



University Park Elementary
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PTA Board & Membership
December 11, 2018 - 6:00PM

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Candace Kristensson, Angela Rathbun, Devon Parish, Rachelle Montanaro, Heather Wise, Katie Riddle, Jennifer Dethmers, Nathan Lipke, Susan Westhof, Meridith Burrows, and Eric Atonna. (total: 11)

The regular meeting of the PTA Board and Membership of University Park was called to order at 6:06 PM by Candace Kristensson.

I. WELCOME & MINUTES APPROVAL - Candace Kristensson & Rachelle Montanaro

Rachelle made a motion to approve the minutes from the November PTA meeting and Katie Riddle seconded this motion.

II. PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Eric Atonna

Eric mentioned at our last meeting that Janine, a paraprofessional was hired to work in Judy Cardenas' Kindergarten classroom. The school has hired an additional paraprofessional to take the place of Kelsey Dunst, please help us welcome Cassie. Cassie, is already training and working in the building.

Eric explained that they are currently going through the budget for next year and are looking at staffing needs. He reported that we are growing as a school and looking at the needs of the building moving forward, it would be in our best interest to hire an assistant principal. These dollars are in the budget and he will begin the hiring process for next year. This is an exciting prospect for Eric, having served that role himself, for 6 years. UPark is able to do this because the strength in our enrollment, means more budget dollars for the school. The hiring process is very intense and will likely take place from January - February of this year.

Eric discussed that he understands we need to find a balance between growing the school, but keeping our class sizes small. He will have the 2019-2020 enrollment projections on the 15th, at which time they will make some decisions about choice enrollment department. The school receives a lump sum to support each student. The school can then allocate funds to what needs we have inside the building.

Jen Dethmers asked for more details regarding the choice enrollment process. Eric explained

that the school remains in control over this process, for the most part. The bulk of choice, Eric develops with the choice department.

Susan Westhoff asked, how many Kindergartners are there this year? Eric said that we have 88 students and while that seems like a lot, we're not quite at crisis mode just yet.

He also reported that we have 1 to 1 paras in Kindergarten and First grade. We are also now 1 to 1 iPads in Kindergarten and First grade. He reassured the PTA that there is a potential strike looming for the teachers' union and that DPS is creating a FAQ sheet to better explain their plans. UPark will utilize the substitute pool, in order to keep the school open.

III. BUDGET REVIEW - Devon Parish

Devon reported that the Apple campaign met their goal, bringing in \$75,573.01 year to date. Apple is \$1,182.29, over budget, it is not sustainable for the chairs to keep eating these promotional costs: stickers, banner, popcorn party, etc. There were only \$902.97 for credit card processing fees. This is in large part to Apple getting the message out about writing checks instead, so as to avoid high processing fees. Devon also report the Fun Run raised \$15,997 this year. The budget is balanced and complete.

IV. VOTE TO SUPPORT DCTA - Candace Kristensson

Candace gave an update about DCTA and DPS negotiations and the potential of a teacher strike. DPS is having difficulties with teacher retention, as 30% of their teachers have been there less than 3 years. The new hire metric has wrong cell placement, meaning that teachers will be moved to the cell that most closely matches their current salary. This saves DPS \$11 million, but teachers can no longer move across the pay scale horizontally with continuing ed courses. This was encouraged in the past and now almost all of the teachers here would see a decrease in salary.

Susan Westhoff asked where would the money come from to pay for what the DCTA is proposing? Candace replied a restructuring of funds. The DCTA has looked at budgetary plans and the new Governor and Legislature has promised to address it, but they are limited in what they can do by TABOR and other measures. Denver is at the limit of their mill levies. There is \$34,000 from the mill levy.

Jennifer Dethmers noted that she received an email from DPS and believes there is a disconnect between what DPS is communicating and what Candace is indicating tonight. Candace agrees with this observation and noted that between June and November, DPS has not changed what they were bargaining with.

