

Foothill PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 14, 2023; 1.30pm

1. Welcome (William Hamilton)

- a. Attendees: William (president), Sennen Knauer (principal), Jen McCabe (communications), Jen Mitchell (community), Denise Stoot (secretary), Katie Schneider (Treasurer), Grant Morrison (VP), Lisa Rice (Teacher liaison).

William opens the meeting. He thanks all and apologizes for moving the meeting with one week due to a two week vacation. Motion to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes is granted and all are in favor. Minutes are approved. William continues with the officers' reports and starts with acknowledging Boulder's heritage.

2. Officers reports:

- a. Fundraising report - William reports as this is an open position.

1.. Fundraising

- Open position: Fundraising Chair Kristen Bendele stepped down for personal reasons. Tiffany Gwyther stepped up and will take over. She has met with Kristen. All are in favor and agree with her taking up this task of Fundraising Chair. Sennen asks about her background and if we can tap into anything she has done. William responds she has done PTO work and fundraising before.
- Spiritwear: William gives update. It stayed open for 2 weeks at the time. Closed it early because of Christmas shipping. This was not communicated to our community which led to some people requesting and not being able to order. We added these 3 requests to our order, and also added additional inventory we can maintain to sell at events. William says we need to revisit things with Booster. It takes them a month after order for manufacturing and shipment, and also they need a minimum amount for an order.

Short discussion about who else we can use locally instead of this company. Tiffany G 's husband knows someone they worked with at Google. Between now and the end of the school year Tiffany will look at new options. Grant asks about the company with the octopus logo? William says that's NBLL - we can ask Heather Fuller. They require batch order while we may need one-off orders. We may need to carry some inventory. Katie asks where would we carry it? It would be in the PTO storage room. From a Treasury perspective it is easy, adds Katie, we can track with a simple inventory sheet.

We will ask Tiffany for options and decide on pro/cons.

2. Community fundraising:

- Sweet Cow- Mr. Rohl reached out to them. They have gift cards available they can give to a school for raffles etc. Sennen asks for details. Jen explains they have 60 but don't want them all to go to one classroom. It is a silent auction kit. Confusion about Mr. Rohl's plan, is it for the school or the classroom? Sennen will find out what is involved with it. If there are extra cards, PTO can use them.
- Dine-outs: Katie asked about Bellota. William says it is dealt with. Jordan is the contact person and the restaurant is added to the list of Dine-Outs. Tiffany will reach out.

b. Community (Jen Mitchell):

- Jen starts a discussion about the PTO Survey. Sennen has a draft that was shared and will move it forward. Jen said the end of school party has a date but not a budget. Maybe take some funds from bike bonanza?. William asks if we discussed this will be the same date. Grant confirms this. Jen says Bike Bonanza is on Wed April 24th. Some unclarity about the dates follows. Sennen says Bike bonanza is usually aligned with the BVSD Walk to School date. Thursday May 16th is Foothill Bike to School Day, says Jen. This discussion happened at the last meeting as well. Colorado Bike to School day is on May 8th says William. Jen says May 16th is the end of year picnic. Discussion about combining events on May 16th as the last day people may go to North Boulder Park. Everyone chimes in. Sennen says Bike Bonanza is a community event right after school. If we can add the End of Year party with food trucks, it could work from 3.45-5.45/6PM. It combines two great events. Then the April walk to school can also be kept on the schedule. It is only morning. Everyone agrees, a combo is decided on May 16th. Tim Abrahms and his wife Stephanie organized the Bike Bonanza. We need a new parent to take this on. Jen will reach out to Tim and ask for a powerpoint presentation. They have done a fantastic job. Sennen will connect Jen with Tim.
- Parent parties in January. Help comes from Kiera Clark, new in town. Ex PTO in CA and Fletcher Clark's mom. Kiera volunteered to be a 4th grade liaison and will help to get more parent engagement. Sennen asks about liaisons. Plan was to do one grade level liaison for parent parties, off-site, unless we can get one for each class. William says the dads meet at restaurants, the moms at people's houses. How do we invite people? asks Sennen. Katie: email thread. Once we get the liaison they can get people on a list for parent parties. Sennen suggests an idea to get liaison via email announcement. William says we can try to get them first by direct contact.
- Survey: Discussion of survey that was prepared by Katie and Katie. Reaching out to the community and asking parents what do you want to see here? Purpose of the survey is to find out more about parent engagement. It is a list of questions.
- Discussion about the content:
 - What is it that you like, what is it that you don't like. What would you like to see? William says we list the activities and if they like it check it, if they don't like it, do not check it.

