

**Lowry Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2015**

**In attendance:** Julie Pellet, Amy Hulsey, Melissa Goff, Sara Vanek, Joyce Fox, Deanna Holliger, Erin Hunt, Brian Rosen, Kelly Tasky, Melissa Reynolds, Amy Cook, Dr. Ben Cooper, Michelle Bushel, Erin Shore, Peter Pak, Shannon Holmes, Kip Tinstman, Matt Dion, Emily Solomon, Lori Hunter, Davina Harrington, Schuyler Parnes, Jenny Wiens,

**Introductions and welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by PTO President Julie Pellet, and all meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**\* DPS Board member Mike Johnson could not be here this evening and will attend our January meeting.**

**Executive Board - Julie Pellet**

- Round of applause for all of the time and hard work put in so far this year. Julie acknowledged 17 different items of accomplishment by PTO parents already this year!
- Box Tops - \$550 first collection. Record fundraising for boxtops! Please keep it up!

**Important events and volunteer opportunities coming up:**

Book Fair – They need to staff the book fair all day Monday through Friday. Volunteers are needed!

Science Fair - Judges are coming from DPS. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders can move on to the district fair if they score high enough. Volunteers are needed to help kids during workshop times and to help the night of the event.

Enrichment – Enrichment was very successful this year. We are looking for someone to help Lucy for the spring enrichment session. 100 students participated. 20 scholarships were given.

Non-classroom staff holiday bonus donations – This has been a tradition in the past. A nice gift is given by PTO from donations given by parents. The collection will be coming up after the Thanksgiving break. Be on the lookout.

Composting - Rachel Lampert has been working on getting composting at Lowry. They have received approval for Lowry to be a composting school. There will be a training for staff on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Joyce Fox- Garden**

The Farmer's market was a huge success!

\$1,881 in total produce sales

Cost because we couldn't grow our own produce - \$631

Profit - \$550

Sold 600 lbs in food

53 kids helped in the market. 180 kids participated in the mock-market!

In January the garden committee will re-group and start seed planting probably in March.

### **Keystone Science Camp Update – Shannon Holmes**

- The Tavern fundraiser brought in about \$200
- We received a \$1000 grant from Macy's
- Currently looking for donors through sponsorship – then after seeing what is left they will look at doing fundraisers. They are trying to raise awareness to bring more support. The estimate is that 30 kids will need a scholarship. The cost per child after the PTO subsidy is \$125 per child.
- To bring more awareness 5<sup>th</sup> graders will go to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes to do a presentation and bring excitement and awareness. There was a suggestion to have a parent speak as well. Another suggestion is to have more information sent home with details about Keystone prior to the sign up for the event.

### **Eagle Fund - Amy Hulse**

The committee is planning a new launch to re-introduce the Eagle Fund to the Lowry community.

November 19<sup>th</sup> is "Dress like a Superhero Day".

The committee will host a Lowry Tavern Party, sponsored by PTO to drum up donations

Colorado Gives Day – December 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a match date.

Dr. Cooper agrees that the Eagle Fund is the way to reach all of our kids by having more professionals in the building. Supporting staffing is huge for our kids. Moving forward, keep building Eagle Fund for years to come. Professional bodies will best support our kids.

There was a request for letter for parents to use when asking for donations from family members, their, workplace, etc.

**Lowry Open House** - next week – CSC will be there, teachers, and parents giving tours

### **Deanna Holliger – Original Works**

Raised \$2500

**Discussion** – A parent addressed a concern about too many kids in the classes without paraprofessional support. There is a concern that good teachers will leave. With funding comes the paraprofessionals. Parent support can help by working with small groups. Denver Teacher Residency – an organization that trains teachers. Dr. Cooper would like as many as the teachers are willing to take next year. Teachers

become mentors and a student teacher is working in the classroom. These class sizes are the exception it has not been the norm. We are currently not re-hiring the .4 library position and are putting that time into paraprofessional hours.

**Playground** – looking for parent volunteers to help on the playground during recess times. PTO is also looking at bringing back Connect Us. An organized, inclusive, recess program.

**Last month's minutes have not been posted yet so will be approved next month.**

**Motion to adjourn by Kelly Tasky, seconded by Erin Shore. At 7:55 the meeting was adjourned by Julie Pellet**