

Centennial PTO Meeting Minutes 1/6/16

In attendance:

Elizabeth Koehler, Diane Harpold, Jessica Coulson, Elisabeth Marcenac, Patty Lydic, Sue Gehlert, Ulrika Styrefors, MaryAnn Pyle, Jen McDiarmid, Robin Keys, Dana Ellis, Sherril Hanson, Gwen Burak, Amy Shoffner, Nicole Benjain

Sue passes around potential items for the January bulletin board for review

Mission

Sarah: people have said we don't have a mission statement. Should we formalize one? Amy Shoffner thinks it may be a good idea. It would help with fundraising. If we do pursue it we should involve a few teachers too. Patti says it is an important recruitment tool as well. Dana says we can start with the school's mission statement. Dana says Madeline (at the District) would love to come facilitate this. She is the BVSD person who was just hired in August. Each school has a parent support person and Madeline has met with each of them to see what schools are doing, what they'd like to be doing and putting that in line with the district's work on the parent-partnership lens. People should compile lists of things they want to include in our mission statement and we can mull them over at the next meeting.

Next Year's Officers

Sarah has been doing the job of president for 2 years and does not intend to continue next year. Not sure if Diane will continue either. Patty doesn't know yet either. Nicole says she'll continue. Amy says "yes, but". Robin would like to still come as she is a huge advocate of middle schoolers even though her son is an 8th grader. MaryAnn does not want to continue with student directory but she will do honor roll breakfast. She'd like someone to shadow her though and thinks maybe Sherry Franz might be interested. Sue will continue with student council. Elizabeth will continue with PEN but would also like a co-chair/shadow on that. Jen will not continue with Trip Tracker but Elizabeth Marcenac will likely take over. Sarah will follow up with other chairs.

Descriptions of programs for the website

Sarah has noticed that there is not much content on the website. It is kind of under construction. We'd like to get basic descriptions of our programs on the website. Sarah went through the website and printed off every single page and put the responsible person's name on it and handed those out. Please email Sarah back within the next two weeks by January 20th with a description of your area of responsibility. Go to Centennial school website and then click on "parents" and then PTO to check it out.

Budget update

Diane: Budget looks good for completing payments on our anticipated programs for rest of year. Big checks were made over break toward trip tracker and bike racks. Overall, we have about \$1500 for the rest of this year for some additional capital improvements. There is a lot of excitement about the monitor we are talking about buying for the school. Dana says Jon Georgitis has really good insight into what other schools have been using for their monitors. It is basically a TV on a designated cart. Then, you use a computer to connect to it to make

announcements, recognitions, community events, etc. Sarah asks if we should ask Jon for a proposal. Dana says that is a good idea. Diane will follow up with him.

Our last check from Lucky's was \$400+, a big jump from what we've been getting in the past. Sheryl will be taking over on the grocery cards! Thank you, Sheryl! Diane says these are great to give out to your kids who like to hang out at Lucky's. We are giving out cards to new staff as a welcome from PTO.

Spiritwear chair

Michelle Young has expressed interest. Sarah will call her this week and see if she wants to take this on. We need to talk about scheduling upcoming sales!

Fundraising meeting

Amy: Wants to invite anyone interested in learning what we are doing and/or interested in helping us develop a fundraising plan to the meeting on January 20th at 9:00 in the conference room! All are welcome! Sarah clarifies that they are leaning toward making the spring fundraising the main push! Historically, Diane says 2/3 of our fundraising is done in the spring but we are trying to consolidate things.

Award ceremony update

MaryAnn: Awards ceremony is new. Dana has spearheaded this. MaryAnn got google signup sheets to Amy. Everyone who is on the PTO distribution list will get a link to the google doc to sign up and then it will go to the e-blast for next two weeks. These awards will honor RISE values, cyclones of the month, good citizens, attendance, sports, honor roll and others. It is also going to be an expense for PTO because we will order coffee and bagels. There will be signups for donuts, etc. This will take place in auditorium. Parents and kids will arrive around 7:45. Ceremony starts at 8:00. It will be grab and go. We have tried to do more handheld things: bagels, muffins, bananas, cuties, etc. Dana has done this at her other schools. It is new for us and for the staff here. It is our hope to get more people involved. It would be a great time to sell spirit wear! We will probably have 500 parents in the building over those 3 days.

Dana says we will try doing it at 8:00 in the morning even though not all the kids are here at school at that time. (In the future, Dana would like to do it at the start of the school day so all kids can recognize the kids that are getting awards. She believes this is a good skill for kids to have). Next week, kids who are getting an award will get an invitation that comes home. It won't say what the award is for. These awards encompass far more kids and a more diverse group of kids since they won't just be focusing on the grades. We are trying to balance this. We will do this twice a year.

Dana says we will have programs by grade level that will show the kids' names. So, those will need to be folded and assembled and Dana will be asking for help with this. It will go in the eblast.

