

PTO/PAWS Meeting

September 4, 2018 Minutes

Attendees:

Nicci Crowley – President
Rachel Caciagli - Treasurer
Kristy Aiken – Secretary
Melissa Roberts
Josephine Ramirez
Diana Tellez Rosales

Michelle Waltman
Roxanne Stevens
Jordan Brown
Lottie Keith
Karlan Sheeran
Crystal Bennetts

Natalie Tamminga
Milinda Carr

***Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 and introductions were made.

***Approval of Minutes:** Since this is the first meeting of the 2018-19 school year there were no minutes to approve.

***Financial Report:** The current balance is \$4,954.47. Last year \$11,981 was spent with only \$10,691 coming in. We will no longer be paying the lease on one of the copy machines which will save \$3,420. Starting this year, the lease will be paid out of the general budget. The teachers present thanked PAWS for paying the lease the last two years. The fundraiser last year did not bring in as much money as in previous years.

***Principal's Report:** Melissa Roberts, Mesa's new Principal, introduced herself.

The Back to School Night/Open House went well. All kids present received a book and parents were able to pick up a lot of informational math and reading materials.

Mesa is still on Priority Improvement status. We missed moving to Improvement by .4%. Mrs. Roberts showed a breakdown of the percentage of students in each category, Did Not Meet, Partially Met, Approached, Met, and Exceeded Expectations, for language arts and math. She encouraged parents to take the CMAS practice test and experience what our children are required to know in order to perform well on the test. We are trying to prepare them because even as adults they will be required to take tests.

Mrs. Roberts is very excited about the Illuminate computer program. The questions align with the CMAS test questions. We are also using Zern which is a free math computer program that is aligned to our math curriculum. Mrs. Roberts is trying to obtain funding to purchase Lexia school-wide. This is a skills based computer reading program that focuses on basic reading strategies and comprehension.

Mesa Staff is dedicated to student learning.

***Old Business**

***Fundraiser:** We are using the same company as in years past, S'Cool Services. The kick-off is October 3rd, selling through October 17th, and delivery in early November. We will talk next month about incentives.

***Chili Cook Off:** Our annual Chili Cook Off and Dessert Auction will be held November 6th starting at 5:30 p.m. We will also encourage families to bring a can of food to Stuff the Bus.

***Assemblies:** It was decided to bring in one paid group that would tie in with Character Counts, Anti-Bullying, etc. Local groups will also be utilized such as the High School Jazz Band.

***New Business**

***Teacher Requests:**

*Kindergarten requested money to purchase Brain Pop Jr. It was approved to purchase one Brain Pop Jr. and one Brain Pop subscription for the whole school to use if possible.

*First grade requested money to purchase National Geographic Science magazines for their 50 students. \$300 was approved.

*Second grade may be requesting money to go on a field trip to the pumpkin patch in Aztec. They are still working on the details to see if they will be able to go.

*Fourth grade would like to purchase Scholastic News for their students.

*Fifth grade is doing "Dream Teams" this year on Wednesdays during specials time. The teams are based on students' interests. They may be requesting money for a bus in the future to take some of the students to the library.

***Parent Questions:** Concern was voiced that Mesa is not using AR (Accelerated Reader) this year. Mrs. Roberts explained that the teachers have decided to go another direction and are looking at different options that can be individualized for students.

Another concern was if a student was working really hard at reading but could not meet their AR point goal, they were not recognized. It was very discouraging to the student. Mrs. Roberts said that the options being looked at would be more individualized for students and they could be recognized for their growth not just meeting a certain point goal.

Another concern was there not being enough time at lunch for students to eat. Mrs. Roberts described the first week of school as being chaotic during lunch time with students trying to learn or remember their lunch numbers, but it is improving and students are getting through the line faster.

***Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be October 2nd at 3:30 p.m.

***Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.