



**University Park Elementary Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the PTA
Board & Membership
April 9, 2019 - 6:00PM**

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Candace Kristensson, Angela Rathbun, Devon Parish, Rachelle Montanaro, Nathan Lipke, Eric Atonna, Anita Murano, Heather Wise, Natalie Nove, Jen Frenkel, Merrell Aspin and Ellen Landy. (total: 12)

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

I. WELCOME AND MINUTES APPROVAL - Candace Kristensson

The March PTA minutes were approved by Jen Frenkel and seconded by Nathan Lipke.

II. ELA INFO SESSION/PAC UPDATE - Anita Murano

Anita Murano has been teaching English Language Acquisition at UPark for 15 years. English Language Development was brought about by a court order a few years ago. She works with students on their English language skills in 45 minute pull-out sessions. ESL resource position at this school. There is now a new program called Systematic Language Development. Anita explained that she feels this program is good for content language objectives, however it is missing some fun. On account of this, she does a lot of singing and dancing in her class. This year she has 6 monolingual students. The students in ELA are tested more frequently than native english speakers. She hopes by making her class fun, her students are willing to take risks. The school is currently hiring a 6 hour para position for both Chinese and Arabic tutoring. Please let the school know if you know of a qualified candidate. Anita concluded her ELA update by handing out a survey about her program.

III. PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Eric Atonna

Eric began with a staffing update. Both Ben Herman and Kendra Schultz will not be returning to UPark next year. UPark is in the process of hiring someone new for the music and drama position and are currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the AN Center.

Eric notified the PTA that the school administration is going to switch up how they publish class lists for the 2019-2020 school year. In prior years, class lists were published on July 1st. This makes the final balancing of classes difficult with a lot of

shuffling still needing to happen before school begins on August 21st. They will aim to notify everyone by July 31st. This will allow for Sharon and Alexis to be back in the office for two days to make adjustments as needed.

Construction will be taking place over the summer. They will be taking out the old radiators and replacing them with a more modern heating system. This will not interfere with Owl Camp. The Kindergarten staff is looking at different ways to make class lists for next year. They are going to try to have Kinder assessments in June from which they will create skeleton classes. Then they will use assessment data and owl camp to make adjustments. Devon Parish suggested adding a parent survey to the data collection. These could be out at the meet and greet and collected after.

Rachelle Montanaro asked about the increased presence of DPS Safety & Security on campus this year. Eric explained that DPS changed policies for the AN Center and that Safety & Security should be the first phone call. They will assess the situation and if needed, the next step is to call the Denver Police Department. DPD will come and make the determination if hospitalization is needed. Parents are also involved to help make this decision. Candace Kristensson mentioned that DPS talks about wanting to decrease the school to jail pipeline, but now they are asking for Safety & Security to be called more frequently which can have associated trauma and stigma. Candace asked how can DPS have both of these things working together? Eric answered, you can't. He went on to explain that everyone is in agreement that the current model is not doing what it is supposed to do and they are asking how the current model needs to be changed to meet the needs of the most needy students. Eric said that he loves UPark's AN Center, because some of those students might not have ever had a good school day prior to coming to UPark. The previous model had been K - 2, but this year DPS changed it to K - 3. The goal for students in the AN Center is always to mainstream students. They do this by starting with specials, lunch, and recess. Then they move onto more on a case by case basis. Eric believes the current model is not sustainable. To help address this need, the school hired a second AN teacher, in addition to Tracy Dodd as well.

IV. **AUCTION COMPLETION** - Rachelle Montanaro

Rachelle reported that this year's auction fundraising goal was \$77,000 and the gross was just over \$91,000. 204 tickets were sold and all teacher/staff tickets were covered by parents. Last year we had 5 people bidding on the online auction in the last hour and this year we had 60. The paddle raise brought in \$6,825, versus \$945 last year. This was a huge jump, even with the audio not working for the video. Please look for a link for the video in this week's newsletter. The live auction brought in less than last year at \$7,800 versus \$10,250 in 2018. Overall the auction was a lot of fun and a big success for the school. Tamara Reese, Sheena Hurd, and Rachelle have all agreed to take on the auction again next year, but will most likely be looking into another venue due to frustrations with Archetype.