Candace asked the UPark PTA to approve the UPark PTA Resolution, according to the PTA's bylaws, a vote needs to take place to approve the resolution and support the teachers. There were enough members present tonight to have this vote. Katie Riddle made a motion to approve. Meridith Burrows seconded. Voted unanimously passed to approve the resolution and

support the teachers.

Candace will send more information about the upcoming DPS and DCTA meetings. She encouraged everyone to send letters and emails in support of DCTA. The 18th of January is when the contract is up, let's hope it doesn't come to a strike vote.

V. AUCTION - Rachelle Montanaro

Tamara Reese and Rachelle Montanaro are the auction co-chairs this year. Tamara was not present, so Rachelle reported on their behalf. The next PTA meeting will take place at Scott & Angela Rathbun's home on January 15th. Please attend and bring a bottle of wine or two to help stock the wine pull. The next auction committee meeting will take place on January 10th at Archetype Distillery. Please spread the word and come check out the new venue. The biggest need currently is for a teacher experiences coordinator. Please reach out to Rachelle with interest.

VI. BACKPACK - Candace Kristensson

Ellen Landy was not present, so Candace Kristensson reported on her behalf. Candace encouraged everyone to volunteer at Food Bank of the Rockies to support the backpack program. There will be a flyer in the Thursday newsletter explaining the details, but for each 3 hours shift, Food Bank of the Rockies will donate 20 pounds of food. Ellen is working on setting up a day in the spring for UPark parents to volunteer together. Backpack could use more volunteers on Thursday mornings to help fill the backpacks, please reach out to Ellen with interest.

VII. GAGA BALL UPDATE - Candace Kristensson

Marni Welch was not present, so Candace Kristensson reported on her behalf. Marni Welch, Candace Kristensson and Eric Atonna need to meet with Facilities Manager, Dominique to scout locations for the Gaga Ball pit. They will look at best practices, what can facilities do versus what we can do. Marni will walk the grounds to be sure sprinkler heads won't be an issue. They will begin looking at quotes to decide what makes the most sense for the school. Candace will send this out a week in advance so the PTA can vote.

VIII. VISION ZERO - Candace Kristensson

The goal of Vision Zero is to have zero pedestrian deaths on our roadways. South Denver City Council member, Kendra Black, wrote a grant to put in a colorful crosswalk on Colorado and Iliff. If approved, this will make roads safer for our kids to walk to and from school.

IX. CORPORATE SPONSOR - Candace Kristensson & Angela Rathbun

Carin Wagner and Scott Rathbun were not present, so Candace Kristensson and Angela Rathbun spoke about Corporate Sponsors. Gold sponsor, iOrtho donated Disney on Ice tickets to the school These were offered up to families in the backpack program. One family won those tickets and had a wonderful time. iOrtho also donated 20 hygiene kits to Steve Nederveld to be given out as needed.

X. QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

Susan Westhoff commented that a Kindergartner tripped on a sprinkler head. It is located near the little kid playground, by the big tree near the dirt patch. The sprinkler head is sticking 1 to 2 inches out of the ground. Eric Atonna said he would notify facilities.

Candace Kristensson adjourned the meeting at 7:16PM.

UPCOMING:

<i>Dec 12</i>	<i>DPS/DCTA Bargaining Meeting Barrett Elementary</i>
<i>Dec 13</i>	<i>Winter Band Concert at UPARK</i>
<i>Dec 13</i>	<i>DCTA at South High on Teacher Negotiation</i>
<i>Dec 22-Jan 6</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
<i>Jan 8, 11, 15, 18</i>	<i>DCTA/DPS Bargaining Meeting***</i>
<i>Jan 15</i>	<i>Off Site UPARK PTA Meeting at Angela Rathbun's and stock the Auction Wine</i>
<i>Pull</i>	
<i>Jan 17</i>	<i>Restorative Practices: Parent Education at UPark with Steve Nederveld</i>