

8:15-9:30 am in the Library

1. Welcome and Introductions

Amy asks that we all introduce ourselves. Amy thanks Sarah for bringing coffee and donuts.

In attendance: Ginger Barnes, Nicole Benjamin, Amy Carptner, Tina Hirshland, Amy Chan, Shannon Halgren, Jennifer Donahue, Robin Keys, Sarah Schulte, Erin Vito, Margot Brown, Marina Diaz, Sue Gehlert, Cori Chavez, Dana Ellis, Amy Shoffner, Julie Frieder, Michelle Christenson, Susan Everett, Machal Gillach, Sherril Hanson, Elizabeth Koehler, Kristy Westnedge, Diane Harpold

Ali Figurin talks about student council. Kids call her "Figs" so if you hear that, you'll know. Kids are excited about starting student council. First meeting is 10/13. We will have 3 different spirit weeks. All are on docket to be planned but we are open to feedback. We will have a winter party a day or two or three before school lets out for winter break. We have Valentine's Day grams. We are running the Green Crew - 8 kids are on our team with some backups too. We are shooting for zero waste. Kids have dreams of gardens, solar panels. Ali thanks the parents for raising such great students. Student Council also does the end of school year celebrations for each grade. They send surveys out to parents. They do data-driven parties based on the responses to the surveys. Student Council generates the surveys. If you are feeling passionate about something, throw it out to us. Susan Gehlert says at future meetings, student council representatives will come to PTO and share their concerns.

2. Approval of the minutes from last meeting- 3 minutes - Nicole Benjamin. Nicole moves to approve the minutes from our August meeting and notes the corrections made pursuant to Diane Harpold's email. Erin seconds. All are in favor.

Kristy Westnedge: We will do a push in October for fundraising. We will start in the middle of October and run through Halloween and see if we can meet our budget needs. Sarah asks how we are doing so far. Amy says we are about 75% of the way there for PTO. The school is also at around 75% of its goal thus far. We will try and do three fundraising dinners as well.

3. Presidents report - 5 minutes - Amy Shoffner

Amy wants to know what people think of the PTO meeting's format and what people are hoping for from PTO meetings. Please email her. Please also note the meeting schedule.

- a. Meeting schedule - *Attached*. Generally, PTO meetings will be in the library unless we will get in the way of something instructional that is happening in the library. PTO meetings are also on the school calendar and on the PTO website.

4. Treasurers report - 5 minutes. Diane Harpold

- a. Approval of 2016/17 budget.

Diane: We have spent \$2300 for this fiscal year, the majority of which was on spirit wear supplies. Diane talks through some highlights on the 16/17 proposed budget. We are hoping

to vote to approve the budget. In general, we try to make sure we can fundraise enough to cover our programming and we like to have more available for capital expenditures. We have about 40% of our budget for events and programs (community events, book club, parties, 8th grade promotion, transportation, dodgeball/St. Baldricks, meetings) 14% of our budget for recognition (staff appreciation, honor roll breakfasts, volunteer appreciation), 12% of our budget for green star supplies, 16% for community donations (health room, snacks, yearbooks), and 18% for administration.

Any questions about the budget? Sarah says it might be interesting to see information about our revenue sources. We might want a brainstorming session to see how we could raise more money. Grocery cards are like free money. There are other stores we could add. What about Amazon Smiles? Apparently, Centennial middle school does participate in Amazon Smiles! Amy says we should make this a future agenda item for next month. Diane says we are down in fundraising for this time of the year compared to previous years. We are at \$5875 which is less than we need just to support our standard programming. Grocery card program has grown a lot from when we started. With Safeway you have to reach a minimum level before they will pay out. Lucky's has expanded now and you can use your card at all locations. They are reloadable at any Lucky's location.

Sarah moves that we approve the budget. Erin seconds. Budget is approved.

Amy Chan says we might want to outreach to the kids because they are shopping at Lucky's.

