

University Park Meeting Minutes
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PTA Board and Membership
November 14, 2017
9:15 AM

Location of Meeting:

U-Park Art Room
2300 South Saint Paul Street
Denver, CO 80210

Present at Meeting: Stacey Hauhuth, Merrell Aspin, Grant Varveris, Traci Samaras, Julie Tremont, Svenja Henze, Kath Quinn, Meredith Burrows, Jackie Davis, Melinda Davis, Jennifer Frenkel, Carrie Alleman, John Urbana, Nathan Lipke, Kristen Jackson, Joanna Shear, Candace Kristensson.

The regular meeting of the PTA board and membership of University Park was called to order at 9:13 by Stacey Hauhuth. The meeting agenda was altered as some speakers couldn't be present.

1) Apple Campaign update by Traci Samaras: The campaign has reached and exceeded the budgeted goal with \$72,347 pledged as of the meeting date. The kindergarten class won the popcorn party by two donations. The party will be held later this month in accordance with the teachers' wishes. School-wide participation was 27%, with the kindergarten classes at 36%. Last year the participation was in the low 20 percent range. In future planning, Traci is willing to chair the Apple Campaign in 2018/2019. She is interested in having a co-chair assist in the campaign. The plan is to also have an Apple Campaign table open for accepting donations throughout back to school night. Suggestions were given to continue promoting corporate matching and encouraging gifts in any amount. After a member suggested purchasing a new microphone for the school, Grant Varveris let us know that the current system is being rebuilt and should be in good working order.

2) Fun Run and Carnival update by Melinda Davis: The Fun Run was a huge success and we were thankful for having a beautiful weekend weather-wise. Participation was the highest ever, with 550 meal tickets sold and 450 wristbands sold. The financials resulted in approximately \$3400 in profit, with the corporate sponsors helping significantly. The parents, families, and South High School (38 kids) volunteers made the day possible. The sponsors, specifically CACM were very pleased with the exposure they got through supporting the event. For future events, first and foremost, a new chair is needed. Joanna Shear may be interested. It would work well to have one person in charge of the carnival and one person in charge of the fun run. Svenja suggested bringing back the a craft market similar to the old "mom-preneur" event as part of the fun run and carnival. Online ticket sales were effective (with \$1800 more in sales compared to the previous year).

3) Principle update by Grant Varveris: **School Performance Framework (SPF)**. Grant took the time to communicate with us in detail how the SPF works, and how University Park is performing overall on the SPF. The bottom line is we are currently at a “Green Level” and our school is performing fabulously, with test scores improving year over year. The metrics used by DPS to rate these schools is not based solely on test scores, but weights each data point differently, so the end results can be confusing. The ratings are based 72.5% on growth of the students, with data from different populations of students weighted differently, 25% on Status of the students (how students perform on grade level assessment), and 2.5% on Parent/Student participation and satisfaction surveys. University Park received 58.5% of the points for growth. Understand though that the school improved on every measurement used for growth compared to the previous year. For the SPF Academic Gaps rating (on the back of the SPF mailer families received from DPS, and previously called the equity indicator), University Park received a green rating. Also note, that each school’s SPF rating is capped by the rating they received on this Academic Gaps rating (for example if all other data would have a school at a blue level, but overall they receive less than 50% on their Academic Gaps rating, the school would be ranked as yellow). In order for a school to receive an Academic Gaps rating, at least 20 qualifying students must attend that school (important as families evaluate charter schools which can choose their student populations). The Academic Gaps rating is based on 3-5th grade PARCC scores and K-2 grade I-Station scores. These ratings do not include any social or emotional markers in their analysis. Grant is very pleased with the performance of the teachers and where the (academic) growth is currently. In highlighting and analyzing the last three years of PARCC data for University Park and other DPS schools both in our comparison group (similar risk data), and in general, the strength of the school was apparent: A score of 4 or 5 on the PARCC corresponds to meets or exceeds expectations. In 2015 for Literacy the 4th and 5th grade students at UPark had 62% receive a 4/5. In 2016, it was 68.5%, and last year 72.2%. This was the best raw growth seen for any of our comparison group. In looking at CMAS (the math scores), in 2015 53.1% met or exceeded expectations, 2016, 58.9%, and in 2017 63.4%. The improvements made year over year are incredibly strong. But as a school and community, Grant and the staff are constantly working to improve these results, and to implement improved methods for reaching every student, and helping every child achieve their potential. Grant also understands that as a school, we cannot compare our test results only with those schools within our DPS comparison group, as the schools University Park competes with for students are the best in the Denver metro area. It is also important to note that our blue rating 4-8 years ago, under the current rating system implemented by DPS, would not have resulted in a blue rating. Using the rating system as it is implemented today means that University Park would have had a yellow status from 2010-2014 (no ranking in 2015, and green in 2016 and 2017).

4. Silent Auction Update given by Stacey Hauhuth: The committee meetings have been well attended. A discussion was had on whether to implement having class

baskets again, with a high interest in creating these. The chairs asked whether a letter should be sent to each family to encourage donations of time, goods, and money, as well as participation. It was agreed that the language needed to be inviting.

5. PTA Board and Chair Position Update by Merrell and Stacey: Participation in the PTA has grown amazingly well. Currently, Candace Kristensson and Kristen Jackson would be interested in serving a one year term as Co-President for 2018/19. Angela Rathburn is interested in serving a one year term as Vice-President, with the intent of taking on the president role the following year. There have been three people who have said they would be willing to take on the Treasurer role. Currently, no one has asked about Secretary. There are also openings still for Carnival and Fun Run Chairs, as well as Room Parent Coordinator.

6. Budget Review by Jen Frenkel: Highlights of the last month included the donations for the Apple campaign and the strength of the grocery cards, with the King Soopers card revenue being \$1000 ahead of last year. The Fun Run netted about \$3400 ahead of what was expected. This will be used as a reserve in the case we have a year with bad weather and a potential loss.

Meeting was closed at 11:00.