

**Lowry Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 9th, 2015**

In attendance: Julie Pellet, Amy Hulse, Melissa Goff, Sara Vanek, Lisa Miles, Joyce Fox, Alison Thompson, Deanna Holliger, Erin Hunt, Vanessa Condra, Antonia Dalpiaz, Jessica Franks, Brian Rosen, Daniel Solomon, Sarina Bryant, Kelly Tasky, Karina Desserich, Sara Simmons, Peter Pak, Gargi Amin, Vik Amin, Brian Wolfe, Stephanie McGowan, Melissa Reynolds, Jenny Wiens, Vanessa Condra, Dawn Martin, Rachel Neumann, Amy Cook, Dr. Ben Cooper, Jamal El Keokm, Michelle Bushel, Debbie Howell, Erin Shore, Rachel Lambert, Tina Pak, Peter Pak

Introductions and welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by PTO President Julie Pellet, and all meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Old Business

- Vote: Approval of May 2015 PTO Meeting Minutes. There was a motion to approve the minutes, Stephanie McGowan seconded; the motion was approved.

Principal Update – Dr. Benjamin Cooper:

The entire staff went on a retreat to Peaceful Valley Ranch. They focused on building authentic relationships and solidifying a true vision for Lowry going forward.

New things to Lowry:

- Bringing systems that will help students learning including a data review process with time built in for teachers to review and plan around data results, insuring students are being pushed to their highest potential.
- A focus on small group instruction to insure that all kids are progressing and moving higher. Most professional development this year will focus on small group instruction.
- Observation feedback cycles for teachers. 1 week face to face feedback, 1 week written feedback. Helps teachers grow and improve their practices to increase student's achievement much more quickly than without frequent observation and feedback.
- Culturally responsive teaching practices. Equity and relinquishing biases.
- Random acts of kindness. This is a social emotional learning plan focusing on character traits. This is taught by all teachers on Mondays and has already begun.
- Increasing technology in the classroom. Lowry is behind and we need to find a way to bring Lowry up to the 21st century. Lowry students should be surrounded by technology and should be learning through technology.

STEM education overview

\$150,000 to get the stem lab up and running. Looking at grant writing to try to fund this for students at Lowry. STEM video was shown. STEM will become part of a specials rotation.

Light Sail

Want to be one to one tablets in the building that are supported by the promethium board and will be used for Lightsail. Lightsail video was shown. Lightsail will be especially effective at getting kids actively engaged in reading during their independent reading time at school while the teacher is meeting with reading groups. We currently have 1 cart of Ipads and 3 Chrome Book carts. Tablets have more learning potential than chrome books. Lightsail will be piloted this year starting with second and third grades

Construction

Construction is on schedule. ECE will be moving in on September 24th and 25th.

There has been some discussion about classroom support in First and Second grades. These are our highest enrollment grade levels. We are pushing all of our para support in to 1st and 2nd grades and we will be hiring another para. Projections are at 464-468. Right now we are at 464 and we need to come in at 464 or higher. Kindergarten enrollment is low and 3rd grade is a bit low. The district is only looking at budget assistance for high needs which is 32 in a class.

Faculty Representative

No faculty representative is present tonight.

Eagle Fund – Jessica Franks

The Eagle Fund provides budget assistance to the school. CSC meets and decides what the school needs and wants. What the budget doesn't cover, Eagle Fund helps support. It pays for teaching staff. Think about giving a monthly gift. The Eagle Fund goal this year is \$60,000. The budget happens in February. There is a big push on Colorado Gives Day because there is a match that day. The donation to Eagle Fund is %100 tax deductible. 1 teacher is about \$60,000. You can give any time.

Gift Card Program – Dawn Martin

Grocery cards – anyone who grocery shops can contribute to Lowry. Buy a reloadable card from Lowry and use it to do your grocery shopping. Questions or to get a card; Lowryfund@gmail.com .

Ways to support Lowry – Smile. Amazon.com and designate Lowry, Target card designate Lowry, grocery cards, Scrip program, Boxtops for Education

Julie Pellet – Housekeeping

The deadline for e-blast is noon on Friday to Maureen Jarrett in the office.

Many parents have already been volunteering their time to help with things around the school. Thank you for your help!

Superintendent Forums – DPS meetings that talk about many topics. They are informative about where DPS is headed. Interest forms have been passed around for parents who would like to attend.

Innovation Fund was reviewed as a process for PTO funding things at school. \$10,000 is in the budget for the year. There are three deadlines throughout the year. A vote is needed tonight from first round applications. The second grade team is asking to go to a Colorado Council of International Reading Association Conference. The cost is \$220 per teacher. There was a motion to approve. The grant was approved unanimously.

Fun Run Fundraiser - Daniel Solomon

Fun Run will be October 1st. Kick off assembly is this Friday. Kids will bring packet home on Friday. The main support needed is cheering for the kids as they are running and some setting up and breaking down.

Garden – Joyce Fox

The garden needs a lot of parent support. The garden program has been restructured. Joyce Fox passed out a sheet with the new organizational structure. This sheet is included with the minutes. Joyce will focus her time in the classrooms with the kids.

There are many other enrichment opportunities if volunteers are available to help.

8:00 Meeting was adjourned by Julie Pellet