

**University Park Elementary**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PTA Board & Membership**  
**November 13th, 2018 - 6:00 PM**

**Location of Meeting:**

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

**Present at Meeting:** Meridith Burrows, Scott Rathbun, Ellen Landy, Julie Tremont, Marni Welch, Heather Wise, Devon Parrish, Angela Rathbun, Jen Frenkel, Traci Samaras, Jennifer Dethmers, Merrill Aspin, Eric Atonna, Candace Kristensson, Rachele Montanaro, Bill Trinen, Jennifer Lipke (total: 17)

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 October 9, 2018 PTA meeting were approved by Scott Rathbun and seconded by Jen Frenkel at 6:07PM.

**B. School Funding**

Candace informed PTA members that the failure of Amendment 73 to pass means that UPark will not receive \$880K in funding from taxes. Prior to TABOR passing in 1982, CO was above the national average in per pupil spending by \$232. Now CO is \$2,800 below the national average and more than 100 out of 178 schools have transitioned to four-day school weeks. Candace reiterated that the UPark PTA raises funds specifically to support teachers, to offset salaries in the budget to make funding dollars go further. She hopes our focus as a PTA can remain on supporting our teachers as we move forward.

**II. PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Eric Atonna**

**A. Staffing -**

Janine, a new paraprofessional was hired to work in Ms. Cardenas' class. We are now fully staffed in kindergarten. UPark is still considering hiring a para for the AN center.

**B. Cafeteria -**

There will be a slight change in the cafeteria for 4th & 5th graders. The students will have an a la carte menu, with healthy snack choices in addition to Blackjack Pizza. This is something DPS will be implementing in the future, so we are

starting now to be ahead of the game. It will be an additional menu, at an extra cost. There will be five items to choose from: string cheese, pickles, popcorn, yogurt, etc. Currently, pizza is offered to all grades every Friday. This helps the school to boost the numbers of kids eating hot lunch, which increases overall funding for the cafeteria. Our cafeteria cooks make everything from scratch and Mr. Atonna highly recommends the roast chicken.

### **C. School Performance Framework (SPF) -**

The SPF includes four pages of indicators that paint a picture of everything the school is doing. The SPF asks questions like, “How satisfied are parents?” and “How satisfied are students?”. In this report there are a lot of celebrations for UPark. Last year, 82% of Kindergartners were at grade level and 80% of 3rd graders are also at grade level. 92% of 1st-3rd graders are performing at grade level for literacy. 71% of students that come to UPark behind are on their way to meeting grade level standards. 75% of students of color are catching up and UPark is doing a great job of eliminating overall achievement gaps. UPark received 87% of total points for proficiency, putting our school in the “exceeds” range. Math and literacy are 21 points higher than similar schools. Previous academic gaps in traditionally underserved populations are now meeting expectations. UPark is also exceeding expectations for IEPs. The school is in the middle of the “meets” band for an overall score. UPark earned 63 points out of the 100 total points and is at 52.38% for the year. The focus is now on student growth. One area that still needs work is with our English as a second language students. UPark is changing our model and offering these students more supports. That staff goal is to hit the Denver 20/20 plan that 80% of students are at proficiency by 3rd grade. That means, two students per classroom need to move from below grade level, to grade level, by the end of the year. We always want to acknowledge that here at UPark we are looking at the whole child. There are so many rich learning opportunities that don’t always show up in the SPF, like enrichment classes and personalized learning opportunities throughout the building.

Ellen Landy asked, “What kind of things are you doing to get our growth back on track?” Eric answered that UPark now has three team leads, allowing the school to offer more coaching opportunities for the teachers. This year, the school is really trying to focus on metacognition and student discourse, giving students the ability to talk about how they are learning and what they are learning. On no student contact days, the teaching staff has a ½ day of backwards planning. The teachers spend time working as grade levels, looking at the standards, and weaving them into planning.

### **III. FUN RUN AND CARNIVAL RECAP - Joanna Shear**

The Fun Run & Carnival did really well this year. The weather was perfect. Registration was almost right on par with last year, only under by roughly \$438. Sponsorships brought in more this year at \$4,400. We are still waiting for additional money, 10% of ice cream

sales. All in all, the Fun Run & Carnival brought in \$16,000. Expenses will end up right around \$11,000, meaning a net of right around \$5K. We will need to decide what to do with that money. We can keep it in reserve or use it for something else needed at the school. Joanna has agreed to continue as next year.

#### **IV. APPLE CAMPAIGN - Traci Samaras**

Traci announced that this will be her last year on the Apple Campaign. Julia Gold will continue as Co-Chair next year, but she will be looking for additional support. If you know anyone that may be interested in becoming her Co-Chair, please let them know. Traci announced that the Apple campaign made their goal! It is nearly the same as last year, \$76K. There are still credit card processing fees to factor in. Kindergarten and 1st grade tied and both grades will receive parties. Those two grades had 41% participation. There was 32% participation from all other grades. A positive lesson learned this year was to change the messaging from a specific donation amount, to increased participation.

