$10K of our annual fund are 5th grade families
 - vi. Kara – Vanessa’s role is so big, there is a need for someone to be dedicated to the Annual Fund, help with restructuring this.
 - vii. Reach out to kindergarten families for personal ask
- d. Communications Committee- Meg
 - i. E-Post – reminder how it works went out
 - ii. Website – need edits back, Melanie did edit too, will send to Anne first before DPS Central, waiting on teacher bio info
- e. Electives – (Anne for Melinda) – trying something newer for registration
 - i. Divided classes into 3 groups, high priority group, medium, low.
 - ii. Some 5th grade girls not happy, wanted all high priority choices
 - iii. Need instructor for 3-D printing
 - iv. Megan – Budget, Melinda is right on track, has spent half her budget so far, has gotten creative, got sponsors for materials

5. Principal's Report – Anne
 - a. Come to GT Parent Seminar March 16th, Blanche is an expert
 - b. Join Colorado Association for GT, it's only \$35 a year
 - c. Got enough Chrome Books that every class will have enough devices for every kid in every class
 - d. First will let upper grades use Chrome Books for PARCC testing
 - e. In the middle of interviewing and hiring, great candidates, very time consuming, great committee. 1 year teacher leave, 4th grade teacher position/GT team lead, and 5th grade teacher position
 - f. Website is underway, had a photoshoot last Friday during electives, GT school from CO. Springs and came and brought 20 people
6. Teacher's Report – Kris
 - a. Waiting for the wish list meeting – Tuesday March 14th at 4pm in Ms. Heilbron's room!
 - b. Before next year make sure to staff what we have for STEAM vs PTO vs classroom budget lines
 - c. Megan - Still \$7500 left in budget for STEAM
7. Unfinished business- Colin –
 - a. only 2 more meetings left, should talk about officers for next year, Colin will be Chair, Jessica Sullivan wants to look at Treasurer position, Kara or Stephenie can step into Vice Chair position, Secretary can be Stephenie or new person.
 - b. Send job descriptions and time commitments to Meg by next week
8. New business –
 - a. CSC/Anne has conducted a survey with teachers concerning para program
 - i. Mostly people use para to monitor large group while they work with small groups
 - ii. Paras are doing small group work as well
 - iii. People who use Paras for mostly clerical admin work is because they come during their planning time
 - iv. Most prefer paras in the morning, 2 or 3 responses were not time specific
 - v. Most said their para time is just about right
 - vi. Most agree para is a priority, 2 said no
 - vii. Most agree primary classes have priority
 1. K-3 have about 2 3/4 hours a day
 2. 4th grade has less than that
 3. 5th grade has about an hour
 - viii. UNC students give us a bit of leeway, 1 hour paid for by district
 - ix. Anne's ask would be to continue the funding of \$90K
 - x. Lee – What is the value as a parent for paras?
 1. Bringing down the student teacher ratio
 2. Reflects parent donor community
 3. PTO is called upon to serve every kid, every grade

9. Adjournment – Next meeting April 10, 2017