

University Park Elementary
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PTA Board & Membership
October 09, 2018 - 6:00 PM

Location of Meeting:

U-Park Room 218
2300 South St Paul Street
Denver, CO 80210

Present at Meeting: Rachelle Montanaro, Becky Limanni, Caryn Keenan, Julia Gold, Devon Parish, Joanna Shear, Susan Westhof, Jennifer Nolan, Jennifer Dethmers, Bree Vialpando, Katie Riddle, Katy Ayers, Carin Wagner, Jen Frenkel, Svenja Henze, Michelle Gardner, Meredith Burrows, Ellen Landy, Scott Rathbun, Angela Rathbun, Merrell Aspin, Candace Kristensson (total: 22).

The regular meeting of the PTA Board and Membership of University Park was called to order at 6:04 PM by Candace Kristensson.

I. WELCOME - Candace Kristensson

A. PTA Meeting Minutes Approval -

Candace Kristensson informed PTA members that the minutes from previous meetings can be found on the U-Park website, U-Park app, and are emailed as an attachment with the PTA meeting reminder. The minutes from the September 11, 2018 PTA meeting were approved by Jen Frenkel and seconded by Carin Wagner.

B. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon -

Candace reminded PTA members that the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by the 3rd - 5th grade families, will be held on October 11, 2018. Julia Layton is organizing the event this year and she has to work that day. She could use help filling any openings, especially for clean up. Please take a look on the SignUp Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48a4ab2ea3fd0-fall>.

C. Board Opening Position: Treasurer

Candace announced that current PTA Treasurer, Svenja Henze's family has been given an opportunity to move back to Germany and they will be relocating in the coming months. Candace thanked her for all of work and dedication to the school over her tenure and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Her departure leaves this position open. Please let the PTA Board know if you are interested or if you know of anyone else who might be interested (***Devon Parish has since filled this position***). According to our PTA bylaws, last year's Treasurer, Jen Frenkel cannot do it again. She has graciously offered to support and train the person who takes on this position.

II. COSTUME EXCHANGE - Marni Welch

Marni was not present at the meeting, so Candace Kristensson reminded everyone that the costume exchange will be held tomorrow, October 12th on the blacktop. Costume donations can be dropped off in the front office.

III. PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Eric Atonna

U-Park Principal, Eric Atonna was unable to attend the meeting. Candace Kristensson explained that he was attending a paraprofessional job fair occurring at the same time at the meeting. She went on to explain that his number one priority right now is to hire 3 paraprofessionals to the U-Park staff: Kindergarten, 1st grade, and AN.

IV. GREAT SCHOOLS THRIVING COMMUNITIES: YES on AMENDMENT 73 - Abby Vining & Merrell Aspin

Merrell Aspin is U-Park's Legislative Action Chair and she invited Abby Vinning, a volunteer with the YES on Amendment 73 initiative to present to U-Park's PTA. Abby is a middle school teacher at McAuliffe International School and she was part of a team of over 50 teachers, parents, advocacy organizations, and nonprofits that helped to draft this initiative. She believes it to be a good thing for our state and our schools because it seeks to send funding directly to Colorado's school districts in order to increase local control, accountability, and make sure that it ends up in the classrooms where it belongs. Colorado's current school funding is \$670 million less than it was before the recession and Colorado's per pupil funding is roughly \$2,800 below the national average. Abby then shared a presentation on where Colorado stands and why 73 is important. Then entire presentation is available [HERE](#).

After Abby completed her presentation, Joanna Shear asked about how the amount of funding U-Park would receive if Amendment 73 is approved would be calculated. Abby directed Joanna to look at the blue book, which lays out the ways in which the money will be spent. There are also one pagers on the [YesOnAmendment73](#) website that lay this out as well.

Abby was also asked if the per pupil amount is a fixed rate. She responded by saying, yes, it is a supplemental measure to stop backfilling.

The final question Abby was asked was about how the per pupil funding is designated? Abby explained the funding goes directly to the district. DPS is slightly more autonomous and each principal will designate how the funds are used. She suggested to refer back to the DPS resolution for more specifics. Abby concluded her presentation by asking for volunteers to help spread the word by sending out postcards. She brought packs of 25 and would give names and addresses to anyone willing to help. She also brought information half sheets and mentioned that more yard signs were being printed.

