

Manhattan Middle School PTO Meeting
02/13/23 Minutes
Secretary: Sarah Cottingham

1. Principal's Report
 - a. Enrollment:
 - i. We're at the same right now as we were this time last year- around 400.
 - ii. For open enrollment: 45 were directly enrolled, and there were 15 extras- so district agreed to let all 60 in to Manhattan.
 - iii. Awaiting second waitlist results (OE students who chose Manhattan as their second choice)...we should have those numbers in the next few days.
 - iv. The ultimate goal of a middle school is to have roughly 150 at every grade level- then you can do grade level teaming- where teachers teach one grade level exclusively.
 - b. FTE numbers for next year should be coming March 17
 - c. The Oaxaca students went well, and they were very happy with Manhattan host families. Kristen is going to aim to get a Oaxaca group for next year that would actually be at Manhattan during the day, and see what the flip flop is for that, would it be possible to send kids to Oaxaca?
 - d. Looking at study hall, and how to bring in speakers and make it more engaging and career focused. Want to tap into the Boulder community and learn from all the amazingly talented individuals there are here.
2. Treasurer's Report: Nothing New to Report
3. President's Report:
 - a. Winterfest:
 - i. It went well, Natasia is looking for constructive feedback on how to make it better.
 - ii. Next year, need to staff some of the hallways so the kids aren't running wild.
 - iii. We are going to stress in the future that it's not a drop your kids kind of thing, it's a party for families. Some ideas to resolve this issue:
 1. Must check in with a parent upon arrival, or when your club finishes you have to leave and come back in, so kids aren't there alone.
 2. Selling tickets at the front door when you check in, that you exchange for the food and drink is a good way of ensuring parents are present.
 - iv. We need the speaker set up for the loteria in the future.
 - v. Marine Lab having the proceeds from the food sales was great. Fall Fest could be good for fundraising for the Moab trip organized by Mr. Sofranic.
 - b. There will be another parent/student social some time in April, that will be coordinated with FET.
 - c. Amazon smile is ending- Amazon is going to donate the amount that was raised for MMS in the past three months again before it stops. Anna Cereti and Natasia Smith to brainstorm other places that might do similar fundraising for MMS.
 - d. Community Dinners:
 - i. March is Pica's for the community dinner...the date is TBD.

- ii. It has been difficult to get the money raised from some of these restaurants, it takes lots of pestering.
 - e. Teacher Breakfasts:
 - i. In February there will be no breakfast, it will be the “goody bag” method of dinner gift certificates provided during conferences instead.
 - ii. March date for teacher breakfast- week before spring break- Wed, the 22nd.
 - f. Rise Cash
 - i. They are still having problems with counterfeit RISE cash at the school store.
 - ii. Marla is making rise cash that is new, so if people have old rise cash they can trade it in.
 - iii. Other thoughts were using a metallic stamp or an embosser to prevent counterfeits.
 - iv. Natasia will brainstorm with Kristen on this.
 - g. Spirit Wear is ready!
 - i. Denver Screen and Print is who PTO has been working with
 - ii. PTO is spending 6K upfront to fund spirit wear. They hope to recoup that amount by the end of next school year.
 - iii. The online store will hopefully be built by Monday, Feb 20th. Online purchases are more expensive, because they print it on demand, verses in person sales. The online store will be up until May, as long as orders are being placed.
 - iv. Natasia is going to get with Laura from the school store and put some spirit wear items for sale at the store.
 - v. At school events there will be tables with spirit wear for purchase.
 - vi. Kristen suggested putting a poster up in the entryway with a QR code so the ladies up front can sell the spirit wear. Kristen to touch base with the front office ladies about selling things.
- 4. Miscellaneous Notes
 - a. 100 Elk
 - i. Brooke Smith is still awaiting dates for 100 Elk, usually it is done in October.
 - ii. Brooke expressed that funding has been a problem for this in the past. Some funding suggestions were:
 1. PTO can help with some funding
 2. Putting the trip on the check-in sheet at the beginning of the year to collect money for it in advance. Allow people to donate to scholarships for it on the check-in sheet, as well.
 - b. Parent Volunteers
 - i. Brooke Smith said that in the past teachers had a list of parent volunteers that was categorized by volunteer interest, and is requesting this be done again.
 - ii. Brooke is going to touch base with teachers to get a list of needs, and then will share this with PTO, so we can create a volunteer sign up for the beginning of next year that addresses the teachers’ needs.
 - c. Upcoming Events:
 - i. March 7: Choir/Band Concert

- ii. March 14: Orchestra Concert
- iii. March 15, 16, 17: Musical
- iv. May 2: Seventh Grade Zoo Field Trip
- v. May 4: Talent Show. The show will be during the day with a special schedule for students, and that night there will be a parent show. It will be paired with the art gallery that night.
- vi. May 5: End of School Year Dance, PTO will provide some food and drinks for this event.