



**University Park Elementary Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PTA
Board & Membership
March 12, 2019 - 6:00PM**

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Candace Kristensson, Angela Rathbun, Scott Rathbun, Devon Parish, Rachelle Montanaro, Stacy Hauhuth, Heather Wise, Susan Westhof, Erin Dunlap, Katie Riddle, Merrell Aspin, Becky Limanni, Nathan Lipke, Eric Atonna, Natalie Jacobsen. (total: 15)

The regular meeting of the PTA Board and Membership of University Park was called to order at 6:02 PM by Candace Kristensson.

I. WELCOME AND MINUTES APPROVAL - Candace Kristensson

The February PTA minutes were approved by Scott Rathbun and seconded by Katie Riddle.

II. PRINCIPAL UPDATE & ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL INTRODUCTION - Eric Atonna & Natalie Jacobsen

Eric Atonna began by informing the PTA of staffing updates for the 2019 - 2020 school year. UPark will be hiring a new senior team lead who will replace Mindy Ostrom. Ms. Ostrom will return to teaching full-time next year. So far there have been 14 - 15 applicants for the position and Eric Atonna will be setting up interviews for next week. The position will be half time senior team lead and half time instructional. The school also has funding for 2 native language tutors to fill out UPark's English Language Development (ELD) offerings. Funding for personalized learning has been drastically reduced, which will directly impact the Imaginarium.

Facilities has added more gravel to the track. They didn't bring as much as was needed. The hope is that this will minimize the flooding in the field. There are also looking into if a drain has been clogged.

Eric then introduced Natalie Jacobsen. Natalie has been hired to be UPark's Assistant Principal for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Natalie brings along 14 years of teaching experience and will be able to help with managing teaching team lead case loads, and continuing restorative practices. Natalie spoke briefly and mentioned she has spent the last 10 years at Carson Elementary and is excited to be at UPark.

Eric went on to discuss school construction over the summer. He mentioned that construction crews would begin working after school hours in boiler room. They will be changing out the steam heat system and replacing it with a hot water system. This will require removing pipes for uni-vents and replacing them with more modern ones. Construction will take place from 6PM-3AM during the school year and they will take over the entire building during the summer. The main office has been Eric's first ask for

painting, looking at the auditorium next. Classroom paint looks good at this point and the construction crew will touch up as needed.

III. eCigarettes and Your Kids - Susan Westhof, JeffCO Public Health Relations Tobacco Health Team Lead

Susan Westhof has worked in tobacco prevention for JeffCo. for 11 years in various capacities. She has been doing this presentation in JeffCo with parents, teachers, and community members and the normal presentation is 2 hours long. Susan's goal with the presentation is to help parents recognize emerging trends and culture of youth use of electronic nicotine devices, e-cigarettes, and vaping. To summarize the health effects and and make parents aware of school policies and local community laws.

Why should parents care? Numbers for e-cigarettes have doubled in the last few years. Statistics show that 7% of kids are smoking and 27% are using e-cigarettes. This shows us that these devices are getting kids addicted to nicotine, who otherwise wouldn't be addicted to nicotine. 44% of youth have tried e-cigs, 59% alcohol and 87% smoking. 50% of youth perceive vaping as risky. Teens are attracted to the flavors. They also believe it is safer than tobacco. There are 460 brands, 7,764 unique flavors. Stealth vaping products are a part of the culture. Children's brain are still developing until the age of 25, this can prime the brain to addiction to other harmful substances.

A full version of Susan's presentation can be made available upon request.

IV. ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATION - Merrell Aspin

The last time Merrell spoke to the PTA, she spoke about the Governor's proposal to fund full-day Kindergarten. There is no bill discussing this topic in front of the legislature right now, but it came come in the coming weeks. Merrell reported that there has been a log of in-fighting about how to pay for full-day Kindergarten and to keep it sustainable. To piggyback off of Susan Westhof's presentation, Merrell discussed additions to the "Clean Indoor Air Act", which would allow local municipalities to regulate nicotine products and to restrict users from using them inside public spaces, similar to current cigarette laws.

V. SCHOOL CLEAN UP DAY INDOOR - Candace Kristensson

Candace informed the PTA that she has been approached by various teachers who have asked for parent assistance in sanitizing manipulatives and other classroom areas in preparation for the end of the school year. For example, Ms. Hartin would like help wiping down climbing wall. A cleaning day has been arranged for May 4th, 8AM-12PM. A request will be sent out through room parents and iOrtho will provide food for parents who come in and help.

VI. SCHOOL CLEAN UP DAY OUTDOOR - Becky Limanni

Becky has scheduled an outdoor clean-up day for May 18th from 10AM - 2PM, in preparation for the end of year and 5th grade graduation. She has asked for everyone to help spread the word. The KONA ice truck will be onsite that day for volunteers to enjoy.

