

Minutes of May 4th PTO Meeting

Introductions: Everyone in attendance went around the room and introduced themselves.

In attendance: Nicole Benjamin, Amy Shoffner, Amy Chan, Alyssa Steinberger, Sue Gehlert, Erin Vito, Tina Hirshland, Sarah Schulte, Jen McDiarmid, Gwen Burak, Marina Diaz, Liza Weems, Elizabeth Koehler, Diane Harpold

Student Council Update: Tasmyn: We need parent volunteers for 8th grade graduation party. There is a link to sign up for volunteering in the eblast.

Website Update: Erin Vito: New PTO website will launch tomorrow (May 5th)! There will be ongoing updates to the website so feel free to submit comments or suggestions! Erin will take Patty Lydic's place on the board as Director of Communications. Streamlining the process of getting people involved will be a goal and being really user focused instead of top-down in our approach.

Amy Shoffner asks when she gets the donation flyer up and running what should she do? Erin says submit it to her for posting on the website. The site is in Wordpress right now. We can create individual logins for people who have an interest in and a need to update the website themselves for their sections.

Fundraising Update: Amy Shoffner: In the spring registration mailing for next year we are including our Fuel the Cyclones fundraising information. It will be available online and in this mailing in a paper version. Fundraising here is different than in elementary schools. Robin Keys worked on this amazing flyer. We are hoping it explains the differences in fundraising here. We have two separate fundraising drives that we do together at the same time and that we collaborate with the school on. For CMS itself, the teachers and principals make decisions on how to spend the money raised by CMS. For PTO, we have our board and members that make decisions along with the principal on how to spend money raised by PTO. The tricky thing is we are asking people to give two separate checks or do two separate logins to Revtrak. We are asking \$125 per student for CMS and \$50 per student for PTO.

Diane: Treasurer Report: There are some bigger expenses (\$1000 for yearbook, \$1000 for 8th grade promotion, the TV messages cart for \$1000, and labor for the bike racks) coming up. Once the whole running track is set up there are plans to get some bike racks set up there too to help with west side kids. Our budget has one anomaly with the honor roll breakfasts which kind of blossomed out of control as more kids qualified and award structure was expanded (which was a fabulous problem to have). So, for next year, the school may have to take over some of the expenses associated with the honor roll breakfasts. (These expenses include paper products, coffee and bagels). Feedback at the meeting is that PTO sponsoring all honor roll breakfasts feels right so let's see if we can keep doing it and ask for more donations of food by parents. Perhaps PTO will just do the coffee and we put the bagels out for parents to donate. Announcements have been hard to hear so the idea is to have a message screen that scrolls messages in the cafeteria. We can also put video clips on there, like, for example, a video clip of kids in band/orchestra in Grand Junction. Student Council could put together little clips for their causes. There is great potential for teachers to use the TV screen for instructional purposes. It is on a rolling cart.

Dana: Principal's report: We are going to late start this coming year. An email will go out today. There are 3 other middle schools in BVSD that don't have late starts right now (all the others do). We've learned we had to add some time to our school day to be in compliance with state requirements. Busses will drop kids when school starts on those days. Transportation will accommodate our late start. YMCA will provide open gym, at a minimum. There will also be a quiet area for study hall. They have community partners they work with that may be able to do classes. Dana will meet with the Y and see what we can offer. On Friday, another email will go out again on late start and will detail the plans for the last few days of school. The Y programs will be at a fee. Dana is thinking of using some Fuel the Cyclones money to subsidize this.

Amy S asks if that changes when we would have our PTO meetings. Sarah says probably. Let's look at new meeting dates at our board meeting on Wednesday.

Amy Chan: May 24th New Family Welcome!: Amy needs volunteers for that afternoon. Kids will go with 360 leaders and counselors. Parents will get directed up to the library. We need volunteers without incoming 6th graders to staff tables. Elizabeth and Diane will do that. Also we want to make sure we have a group of people who have both incoming 6th graders and also have older students here as there will be 3 or 4 "conversation stations" (e.g., nuts and bolts, registration, locker day, social scene of middle school, big differences between elementary and middle school, how to get involved). We will provide different color name badges for the different elementary schools and encourage the parents to talk with people with different color name tags. We are trying to build community and be very welcoming. Our kids are being pushed that evening to get out of their comfort zone so parents should have to live through that as well. There will be about 45 minutes in the library and then we will meet up with kids and counselors in the courtyard and have cookies! Diane says we'd like to have a table set up with spirit wear and Lucky's cards too. If you are interested in helping out, please send Nicole Benjamin an email at nicolebenjamin8@me.com. Jen suggests we include a transportation piece. Jen wants to encourage parents to have their kids ride their bikes or walk right from the get go. Amy really wants the event to be about connecting and socializing. Let's not inundate people with papers.