V. BACKPACK PROGRAM - Ellen Landy

Ellen had a positive meeting with the Food Bank of the Rockies and U-Park is on the road to becoming a closed Food Bank. This will reduce the cost of food purchased for the Backpack Program and it will also allow for expanded services such as: diapers, cleaning supplies, baby food, etc. Ellen would like to coordinate a day of service at the food bank in the spring. U-Park would receive 20 lbs of food, per volunteer. Volunteers must be 14 or older. Ellen mentioned that she is still waiting to hear back about the Walmart grant. In terms of help, she is having a meeting with Steve Nederveld to find out what his needs will be. Last year, U-Park's Girl Scout Troop donated money for winter coats, but she was unsure how many he had left of if he might need additional items. Robin Hodas will be coordinating the holiday gift again this year and it is most likely going to be gift cards again this year. On average, U-Park has 30 kids living in extreme poverty and 4 -5 children experiencing homelessness.

VI. FUN RUN & CARNIVAL - Joanna Shear

The Fun Run & Carnival Committee will be meeting at 9AM on October 10th and 17th. The registration link is now live and all participants who register for the run will receive a fun run t-shirt designed by a 5th grade student. Registrants can also purchase a wristband to play unlimited carnival games and this year, the committee added a rock wall. Meals can also be purchased through the registration portal. Please be sure to sign-up ahead of time, so the correct amount of food is purchased. Joanna is still looking for volunteers to help grill hamburgers and hot dogs as part of the Dad's Grill. A few volunteers are also need for set-up and clean-up. U-Park Alumni, mostly 6th-8th graders, will be on-site to run the carnival games. This year the committee had a lot of success with sponsors, bringing in \$4,400 so far. Joanna is hopeful these kinds of sponsorships will continue in future years to further reduce the cost for parents. Lastly, Joanna would like help to prep packets by rolling shirts and stuffing them with wristbands and food tickets. Candace Kristensson mentioned that she spoke with the Neighborhood Center and asked them to rotate the items in the storage closet, so the PTA could gain access to what is needed for the event. Candace also stated that DPS requires one person on site during the event and suggested that Joanna makes sure to have custodians and security onsite.

VII. GROUNDS - Becky Limanni

Becky has agreed to Chair this committee and will work with school staff to manage all grounds related projects. Be on the lookout for an announcement in this week's newsletter asking for volunteers to help clean up the school grounds to get it ready for the Fun Run & Carnival. This will take place on Sunday, October 14th.

VIII. APPLE CAMPAIGN - Traci Samaras & Julia Gold

Traci was not present at the meeting, so Julia Gold spoke on behalf of the Apple Campaign.

Currently, the Apple Campaign has raised \$41,000, which is 60% of their goal. Now that

we are into October, the donations have tapered off. Anecdotally, this seems to be typical to past years. They believe they will be able to meet their goal by their target date of November 9th. Traci and Julia will have a donation table at the fun run carnival and the October donation incentive is a popcorn party for the most donations received by a grade level.

IX. CORPORATE SPONSORS - Carin Wagner & Scott Rathbun

- A. Last year the corporate sponsorship team raised \$8K - \$10K. Corporate sponsorships are a great way to raise money for the school, without overtaxing our parent population. Carin and Scott have developed Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorship packages and each one can be customized to fit a specific company's needs. Fenceline banners are \$2K and multiple logos can be placed on one banner if multiple companies would like to purchase one together. Currently we have 3 Gold level sponsors at \$4K: Austin Signature Homes, IOrtho, RPM Mortgage. A Silver level sponsorship is \$2k. As of this meeting, U-Park sponsorship support is at \$6K. A request was made for a form letter to send to companies to ask for sponsorship. Carin & Scott will put this together and make it available to the PTA.
- B. Angela Rathbun spoke about Pearl Wine Company's 3rd Annual Wine Tasting Event on November 3rd from 6-9PM at the Halcyon Hotel in Cherry Creek. Pearl Wine is located next door to Sweet Cow on Pearl Street and they are looking for way to give back to neighborhood schools. They have asked U-Park to help sell \$40 tickets to their anniversary event and 100% of ticket sale proceeds will be given back to U-Park. There will be an opportunity to taste 200 different wines and you can order the wines at a discounted price at the event. Tickets from the event can be purchased from Angela at the playground during pick-up/drop off or they can be purchased online [HERE](#) (a small online transaction fee applies).

X. BUDGET REVIEW - Svenja Henze

- A. Svenja announced this to be her first and only treasurer report, as her family will be moving to Germany shortly. She thanked Candace for the flowers and said she would take her 4 years of experience at this school with her and try to bring some of what she has learned to their new school.
- B. Svenja announced that we have 45 PTA members who have registered and paid dues. The Apple campaign is going strong and has currently brought in \$40,733.80. The PTA was able to present the school with a \$125K from last year's fundraising efforts.

XI. QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned by Candace Kristensson.