

Bell Middle School PTA

Minutes for the December 5, 2017 Meeting/Library, Bell Middle School

Attendees: Board Members: Jackie Greiner, co-President; Danika Gerig, Vice President; Michele DeAndrea-Austin, 2nd Vice President; Beth Vermeulen, Secretary; Valerie Hastings, Treasurer

Additional guests: Jayson Haberkorn, Wendy Hiron, Jen Bates, Jim Peters, Cindy Pearson, Christie Cline and Lynnai Smith

Administrative Functions:

Jackie called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Disposition of Minutes: Beth received approval for the November minutes.

Jim Peters from the Rotary Club of Golden presented the PTA with a check in the amount of \$510.84 from our application. This will be granted to Brian VanVoorhees and the Robotics and Multimedia classroom for a wall mount and video display. Jim also reminded us that the Rotary Club would love to offer academic support to the community as well as financial support. The Rotary is always willing to listen to any presentation asking for such support, especially when the students present to the Club themselves.

School Update

Jen Bates discussed aquaponics being in a state of repair as she supervises the kids who are helping to revamp and rebuild the aquaponics system. The students are working on setting up a new vertical water garden for the brick wall along staircase. PTA funded this project. The teachers will all find out about the status of their grant requests this week.

Michele gave a school update. The Late State discussion continues to be a hot topic for Bell and the Jeffco School District. The Transportation Department is willing to make adjustments. All feeder elementary schools need to adjust their schedules to make this work within the entire District. The District is putting together a Task Force to look into this further and will meet starting in early 2018. Dan Cohan is the Jeffco School District Achievement Director who will head up that Task Force. It will take over a year to do this so no changes for the 2018 -2019 school year. Some individual schools can make a slight time adjustment, like Green Mountain, because they do not access a lot of buses. Bell, however, uses a lot of buses and shares some with Golden High School students so even a 15 minute adjustment may not work for us for next year.

Michele mentioned that part of the big construction project taking place next summer will include 52,000 square feet of new carpeting. There will be another classroom added to the library and one added to the weight training room. There will be a reconfiguration so the grades are more together with classes and lockers and not as separated. Approximately 20 teachers will be hired including about 10 to accommodate the influx of 6th graders.

8th grade had some Traditional team staffing changes. A new science teacher, who is filling in for Jamie. Mandy Reed is replacing a long term sub. Ken Parelman has resigned and Kelci Spence, who has been filling in during his leave of absence, will continue on throughout the remainder of the school year.

Spring conferences will be same time/date as planned earlier and will be more consistent throughout the classrooms similar to the 8th grade fall conferences. Student led conferences with the option to talk to the teacher.

Bell got 2nd place for Renewable Energy Conservation Competition.

26 Bell students qualified for All County Band and Orchestra. That is three times the amount of students from any other school

Presidents update:

Alex and Delaney, students at Bell, are helping out with the Giving Tree. This has been a yearly tradition in which supplies, clothes and gifts are bought for several students the counselors deem in need at Bell. These student names will remain anonymous. It is a great way for the Bell community to give back and help fellow students in need. Alex and Delaney offered to go shopping for the remaining tags left on the tree. Although the Giving Tree is a Bell event, the PTA helps purchase some of the items. The tags need to be taken from the tree, purchased and wrapped by next Wednesday. The PTA has already budgeted \$250. Jackie made a motion to increase that amount. Motion passed to budget \$700 to the Giving Tree.

Jackie reminded us that Colorado Gives Day is today. A couple donations have come in.

Jackie talked about the magazine sales grant status. Sue Urban, Financial Secretary, is helping with implementing and tracking the teacher grant requests. She is sending something out to teachers this week notifying them of what was accepted. \$33K was the total amount asked from teachers. We are able to grant out \$17.8k now. \$11k is pending the tech committee meeting this week. Most likely we will be able to grant most of the requests that came in. There is a need for a technology meeting per the District to make sure, for example, the school isn't duplicating any purchases. PTA will have about \$25.4k left over after all the grants are made.

Michele discussed that the school is using too much bandwidth due to kids sharing chrome books and rebooting each time someone new logs in. Kids share these from class to class. We may not want to spend a lot of money on technology if we can't currently keep up with bandwidth limits now. Technology committee may discuss at this week's meeting.

Jackie discussed the movie Screenagers. A movie about electronic usage in the middle schools which came out in 2016. Several other schools have hosted a screening/discussion of this movie for parents and students. Bell may want to host an event. \$650 for one time use and license to use the DVD. The PTA could fund it but the school would need to provide counselors and support for a Q & A. This wouldn't happen until maybe April so we can discuss further at a later time.

Staff Holiday party at Lori Ranney's house. PTA has helped in the past with food for this staff party. We will use funds from the Teacher Appreciation budget and provide some food for this party.

Honor Roll Assembly in January. The PTA will help and provide Rice Krispy treats for those students recognized.

It was decided that we will forgo the January meeting and resume February 6, 2018.

Treasurer: Val Hastings gave us an update. \$41,872 is in bank as of today. Approximately \$304 came in recently from Tokyo Joes. \$600 from Barnes and Noble. \$125 from Longmont bottle caps. \$22k is what we netted from magazine sales (not including donations). \$6k approx. from donations.

Golden Schools Foundation - Cindy gave us a quick synopsis. Not a whole lot of new news. Reflections had 3 Bell students moving onto State. That judging will take place in January.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10.☐