- Katie says if we expand this and ask not what do you like/not like about the PTO, instead what are some hesitations that maybe you don't want to volunteer? William agrees with the sentiment but says it works better with positive questioning.
- What is stopping you from participating? says Katie. What would make you participate more? says William- Jen agrees this is the best question. If you put in anything negative, it makes everything negative, says William. Katie disagrees and says what is preventing you from volunteering? May be answered with: it is during day time. William says: positive question will be answered: more evening events because I can not join during the day. Jen says there are two questions: what is stopping you from volunteering, and what makes you more engaged?
- Katie likes both questions as we are not here for what we want, but what the community wants. That would balance out the negative, but also give us the answer we are looking for. Sennen agrees, it is a good start to ask what would make them volunteer more. Katie and Katie created the survey from a different context. Adding these would be a good addition. Re QR code: not needed when already in the survey.
- Moving forward: Sennen asks who she should transfer the editor rights to the survey to? Jen Mitchell accepts. Jen McCabe adds What's the preferred method of communication. Is email good? Text? Flyers? Other? Great point. William says we will get a lot of people back saying they may want to volunteer. This Survey will help, but also us talking to people directly adds William. We all will reach out to people.
- When to send out the Survey? Sennen: maybe she will make edits, and have it sent out on an announcement email after the holiday break.
- Community Events Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSds8hHlz2ZCvh-AQaEkYRPWQvo_KOb9tyjVPzTW3ul_-zjcw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

- William brings up parent/teacher conferences in 2024 (Feb 6-8 | 26-28). We need parent volunteers. Extra effort on our part to get help before Tierney needs to ask. Discussion about the teacher conference meal service. Sennen said it does not need to be a home-cooked meal. People can donate doordash cards. Time is harder to offer than money.
- Katie adds it is a transfer of funds in the budget. Great new way to simplify. Parents instead of cleaning up after a day of work can give a card as an easier option for meals. Also good for people with dietary needs. JenMcCabe will follow up with Tierney. Jen Mitchell closes discussion. Parent parties with help from Kiera, and will send out email closer to date. Date will be mid-January, with the goal of having them before the parent teacher conferences. Jen suggests connecting a dine-out with the parent parties.

c. Treasurer (Katie Schneider):

- Fund the Fox: \$99,111. Fund the Fox has been a great success. Paypal has still \$1200 pending. Still waiting for a company match for \$1000 that will come in January. Katie has shared the records with Denise.
- Katie reports on a podcast: nice white parents. She states the importance of acknowledging what we give our kids with the best intentions. Her mission in the PTO is 1- treasury 2- resist using privilege to expand on what some have/ others do not as giving to our kids can sometimes not be in their best interest. Discussion follows about how much of what we raise goes to the district. Sennen brings up a good alternative if our PTO wants to get active in the initiative of BVSD: The Impact on Education organization helps to close various gaps. They have a fundraising gala that is fun to attend and we can get a table and bring guests. It is a great way to support BVSD beyond Foothills. William comments that everyone is doing their part putting kids in public school!

d. Communications (Jen McCabe):

- Jen comments that she is very pleased with the turnout of Fund the Fox. 82% participation rate is astounding. Sennen comments that it says a lot about our community. A lot of people are taking ownership -big and small- and coming together for education. She will send out another email to announce the result.

e. Principal's Report (Sennen Knauer):

- Sennen reports that there are 15 families that we are helping as a school with money that is left over from PTO donations. Each will get a toy and a \$100-\$200 gift card from Target. Annie Weber and our counseling office will handle that. This is a special pot left from covid, but won't always be the case.
- Middle of year assessments for reading and math.
- Social-emotional lessons by Katie- specific curriculum conflict vs bullying.
- ELD co-teaching school now; Katie and Shelley Rohl involved in this.
- Adding on Lisa here: She reports on social emotional needs of students that need support around dysregulation. Creating safe spaces in the school. All teachers shared how they support this with their own strategies.
- Sennen reports the Foothills intensive center supports kids with significant physical disabilities while Crestview's program ICAN is geared to supporting children with emotional-behavioral issues. Sennen explains the special education support system.

g. Teacher Report (Lisa Rice):

- Mid-year assessment: Focus is on growth. Has this child grown? All will be done in January. Teachers will get a \$400 budget from FTF to use for classroom supplies. It goes a long way to make learning more engaging.

f. President's Report (William Hamilton)

- Most is covered of what William was responsible for.
- We need to fill the secretary's position by the end of the school year. Katie may know someone and Denise is also working on finding someone.
- Roles/Responsibilities
 - a. Everyone should familiarize themselves with the PTO Google Drive
 - b. Roles and responsibilities are on the PTO website and the PTO Drive
- Parent Engagement Network: PEN - Sennen explains this partner-organization. They provide speakers, organize book clubs, small and big events, fe. Screenagers movie. Monica Mount is Foothills liaison for PEN.
- Sennen asks if anyone wants to do a bookclub - parenting books, maybe a PEN event. Or how to transition your children to middle school, or how they use social media. Katie remarks it is great to teach children the benefits and harm of tech. A report came out re: social media. She will forward the link.
- PEN may need a budget line item from PTO for this work. After the survey we can discuss topics. Jen remarks if this will become a PTO-PEN survey question. Sennen says no. Lets have one PTO survey and if needed we can do one for PEN a few weeks later. William says it is not PTO/community related. Katie suggests these PEN events need to be vetted out more.

William closes the meeting.

Meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting is January 11th 2024 at 1:30PM

Foothill Elementary School