Tina: Welcome back coffees: Tina hosted these for the first time this year. This was the first year we offered it to 7th and 8th graders (in addition to 6th graders). Do we want to continue offering this? The group overwhelmingly feels: Yes! The 6th grade one will be separate. 7th and 8th will be combined. It will be August 18th for 6th grader parents and August 19th for 7th and 8th grade parents. It will run from 8:30-9am.

August 25th at 6:00 is our back to school picnic.

Amy, Tina, Marina, and Gwen will get together and talk generally about how to comprehensively welcome people to our community.

Gwen: We will figure out what to ask of PTO for the back to school picnic. Sarah suggests it would be great to get that information to the executive board before the next board meeting on Wednesday.

Sarah: Elections of Officers: Amy Shoffner will be our chair next year!

Jen McDiarmid moves that we vote on the slate of proposed officers. Sue Gehlert seconds the motion. All are in favor!

Chair: Amy Shoffner

Co-Chair: Open

Past-Chair: Sarah Schulte

Treasurer: Diane Harpold

Secretary: Nicole Benjamin

Communication Coordinator: Erin Vito

Fundraising Co-Coordinators: Open

Volunteer Coordinator: Amy Carpenter

Facebook: Open

Lucky's Cards: Sherril Hanson

Dinner's Out: Chris Goodman

SAC Rep: Robin Keys

School Events: (this was combined with Volunteer Coordinator and Amy Carpenter will coordinate)

Bylaws: Sarah Schulte

Welcome Coffees: Tina Hirshland

New Family Welcome: Amy Chan

Student Directory: Sarah Schulte

Parent Book Club: Open. UPDATE: Liza Weems will take this on!

Elementary School Liaisons: Open

Student Council Rep: Sue Gehlert

Honor Roll Breakfasts: MaryAnn Pyle

PEN: Elizabeth Koehler

Transportation: Open (Jen may still do this)

Green Star School: Julie Frieder

Spiritwear: Margot Brown

Welcome Back Picnic: Gwen Burak and Marina Diaz

St. Baldrick's: Jessica Coulson

Staff Appreciation: Tina Hirshland

Principal: Dana Ellis

Teacher Rep: Open

The group recognizes Sarah for her great work as president of PTO!

Staff will get back to Dana about any interest in a staff liaison to the PTO. Dana has mentioned that we can rotate that position (to help with class coverage issues). We could also send a PTO rep to teacher meetings.

Sarah explained the School Events position: We have had an explosion in things we've been asked to have a PTO presence at. So, a parent to coordinate this would be great! Amy Carpenter says this could go under volunteer coordinator. So, Amy will take this on. We'll talk about this at the board meeting next week at 8:30 in the conference room.

Parent Book Club. Casey and Boulder High have book clubs. Parents love these. Could be books focused on parenting. This should go in eblast. Amy will put it on blast open volunteer possibilities. UPDATE: Liza Weems will take this on!

We really need to find a co-chair for Amy. Also, Fuel the Cyclones position will now be open as Amy moves into co-chair.

Locker Day: This is the one time that everyone physically comes to school. If we could have a physical presence in the gym with tables we could reach a lot of people. This would be the please sign up and get involved moment! Maybe we can send out a bike map with the email about locker day. What do we need at locker day? - transportation, spirit wear, Lucky's cards, opportunities for volunteering, general PTO presence. Amy Carpenter and Amy Shoffner will handle coordinating the Locker Day needs.

Amy Carpenter: last day of school. We have very little 6th grade participation. Please forward to a group of your 6th grade parent friends. Let's try to get them more involved. Dana says we are trying to send the message of inclusion! People who want to come help or just mingle is great! We will be out on the east field. We need help with setting up games and the kickball tournament. The office will also be set up outside. All the awards stuff will be happening inside. Dana will introduce the last day of school activities in the blast to be sure that the inclusion idea is clear.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYONE!!!!