Student directory update

MaryAnn. It is as done as it can be at this point. Her fear is when Sarah sends it out in the blast next week, people are going to want to add to it. MaryAnn can't do that right now. So, we need someone who is willing to be that person. To make changes, the pdf has to come down, amended and then reloaded. Sarah says she will do that since she has been playing with the directory for some time now. Sarah says she is willing to do a one time update. Therefore, if you have any corrections to make to information that is currently in the directory, please email the corrections to centennialmspto@gmail.com by February 1, 2016.

Sarah passes around a description of "my school anywhere" and a sheet she found on the Foothill directory. Foothill is also making the shift from doing the directory themselves to "my school anywhere". Boulder High School also uses it. For a school our size, to get the version of this program that allows parents to access the directory from their phones and computers is \$498 per year. Boulder High and Foothills' PTO are footing the bill. Sarah looked up the Boulder High version and found it super slick and awesome. Gwen had the opposite experience and found it very difficult to use. Sarah wanted to throw this out and get feedback. Amy says that from a fundraising perspective, having a database like this would be awesome. Amy thinks we need to move to something like this to grow our PTO. Foothill is going to start with "my school anywhere" this year even though they already have an "old style" directory in place for this year.

Amy wonders what the legal issues are. Dana says BVSD is very cautious with protecting data. Dana will contact the district to make sure that the district has reviewed this program.

Sarah says people enter the data themselves. Nothing is downloaded from the school's database. We work with the school to send everyone the link but then people have to actively click and enter their information.

MaryAnn sent Sarah Crest View's privacy policy (in English and in Spanish) for Crest View's directory that includes things like how parents are not supposed to use the directory for their own personal business, etc.

Diane says perhaps we should incorporate this into the registration process. It might be another chance to capture people's attention.

St. Baldrick's update

Jessica. Our event is live and will be held Thursday March 17th, right after dodgeball tournament. There was a blurb with a link toward registering and volunteering by emailing Jessica. She needs two people to sign up as treasurers and a team of volunteers. Sarah suggests she write up descriptions and get them to Amy Carpenter. There will be lots of stuff leading up to the event: registration, help with lunch awareness, passing out bracelets. We will not be doing bake sales at lunchtime because BVSD and federal rules won't allow that during lunch. So, we need to make up that fundraising money. Jessica met with community liaison from Montage Academy in Longmont (a stylist school). She already has between 5-10 student barbers signed up, who will be supervised. Jessica will also call the cosmetology school through the tech center. Montage also said instead of doing bake sale, they could raffle off services. MaryAnn says you need a license from the state of CO to have a raffle. It is hard to get and there are a lot of rules. Jessica would like someone who wants to coordinate after

school bake sales if they want to try and recoup the approximately \$500 that the bake sale during lunch used to raise. Jessica can't take that on right now.

Patty asks how are students learning about this. Jessica will email Miss Fig to get the info to student council. Jessica will be writing a blurb that will be added to student announcements. We will be updating pictures in the hallway. They will be distributing bracelets in the lunchroom. Signs will go up.

The dodgeball tournament is run by Coach Adams and Miss Fig. Jessica worked with them to get the date. MaryAnn suggests we could charge \$5 per team (which ends up to be about \$1 per kid) to enter the dodgeball tournament. That would be a way to recoup the bake sale money. Amy wonders if there is an idea to get the girls involved as there was only one team of girls last year. MaryAnn says there were also 3 girls on boys teams.

Dana says our school has in the past been verbally and formally reprimanded for violating the federal lunch guidelines. Schools have to follow the rules to get funding for free and reduced lunch. One of those rules is a no competition clause. We can't provide, sell or have available through vending machines food within 30 minutes of lunch or the breakfast program. We will not be violating this anymore. Fundraisers have to meet healthy food guidelines. This is new from the last 2 years.

Winter social event

SAC update: Robin - There is talk of a need for an electronic defibrillator and a bike work station. Jen says adult bike racks will be going in underneath the awning at the front entrance. Dana says in Boulder, there are fewer requirements regarding people who have to be CPR and first aid trained than some other districts have. We did a school training in August - both CPR and AED and first aid. Dana says it would be great if we could get one in our school. Dana will reach out and get a quote and give it to PTO.

Patty - a reminder that eblasts go out on Monday. Updates need to be emailed to Elizabeth in the front office by Friday afternoons.

Upcoming training

PTO Google Drive training at the February meeting on February 3. Mr. Georgitis will be doing that training in the computer lab. That part of the meeting will start at 9. The regular meeting will begin promptly at 8:15.

PTO Google sites (website) training will be held at the March meeting.

Other items:

Amy Carpenter wanted to know if anyone has volunteer needs in the coming month. Elizabeth Marcenac needs help with distribution of flyers on Engines Off campaign. Sarah asks Elizabeth to email Amy Carpenter directly.

Jen - there will be a walk along 19th street. City and RTD are looking at doing improvements between Norwood and Violet along 19th street. More info will be in the eblast.