

**Lowry Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2016**

**In attendance:** Amy Hulse, Schuyler Parnes, Julie Pellet, Alison Thompson, Erin Hunt, Brian Wolfe, Kelli Santisi, Vik Amin, Gaggi Amin, Darina Harrington, Nikki Lanford, Peter Pak, Erin McDonnell, Lori Hunter, Stephanie McGowan, Joyce fox, Julie Seltenhammer, Emily Solomon, Kelly Tasky, Rachel Lambert, Vanessa Condra, Deanna Holliger, Joyce Fox

**The meeting was called to order at 6:15.**

**Principal Update**

Dr. Cooper- 4 things that he wants to talk about tonight

- PARCC results have come out- the results are going to be presented on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January for individual results and Lowry's results compared to the rest of the district.
- New DPS curriculum coming out K-2 will get both new math and ELS curriculum next year then 3<sup>rd</sup> will get the new expeditionary learning that 4/5 are doing now.
- There is a grant available for STEM, Lowry is eligible for it, (so are 46 other schools (3 spaces)), sand it is very competitive. A special thank you to Emily Solomon for helping go after the grant. Notification is early Feb to know if we get it.
- Lowry's projections are out and we are going in lean, with some of the new developments, no need to reduce staff for next year, looking to add Paraprofessionals and psychologist hours. Eagle Fund is also coming in with some higher projections too. CSC has approved of the plan.

**Old Business**

Erin made a motion to approve the November minutes and Stephanie Mc Gowan seconded, the minutes were approved.

**PTO President- Julie Pellet**

- Board and Committee positions- Julie explained the upcoming position openings on the exec board and the need for a new president, vice president and possibly secretary. Nominations are done in March and voting is in November for the new board.
- Thank yous from the teachers for the books that they received from the book fair from their wish list.
- Enrichment, Book Fair, Science Fair have all been put on since the last meeting Julie wants to thank Holly Morgan and Rachel Neumann, Lucy Quintero, Rob Lee- DPS judges came in this year all with science backgrounds who were able to bring a new level of awareness to the kids projects.

**Compost- Rachel Lambert**

Composting is starting at Lowry, the teachers have been trained and the paras and the kitchen staff, assembly kick off next Tuesday 9:30-11:30 (half hour increments) to teach the kids how to do it. So much waste will be able to be composted. A bulletin board will go up to show what can be composted. She is looking for volunteers to help kids sort their trays and not contaminate the bins.

### **Garden- Joyce Fox**

Joyce would like to open her leadership position for next year. She is starting to think about the garden again, there are a few things that she can stop planting right now. We start the seeds inside but there is a point in mid- March where they get too big and they need to go outside. She would like to fix the 3 broken frames that they use to relocate them outside, or she could buy new ones. Seed planting will start now in the classrooms. There will be garden training coming up in the spring.

### **Auction- Lori Hunter**

- April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Soil Dove this year (Saturday night)
- The donations forms are ready, now is the time to start requesting donations.
- Class Auction Projects- room parents start thinking about what project your class is going to do.

### **Voting on the Innovation Fund Requests – PTO Board**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers- Teachers Pay Teachers \$300** (Yeah)
- **K/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers-32- I-Pod Nanos \$4,800** (Yeah)
- **Mrs. Meyer-2 Reading Conference \$180 and O-G Training \$725** (Yeah)
- **Erin Hunt- Student Ambassadors \$200** (Yeah)
- **Mrs. Silva-Time for Kids Subscription \$134 (likely pro-rated)** (Yeah)
- **Composting Additional expenses \$600 for the year** (Yeah)
- **Connect Us- Stephanie McGowan \$2,960** (Yeah)

### **Special Guest Mike Johnson- DPS School Board**

Denver School Board Recent Policy initiatives (Handout attached to the notes).

The board really believes that downtown really needs to change how downtown reacts to the schools and try to make the central office the support system to the good work that the schools are doing as opposed to a bureaucracy.

**The meeting was adjourned by Julie Pellet at 8:10 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by Amy Hulsey, PTO Co-Secretary**