5. Principals report - Dana 10 minutes to present, 5 minutes for questions.

Dana: Track and field update: The field and the track are in the final stages of curing. That part may open in about a week and a half. It is somewhat weather dependent. They are now working around it to put sod down. That won't open till around Thanksgiving. They will put safety netting around the sodded areas so we can use the track and field sooner. We wanted another bike parking area back there. Don Orr and Dana talked through this with the contractors. Our big bond project for this school will start in spring 2018. For now, for both bike streets to the west of the track and field area, it will be a crusher fines path. They are trying to get enough space for about 40 bikes initially. Eventually, it will move to concrete and will be enlarged. Dana hopes the bike racks will be opened to us when they open up the track and field.

Survey results on the topic of language arts closed last Wednesday. There were 192 responses. As promised, her boss and Dana have looked at them together. Angel, the director of literacy and language arts, has the data too and has met with Dana. The Department will also look at this. Through this we will figure out what to do next. We are talking about how to address the questions that are there in multiple formats. Dana is thinking some kind of FAQ and more information that people wanted regarding the research and some kind of presentation night. Hopefully the administration will have a plan with dates very soon. Stay tuned. Dana will do a separate communication on this and then put a link in the e-blast to it. Dana will try and improve communication on this issue.

Conferences format for middle school is different than for elementary school. We want you to bring your children with you. Students often lead conferences. Sign up to see the teachers you want to see. We have increased our available hours for this year. We ran out of spots last year. Sign up is through a software program. You log in and create a signup. It will show you who your kids' teachers are and you pick the teachers you want to see. You select the time slot you want. When you are done, you can print your itinerary or have it emailed to you. Signups release to everyone on October 7th at 4:00. You have the weekend to sign up which

seems more fair. Generally the hours of conferences are 3:45-7:45 each night but some teachers are staying later. Any elective teachers have open forum type conferences. Elizabeth will also be available to answer questions and to help those without internet access. Elizabeth is our community liaison. She collaborates with Colleen, our registrar.

Teachers here have been concerned with how our lunch worked out here timewise on late start Wednesdays. They are kind of early. On our late start day, teachers notice that kids go to lunch after two classes and then there were too many classes after lunch and kids were bonking. Dana asked food services to adjust the schedule for Wednesdays. Starting next week, lunch will be through the fourth period teacher. So, Wednesdays, lunch will be 20 minutes later than during the rest of the week.

Honor roll breakfasts dates were set last year before late start began so we need to relook at the dates.

Robin asks what the purpose of the LA survey was. Dana says the survey was designed to get a sense of what all the questions were and to design a way to move forward. Robin asks if there is a possibility to change the curriculum as a result. Dana says she does not have authority, nor does the school, to change curriculum. The Board changes curriculum. How you deliver curriculum as an instructional practice is different. Teachers and principals have choices there. Dana says the survey shows there is a lot of confusion about what the curriculum in LA is. BVSD website has the curriculum available.

Margot Brown asks when the presentation will be on LA. Dana says she personally thinks it needs to happen but her supervisor and the team will decide what the next step will be.

Michelle Christenson says her daughter went to get lunch yesterday and there wasn't enough food for her. Dana says this is not acceptable and kids need to come to the administration and they will help if that happens. Also, please let food services know.

Amy Carpenter asks if she can summarize in the e-blast what Dana has told us. Dana reminds us that she will do separate communication (outside of e-blast) on this. Hopefully, there will be an update next week that will go out. Then, she hopes to get a date set soon so people can calendar a meeting. It will probably be in November. Amy asks if there is a possibility to have it broadcast over the web. Dana says that is a great idea.

6. Committee reports- 3 min each

a. October Book Fair and Message Screen - Mr. Georgitis

Mr. Georgitis says PTO helped fund the screen that he shows off today. He shows us what it will do. Teachers were using smart boards and projectors. But we are moving to HD TVs. You can hook up chrome books to it. It is really crisp and sharp. We decided to make it a place where announcements could be projected and run on auto. We could put this in the cafeteria. Kids could put up pictures and advertise an event. It can display video. Kids could create videos for display. Kids are taking photography, making cool art, doing video production. We could show it off! Can also create google presentations are present them with this tool.

Erin asks how often are we putting the screen in the cafeteria. John says we haven't started yet. We are waiting on a few pieces. He'd like a dummy Centennial google account so it is available for students. John says PTO could put a slide in if we have information to get out there to our kids.