VII. AUCTION & BUDGET UPDATE - Rachelle Montanaro

Rachelle discussed that the PTA Board suggested a venue change for this year's auction and that the previous auction budget was increased to accommodate such a move. However, the budget increase had to be made before the start of the school year

and no one was quite sure just how much would be needed for this year's event. Therefore, Rachelle requested for an auction budget increase of \$5,000. She explained that this money would cover the bar, bartenders, waitstaff and photo booth for the event. She went on to explain that this \$5,000 is already covered by ticket prices and sponsorship dollars, but by voting for the increase, the committee will have a little breathing room for additional expenses that are not covered. Nathan Lipke made a motion to approve. Scott Rathbun seconded the motion and PTA membership voted to approve.

Rachelle reported that one of the committee's goals this year was to cover the cost for all teachers to attend the event. She asked help in spreading the word to purchase event tickets and to donate full or partial tickets.

VIII. BACKPACK - Ellen Landy

- Ellen was not present at the meeting, so Candace spoke on her behalf. She encouraged PTA members to sign-up and volunteer for Food Bank of the Rockies on May 11, 12:15-3:30PM to support the Backpack Program.

IX. GAGA UPDATE - Candace Kristensson

Candace reported that we are going to postpone voting until we have solid budget numbers. We are still waiting for final numbers for space, timing, and delivery.

X. BUDGET REVIEW - Devon Parish

- Devon reported that we raised \$785.25 in King Soopers grocery cards in February, bringing our earnings to \$7,809.62 for the year. She mentioned that the Kroeger system is changing and it will take word of mouth to get everyone switched over to the new system. Angela Rathbun, encouraged everyone to go online, sign-in to their King Soopers loyalty accounts and connect the UPark ID number to their account. Once this step has been completed, users will only need to swipe their rewards card moving forward. Devon continued letting everyone know that \$428.49 has been brought in through Amazon Smile, just \$71.51 short of our goal for the year. We've added 2 new PTA members since last month. There is \$124 that the Green Team raised for t-shirts and a \$52 has come out of the social worker fund for 2 Ameritowne sponsorships. All is balanced and correct.

XI. SPONSORSHIP - Scott Rathbun

Scott informed the PTA that the sponsorship team has secured 2 new banner sponsors: Closet Factory of CO and GHP Investment Advisors. There was a discussion that the backpack sponsors on the current banner need to be updated and a new banner needs to be made.

XII. QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

There will be voting at the next meeting for board positions. Candace Kristensson asked for help trying to recruit people to fill the open positions.

Candace also mentioned that Kath Quinn is graduating out of UPark and she has served as the Chair of the Wellness Committee. Kath has picked up apples from Sprouts each week to put in the school office, so healthy snacks are available to students in need of options. Katie Riddle offered to take this duty for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Due to inclement weather, the bookfair has been extended online. This information will be in the Thursday newsletter.

Candace Kristensson adjourned the meeting at 7:18PM.

UPCOMING DATES

<i>Mar 11-13th</i>	<i>Scholastic Book Fair, Volunteers Needed!!!</i>
<i>Mar 19th</i>	<i>Class Picture Day, Volunteers Needed!!!</i>
<i>Mar 25-29th</i>	<i>SPRING BREAK, no school</i>
<i>April 6th</i>	<i>UPark Auction</i>
<i>April 9th</i>	<i>PTA Meeting-- ELECTION MEETING</i>
<i>April 29th</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL DPS</i>
<i>May 4th time</i>	<i>UPark Classroom Clean Up Day</i>
<i>May 11th</i>	<i>UPark Volunteer Day at Food Bank of the Rockies, 12:15-3:30pm</i>
<i>May 18th 10-2</i>	<i>OUTDOOR CLEAN UP DAY plus Kona Ice!</i>

COMMITTEES OVERVIEW 2019 Proposed

- ***Apple Campaign - Julia Gold AND TBD***
- Fun Run - Joanna Shear
- ***Grocery Cards - VP (TBD)***
- Corporate Sponsorship Chair - Carin Wagner and Scott Rathbun
- Backpack Program - Ellen Landy
- Garden - Geoff Babbitt
- ***Wellness - TBD***
- Green Team - Jeanne Zokovitch and Ashleigh Ruehrdanz
- Spring Auction - Tamara Reese and Rachelle Montanaro
- Legislative Action - Merrell Aspin
- ***Yearbook - TBD***
- Room Parent Coordinator - Julia Layton
- Grant Writing - Susan Westhof
- Grounds - Becki Limanni
- Mobility - Candace Kristensson

2019 Proposed BOARD

- PRESIDENT- ANGELA RATHBUN
- ***VICE PRESIDENT- OPEN***
- TREASURER - DEVON PEARISH
- ***SECRETARY - RACHELLE MONTANARO***