V. **ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATION** - Merrell Aspin

The legislative session just ended and the two proposed bills are a little controversial.

One involves the regulation of nicotine products and the other would allow the police to remove weapons from people who are believed to be a danger to themselves or others. Tomorrow there will be hearing about school immunization records for those with religious exemptions. Great Ed Colorado will be testifying in favor of a standardized form for the county health record, so they don't have to go back and redo these forms. The proposal for full-day Kindergarten is expected to pass and has bipartisan support. They've come to an agreement and it should pass both houses and be approved by the Governor.

\$77 million has been paid for budget stabilization, but \$627 million still owed yearly. Starting next year if the state brings in funds above the Tabor limit, it is proposed that money would go toward education and transportation. This initiative would go on the ballot for the fall and voters would have to pass it. Economic forecasting indicates that Colorado will not bring in more. Great Ed Colorado advocates for better funding for public ed in CO and met with Alec Garnett's Aide to ask about repealing TABOR and he indicated that this would never happen.

Merrell urged PTA membership to call their representatives to let them know if they feel strongly about any of these initiatives. She also mentioned another thing to pay attention to are the upcoming DPS School Board elections and Denver Mayoral elections.

VI. **2019-2020 UPARK PTA ELECTIONS** - Candace Kristensson

Candace went through the PTA Board Slate for 2019-2020 slate, as follows:

- President: Angela Rathbun (2 year term)
- Vice President: OPEN (2 year term) (Co-VPs would be ideal)
- Treasurer: Devon Parish (2 year term) - interim, additional 2 years.
- Secretary: OPEN (2 year term) - Natalie Nove

All proposed board members were unanimously approved and voted into office.

Candace let the membership know of the following urgently needed positions:

- Publications/Marketing Chair - Experience with Adobe Photoshop or InDesign. Responsibilities include: Back to School PTA Brochure Layout, Directory Layout, UWhoop Layout, Design Banners for Sponsors, Fun Run, Auction, and Apple, Coordinate Facebook posts, Display Cases, and UWhoop 2X per year.

VII. **BACKPACK** - Ellen Landy

Ellen reminded membership to sign up to volunteer for Food Bank at the Rockies on May 11, from 12:15-3:30pm. There are 10 spaces left. Volunteers will be working in reclamation, weighing donated food, packing, and putting it on shelves.

King Soopers started their new program on April 1st. Cashiers have had training to ask people to switch over to the new program, but they will still honor the old cards. The remaining \$2.50 pre-loaded gift cards were suggested to be given to Backpack for to use to purchase food.

The Wellness Fair will take place on May 9th and will be hosted by the 5th graders. It will begin at 3PM and will take place the last 45 mins of the school day.

VIII. **BUDGET REVIEW** - Devon Parish

Devon went through the PTA income and expenses, line item by line item and all is balanced. She mentioned that we are just under \$3,000 away from meeting our King Soopers goal for the year. She also mentioned that the auction income has started to show up in our account, but it is being deposited in chunks and she is having trouble discerning what each deposits represents. Jen Frenkel offered a few suggestions about how to go about entering in this information. She also noted that our Teacher/Staff Recognition line item is under budget and suggested that the PTA may want to consider using this surplus to give gifts to retiring teachers.

IX. **QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION**

Angela Rathbun asked about the status of the gaga ball pit. Eric explained that he has been waiting for DPS to hire a new Facilities Manager. This person was recently hired and he believe this project can now begin to move forward.

The meeting was adjourned by Candace Kristensson at 7:47PM.

UPCOMING DATES

<i>April 29th</i>	NO SCHOOL DPS
<i>May 4th time</i>	<i>UPark Classroom Clean Up Day</i>
<i>May 8th</i>	<i>K-2nd Hosted Teacher Appreciation Luncheon</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 - Erin Dunlap tentatively**
- Green Team - Jeanne Zokovitch and Ashleigh Ruehrdanz
- Spring Auction - Tamara Reese and Rachelle Montanaro
- Legislative Action - Merrell Aspin
- **Yearbook - TBD (Marketing?)**
- Room Parent Coordinator - Julia Layton
- Grant Writing - Susan Westhof
- Grounds - Becki Limanni
- Mobility and UPCC Liaison - Candace Kristensson