

PTA Meeting Minutes 08.31.23

Attendees:

Meghan Eddy/President, Jessica Furlong/Co-Vice President, Renee Maxwell/Co-Vice President, Allison Ridenour/ Treasurer, Sofia Chang/Secretary, Janelle Nelson-Gardner/Principal, Laura Frappaolo/Teacher Rep., Alexa Metrick, Amanda Liao, Angela Wolf, Emily Tuleja, Jennifer Ebetino, Jennifer Sierra, Marilyn Allen, Sarah Barkley, Mackenzie Lovestrand, Natalie Mayer.

1. Approval of minutes August 31st/2023 - approved with no opposition

2. Principal Report, Janelle Nelson-Gardner

- Successful participation in Golden Gallop. Mitchell has earned back the Golden Gallop participation trophy!
- Great Field Day.
- School Unified Improvement Plan approved at the district level. Now it goes to the state.
- Leaders across Jeffco are participating in Leadership Walks. Part of the Strategic Plan for Jeffco Public Schools. It's about learning in the classrooms alongside students and calibrating practices to support teachers in their instruction.
- Safety issue: A bunch of students are showing up early to school, before the doors open. There is no supervision outside before 8:30am. Mrs. Allen and Mrs N-G will gather names of those kids and call parents.
- Excel Funds. 4th graders using them for kits from the Golden History Museum-Native American Studies.
- The PTA closet has light now. Tidy it up: Jenn E. and Angela W. volunteers.
- Outdoor Eating Area (three phases project). Facilities are asking to start Phase 1 (\$40k): regrading the hill, adding concrete, sitting wall, stairs and railing. Central funds will cover 40%. We're being asked to confirm \$26.8k. Allison: This was approved in the budget in the last meeting. Phase 2: upgrading picnic tables. Phase 3: shade structures. Construction will start this fall. There is not yet drawing or more details. It's needed also to save \$4k as contingency for the project. So total Ph.1: \$44k. No info on cost Ph.2 and Ph. 3 yet. Examples of how it might be are Bear Creek, Lakewood High Schools. No estimation on construction time yet. Emily: It's a great way to show some money spent. Angela could write grants to get additional funds. Meghan: start communication in the Friday Notes.
- **Motion to approve Phase 1 Outdoor Eating Area Project, and commit \$26.8K. Approved. All in favor.**

3. Teacher Report, Laura Frappaolo -

- Sent out a reminder to teachers to join the PTA. Great support!

- Teachers survey.
- 2nd graders start CogAT next week.
- Thanks for Loading the lounge.
- Parent-teacher conferences are coming.

4. Financial Report, Allison Ridenour

- Budget was approved at the last meeting.
- Great success at Back Together and Math & Science with sales of yard signs and spiritwear. Sold almost \$1k yard signs, and \$1.5k spiritwear so far. Have placed more spiritwear orders.
- Excel funds: \$4.8k approved last meeting.
- Concession income in Back Together (\$464), Math & Science (\$1,272).
- Last year the PTA had purchased 6 modular tables that are ready to be delivered. Total budget approved for tables and shipping was: \$5.5k (\$4.5k tables, \$1K shipping). Help will be needed for assembly. **Motion to approve \$1k to be carried over to this year's budget for shipping the tables. All in favor.**

5. Committees/Programs Reports

Hospitality- Allison:

- \$1k budgeted for teachers' dinners at conference's nights for fall and spring is not enough, so donations have been solicited (so far \$200 donated/Facebook posting). Friday Note will include this too. Later we'll evaluate if we need to supplement this budget.

EDI -Angela:

- Back Together- 250 people. Great event.
- Working on dates for January speaker.
- Spring event: Better Together-try to coincide with the Week Without Hate. Hasn't been as attended in the past. Idea: silent disco. Headphones: \$5. Idea: Ask parents to sponsor a set of it (start with 100 pairs).
- The EDI committee might be able to get grants easily (hot topic).