#### **V. GAGA BALL PIT PROPOSAL - Brady Welch (5th), Trevor Welch (3rd), Jackson Trinen (4th)**

- A. The boy presented their proposal for a Gaga Ball Pit. Gaga Ball is a popular playground game around the country and it is currently played at UPark in PE with Ms. Hartin. Students of all sizes, ages, and athletic abilities can play and have a chance to win. UPark has long lines for Four Square and Tetherball have long lines, meaning students are not exercising during this time. Gaga Ball is played inside an octagon pit and it uses multiple balls. The purpose of the game is to be the last one standing after all the other players have been hit below the knees with the ball. Gaga Ball includes dodging, hitting the ball, running, jumping, and catching. The first student in line serves as the referee. There are many different sizes and types of pits, 15ft (8-12 kid) to 26 ft (30 kids). Many schools in DPS already have this at their schools. The students are asking for funding and a location.
- B. Marni Welch is helping the boys with this request and mentioned that we don't have a firm price yet because it will depend on where the pit is located, what size is chosen, and what materials are used. We need to find a place without having to redo the plumbing, so we don't have reroute sprinklers. We also need buy-in from the playground staff because they will be the ones monitoring the game during recess. These matters will need to be discussed in an additional meeting with Mr. Atonna, Ms. Hartin, and facilities management. Jen Frenkel mentioned that PTA membership needs to vote on any amount over \$500 and needs to be notified 1 week in advance of a vote.
- C. Julie Tremont asked if there could be a partnership between PE funds and wellness dollars. Jen Frenkel commented that the PTA has funds in the bank for this project and the PTA doesn't have the ability to add an additional fundraiser.

#### **VI. ADOPT A FAMILY/BACKPACK - Ellen Landy**

Ellen reports that our relationship with the Food Bank is going well. It is nice to be able to offer families fresh produce. Steve Nederveld said the adopt-a-family information is ready to be distributed via room parents. If you are interested in participating, please purchase gift cards for Walmart or Target. Steve will distribute the gift cards to families in need and they will be able to shop for their own families. We had 14 families involved in the program, now we're down to 13 families. One family got permanent housing and is moving to a new school district. The Backpack Program serves 30 kids, plus their adults, bringing it to around 52 people. There are a couple of grants that Susan Westhoff will submit, but these aren't available until January. A meeting was held with Steve Nederveld about the expanded Backpack Program aka the FLOCK. Stay tuned for more information.

**VII. UWHOO - Angela Rathbun**

Angela is in charge of the UWHOO this year and highlights what makes UPark special. It is an opportunity to educate everyone in the surrounding community about what a great school we have and what upcoming events to expect. In the past, the UWHOO has never stretched to the entire school bounds. Candace Kristensson looked at aerial maps and counted how many households we were missing. In years past, we delivered 1500. This year we distributed 2500 and we were only 180 shy. The UWHOO costs \$425 for delivery. We are not allowed to deliver to apartment complexes, so we're still unable to reach everyone. We have enough money in the budget to make up the 180 additional households. We try to make sure we're covering a wide variety of topics, but let Angela know if there is anything additional we should be covering. A suggestion was made that we send it out in the Thursday newsletter. We currently put the UWHOO in tour folders and in the new Kindergarten meet and greet information.

**VIII. YEARBOOK PICTURES - Bree Vialpando**

Bree was not present, so Candace Kristensson spoke on her behalf. Candace asked everyone to be sure to submit photos for the yearbook. Photos can be sent through the app or to Bree's email directly, [photo@uparkelementary.org](mailto:photo@uparkelementary.org).

**IX. MULTICULTURAL NIGHT - Candace Kristensson**

- PTA supports this event, by setting up tables and tablecloths. Please let Anita Murano-Sweetman know if you can help set-up or tear down. The PTA will bring in pizza to augment the menu.

**X. RESTAURANT NIGHT - Sheri Muilenburg**

Sheri was not present, so Candace spoke on her behalf. Candace reported that UPark restaurant nights have been going really well. Brightmarten was a very successful night for us and for them as well. A Slavens family was eating there and asked to have a restaurant night for their school. The owner of Brightmarten gave us more than \$100 over what he promised us. The Pearl Wine event brought in \$480 in ticket sales. We will also receive additional funds, to be divided amongst all participating schools.

**XI. BUDGET REVIEW - Devon Parish**

**XII. QUESTIONS & OPEN DISCUSSION**

AmazonSmile offered a 5% incentive for a few days, instead of their typical ½ of a percent, so this number is up to \$99.90. The PTA gave \$109.22 to Steven Nederveld for kids that needed winter coats, hats, and gloves. The Neighborhood Center spent \$1,671 for scholarships to offer a few of their programs for free. The budget is balanced.

**XIII. QUESTIONS & OPEN DISCUSSION**

- A. Ellen Landy mentioned that she'd like to coordinate a volunteer day at the Food Bank. For every three volunteer hours, UPark receives \$20 per 20lbs of food. 14 years old is the age minimum for volunteering. If children volunteer, there is a requirement that every four children must have an adult. However, this requires special approval.
- Mani Welch asked if you can use your King Soopers grocery card for Quicklist? The consensus was yes, we this should work.
- Candace Kristensson adjourned the meeting at 7:29PM.

**UPCOMING:**

5:30pm Nov 15

*Multicultural Night- Bring your favorite foods and celebrate UPark style*

Nov 19-26

**NO SCHOOL** (yes, no school the Monday after Thanksgiving!)

Nov 27

*Neighborhood Center Winter Enrichments Resume*

6:00 pm Dec 11

*PTA meeting*

Dec 13

*Winter Band Concert at UPARK*

Dec 22-Jan 6

**NO SCHOOL**