

Pathway Parents PTO

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2016

Attendance: Jill Minter, Douglas Minter, Mary Roman, Michelle Thomson, Kristen Keller, Tracy O'Brien, and Michelle Thomas

1. Last month's PTO Meeting notes were reviewed and approved

2. Fundraising Reports

- Michelle Thomson gave the Treasurer's report. At the start of the year we had \$473.04 and now there are \$2815.43 in the PTO account.
- Douglas Minter gave an update of funds raised to date with the Grocery Cards program at King Soopers and Safeway, a total of \$997.20 to date with most recent deposit of \$284.76 from November and December 2015. A total of \$225.00 has been raised to date with the SCRIP gift cards program with the most recent deposit of \$6 for December 2015.
- Jill Minter gave a report out on the Louisville Rec Center's Youth Craft Sale, which raised \$70. The turnout for the craft sale was limited, but it was a good experience. Next year, if we would like to get wider visibility and sell more artworks cards, we could also consider participating, if possible, in one of the area's winter holiday craft sales.
- At least 2 families are interested in purchasing non-reloadable grocery cards at Vitamin Cottage/Natural Grocers. Minimum grocery card is a \$500 purchase, with 5% of total purchase donated to the BPS PTO.
- Amazon purchases can be set up to automatically default to BPS PTO using Amazon Smile. The percentage donated via Amazon Smile is 0.5%, while the percentage donated if Amazon gift cards are purchased via SCRIP is 3%. The advantage of Amazon Smile is that there is no need to pre-purchase.

3. Pathway School News

- Michelle Thomas gave an update on accreditation. A binder will be ready by Monday for NCES and will be available at school for families to see.
- For accreditation, each student needs to pick one of the teachers at the school to be their advocate, who will be like a guidance counselor. New students will be assigned an advocate until they have attended the school for at least 6 months.
- Eli Copello will be joining BPS on Monday, January 11. He will be in the middle school classroom.
- The lower elementary class which will include kindergarteners is on hold until there are enough students to form a class.
- There will be another BPS Workday on January 23, 2016.

4. Action Items and Updates

- Douglas Minter reported out on the December teacher luncheon and teacher gifts. The PTO prepared a luncheon of cold sandwich fixings and fruit salad. Thank you parents who contributed food, set things up, and watched the students during the luncheon. A suggestion for next year is that we invite parents to join the teachers for a meal. For those that could attend, it would be a nice opportunity to get to know the teachers.
- Each teacher was given a gift, as well as a collection of artworks cards.
- Each family was also given a set of artworks cards made by their student.

Pathway Parents PTO

- Options for criteria and a decision process for spending decisions for PTO funds were discussed. The group decided that we would like requests for PTO funds to be made on an ongoing basis. It was decided that the group would vote as requests come in. The PTO will send out a notification of upcoming votes on spending for families.
- One priority is funding to support the accreditation application. A check will be cut later this month for \$300 to cover the first phase of this process.
- \$1,000 in the PTO account is currently designated to pay for electrical work being done in the secondary wing.
- Mary Roman shared a request from Amanda Heiney, the Science teacher. Her request is for specialized Physical Science materials to enhance experiential teaching of Science curriculum. The materials could be purchased whole or in parts. The PTO approved \$250 from the PTO account to pay for this. Mary will follow-up with Amanda to determine if it makes sense to purchase in whole or in parts.
- The students' priority is for funds build a bridge for the playground, however they will wait until spring to purchase and build it. The money from the Every Coin Counts program was determined in November to be offered to the kids to choose on how to use it with the guidance of the teachers.
- Jill Minter shared that, since the BPS PTO is now a year old, we may be eligible to apply for a small grant from Home Depot or Lowes. Information will be brought in on opportunities for applying for hardware store donations for the March meeting.
- Information was shared on the NSCD Metro Programs. Jill Minter will follow-up with the NSCD coordinator.
- The school is interested in having someone and their official therapy dog, a dog trained to listen while children read to it, visit the school. Douglas Minter will follow-up with an acquaintance whom he recently learned has a therapy dog to see if she could bring her dog to BPS.

6. Upcoming BPS Activities and Events

- On Tuesday, January 26th, during Optional Learning Week, Janice Warriner, the art teacher, will be taking students to the Denver Art Museum. She hopes to take students to different art museums during the next several Optional Learning Weeks.
- Several families have expressed an interest in a BPS Family Day with bowling at Chippers. Various dates and times were discussed and it was challenging to find a time when there is not a conflict with one or more families. Jill Minter will check on whether lanes are available on Friday, February 12 for an afternoon outing for the students.
- Janice, the art teacher, with some help from the PTO, would like to have a student art show at one of the area libraries. Requests have been made to a few libraries. Which library and date are still to be determined.

7. Community Bulletin Board Activities and Events

- There are several great winter adaptive sports programs in Colorado. Ask Jill, Douglas and/or Laura Minter about their experiences.
 - **Ignite Adaptive Sports**, Eldora, <http://www.igniteadaptivesports.org>
 - **National Sports Center for the Disabled**, Winter Park, <http://www.nscd.org>
 - **Stars Program**, Steamboat, <http://www.steamboatstars.com>