Garden - Alexa:

- Pumpkin festival: Oct 26. Hot choc and hot cider \$2.50/cup. Face stencils. Garden scarecrow build. Pumpkin chucking. Harvest pumpkins. 3rd grade musical is on the same day. Jenn: Sell spiritwear/Venmo -\$ to Garden. Include in volunteer sign up people to sell spiritwear.
- Not many volunteers on MWF- post at the back box (Mandy), facebook (Jenn).
- Additional recess garden club to clean up. Then be back in February.

Fundraising - Monica G. - was unable to attend

- Meghan: Monica needs an assistant (obtain businesses logos, printing, etc.)
- Renee: Need someone who is great at talking to people- go after new business for 23-24 WOW. Meghan: Rachel Broyles might help? Jenn: reach out Mitchell Community.

Communications -

- No updates

6. Old Business

- Directory Update - Allison. Emails were sent to remind people to update their info. Families whose info is not updated will be deleted. They can always come back.
- Parenting Safe Children Workshop - Sarah. 20 people signed up. 45 are needed. Info has been sent to the PTA of other schools. Need help disseminating the info. The PTA is paying half for Mitchell families.
- Spirit Wear - Jenn. Koozies (200)/ ideas: bundle, every staff person gets one. Decide on a new PTA logo? Idea of the spirit wear: money maker or get spirit out there? Make it equitable for people to buy it?. Meghan: bundle with tshirt/hat. Allison: Cannon Ball fundraiser if it's done- good place to sell it.
- Mitchell Mileage Club - Emily. Successful.
- Math & Science Night - Great. Beth M. needs somebody to get involved next year. Ideal transition this year.
- Golden Schools Foundation/Golden Gallop - Jenn. Interesting experience. Each meeting is at a different school- learn about what other schools are doing. There are positions open: secretary, treasurer.
- SAC (formerly MCAT) – School accountability committee. Emily. Meeting: September 19th. Minutes are on the website. Next meeting Nov. 14th-7:45am. Discuss homework policies. There are two propositions ballots for public education/Nov. 7th. Website to recommend: GreatEducationColorado (unbiased, informational). Any and all can participate in the meetings.

7. New Business (this topics were not addressed in this meeting)

- Teacher survey. Jessica. 16 responses (out of 25). 2 topics: Fundraising (what would the teachers want to spend the money on), Volunteering (Where to allocate time/resources on volunteering). Fundraising: 1. Increase excel funds. 2. Upgrading tech. 3. Physical school stuff. Volunteering: 1. Reinstitute Watch DOGS program (Dads/uncles/grandpas creating more male presence at school). 2. Coordinating extra support for students (reading groups). 3. Reinstitute Room Parent Committee. Meghan's neighbor started Watch DOGS, he might help on this. Mrs N-G: we need to have a second conversation on this (it was an intentional move not to have watch DOGS). Understand

better excel funds. Discuss more in a future meeting. The teachers' Amazon wishlist was explained.

- Membership campaign. Meghan. Emails were sent to last year members inviting them to join the PTA this school year. We have 48 members to date.
- PTA Volunteer opportunity and committee chair lists. Renee. Committee activities/programs info from different documents was consolidated in one form to show different opportunities to volunteer. We can have this in any/all events. Great way to recruit volunteers.
- Discuss making the I ❤️ Mitchell Elementary image official Mitchell PTA logo. Renee. There's confusion in our community about what activities are sponsored by the PTA. We need to communicate this better. Jess will design a google form with the options to vote on. Laura: "PTA" should appear somewhere in the logo.
- Available grants. Angela. Excel funds, outdoor things, other stuff might be funded. It's easy to get grants when there are specific ideas. Angela has access to a grants database and has created a Mitchell account to search for specific requirements.
- Crossing guard update. Meghan. Safety issue. There are no guards on both crosswalks (Rubey and Washington) since 21/22. Parent participation has not worked. Exploring options with the City to get support. The police department paid for this. Idea: apply for a grant, fundraiser to get money for paying this. Meghan has reached out to Chief Joe Harvey, Mayor Weinberg, etc. to raise awareness.

Adjourned at 7:15pm-

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 2nd, 6-7pm - Cafeteria