Book fair needs a few volunteers to help run the cash register. He needs help with set up starting Friday October 14th. Most purchases happen at lunch or right after school. He also schedules classes to come in. Breakdown happens on Friday. We could use a couple of people at about 1:00 on that Friday. Contact Mr. Georgitis if interested. We usually make about \$3000 for the school. The library has a really nice budget so he usually uses the profit to buy books and give them directly to LA teachers and to subscribe to magazines. He will reserve a little bit for the new maker space and a few more books.

Jon got a grant of \$2500 for a maker space. It includes origami, k'nex, duct tape crafts, circuitry kit and other cool things. First open house is September 26th in the library from 3:45-5:15. Kids don't have to sign up. Maker-Mondays will be open house style. He wants to gauge interest. He will do this bimonthly. Some of the stuff is consumable so we will see where we are with funds. Interest seems high. Kids will hear announcements about this today.

- b. Staff Appreciation -Tina Hirshland Food will be provided to teachers during parent/teacher conferences on October 17, 19, 25, 27

If you want to donate food, Tina passed around a sign-up sheet for food items. Tina asks when the food should be available. Dana suggests food should be available from 3-6.

- c. Student Directory Update - Sarah Schulte

Sarah: 248 kids are in the CMS student directory. The email we sent out got us about 100 kids. Sarah would love to get more but wonders if we are hitting a bit of a wall. She is a little disappointed that it is not even half of our population. We will do more of a push at check-in day next year. We did get a bigger participation from our 6th graders so we will think of it more as a long term project. Sherrill suggests we reach out during orientation too.

- d. Boulder Ballet Fundraiser, Nutcracker Tickets- Machal Gillach

This is a promotion for CMS. Boulder Ballet ticket sales for their Nutcracker shows on Friday, November 25th at 2:00 and 7:00 and on Sunday, the 27th at 2:00 will benefit CMS. All shows are at Macky. 20% goes back to CMS. Last year, we made \$400! Please put this out to friends and family. Dana suggests she contact Colleen for inclusion in the e-blast. There will also be a manila envelope in the office.

- e. Green Star Schools - Julie Frieder

Julie: CMS is in partnership with EcoCycle to move toward zero waste. We are green star designated. The intent would be that we move from compostable goods to reusable. What we'd like to work toward is moving toward using a more durable good that is reusable and washable. Ideally, our green values should line up with what makes sense economically. Kids are totally pumped. Ms. Figs is great! We are trying to build a culture of leadership and zero waste. Trying to get kids to pledge to have zero waste lunches and if they commit they get a reusable sandwich bag! Dana suggests we contact the kitchen staff to see if ultimately we can use the cafeteria to wash dishes. Julie suggests perhaps we could bring our mugs to PTO meetings so we don't have to use disposable cups. Sarah asks if we know of other middle schools that have done this. Julie says yes. There is precedent and she will try and pull some of that research. This will go on the agenda for next meeting.

7. Announcements

Erin says that Sue decorated the bulletin board in the office. Erin will update. Right now there are immediate volunteer needs on the board. If you have anything you want on there, let Erin or Sue know.

Kristy suggests why don't we encourage people to sign up for the directory and then enter them in a drawing for a Lucky's card.

Sarah says there was a great meeting for the book club. They are reading Brainstorm. She gives a shoutout to Liza who is running the book club. Next book club meeting is October 14th at 8:45 in the library. Amy Carpenter asks for something in the e-blast. There will also be something on the bulletin board. They are meeting every first Friday after the 14th.

Sarah says we are looking for an 8th grade coordinator for honor roll breakfasts. Thank you Michelle Christenson!

Amy Carpenter says we need lunch room volunteers.

Next School Accountability Meeting is on 9/26 at 3:45pm in the auditorium.

Next PTO meeting is October 27th at 8:15am in the library

PTO Meeting Schedule 2016/17 **8:15-9:30am in the library unless otherwise communicated**

October 27th

(November Meeting Cancelled)

December 1st

January 26th

February 23rd

March 23rd

April 27th

May 18th