

**Polaris PTO**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**December 5, 2016**

In Attendance: Anne Sterrett, Principal; Tim Kirkland, Chair; Stephenie Falcone, Secretary; Megan Webber, Treasurer; Brandy Coffman, new parent; Melinda Stewart, Electives Coordinator; Melanie Chenard, Website Calendar; Kara Chitwood, Volunteer Coordinator; Vanessa Pierce, Fundraising Chair; Cedra Goldman, RTV Chair, Kris Heilbron, teacher; Meg Freidman, Communications

1. Call to order
2. Motion to adopt meeting minutes from 11/7/16, approved, after changes
3. Board Reports:
  - a. Chair's Report – Tim
    - i. Will send out By-laws to review in January
  - b. Vice Chair's Report – no report
  - c. Treasurer's Report – Megan
    - i. Tax returns filed November 15
    - ii. November report details income vs. expenses through November
    - iii. Grocery cards, timing is off for pre-buy of reloadable cards, going down a bit, get in people's hands, especially Safeway cards
4. Committee Reports:
  - a. Volunteer Committee – Kara
    - i. Haley's project going well, Gathering Place
    - ii. Staff appreciation breakfast coming up
    - iii. Talent night Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm, volunteers still needed
      1. Molly can organize food, Megan will help
      2. Stephenie interested in helping
    - iv. Thanksgiving lunch went extremely well
    - v. Epost – first week back from break, info for talent show
  - b. Fundraising Committee – Vanessa
    - i. Colorado Gives Day is tomorrow, next epost will say thank you
    - ii. Thermometer outside library, did mock up design, would cost no more than \$100
  - c. Romancing the Vine – Cedra
    - i. Sent out Google doc for board to solicit for items
    - ii. Will have a lot of price point options, buy-a-shares
  - d. Communications Committee- Meg
    - i. Next epost is this Wednesday Dec 7 and then next Dec 21, skipping Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, going out Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, Carmen Mix will send room parent info
    - ii. Website - will have more time in January, get together with Anne, Melanie would like to join that meeting
  - e. Electives- Melinda
    - i. Doubled parent volunteers, haven't needed subs

- ii. School newspaper – Ms. Annie Witwer, very exciting! Will try to get sponsor for the paper.
  - iii. Applied and were loaned a Rubix Cube program, solve from beginning to end, all math based, pixel pictures as well, all free!!!
  - iv. School now owns 3-D printer, Devon bought it and should send Meg reimbursement form.
- 5. Principal's Report – Anne
  - a. Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum- whole school is going, also off-site evacuation spot
  - b. Bookie night this Wednesday
  - c. Band and choir concert on Thursday
  - d. Salute the Scientists Tues Dec 13<sup>th</sup>
  - e. Parent tours, Dec 14 is the next one, and quite a few in Jan.
  - f. Random Acts of Kindness –
    - i. Lisa Strausburger, psychologist, here 3 days a week
    - ii. Elective researching famous people
    - iii. Brook Jones helping, and Haley Figueora
- 6. Teacher's Report – no report
- 7. New business –
  - a. Megan wants to work with Teachers wish lists
  - b. Megan – went to CSC meeting (we need to sign up for more!)
    - i. Main topic – TLC model required by DPS,
      - 1. School now has team of 7 teachers on the design committee,
      - 2. Next year 1-2 teachers would serve as team leads. This means they provide professional development and coaching and contribute to evaluations.
      - 3. The district vision is that with full implementation, the team leads would be senior team leads which means that they would be responsible for conducting full evaluations on their caseload in addition to coaching and professional development.
      - 4. The teacher would work half time as a teacher and half time as team lead or senior team lead. If that person has classroom duties, then they job share with another teacher.
      - 5. This provides teachers with career growth that allows them to stay in the classroom and develop additional skills
      - 6. Students benefit as other teachers in the building receive professional development and coaching to enhance their practice.
      - 7. DPS will support most of the cost, 70% on district and 30% on schools. The cost to the school for each team lead or senior team lead is around \$10,000

8. Team Leads and Senior Team Leads receive their salary plus an additional stipend. The additional stipend is provided by DPS.
  9. As part of the model, our design team has also opted for 3 Team Facilitators. Those receive a stipend of \$1500 from the district. They would conduct data team meetings designed to connect practice to student achievement.
- ii. UIP- Unified Improvement Plan (State of Colorado Department of Education Requirement)
    1. Based on PARCC results
    2. School creates a plan that identifies and remediates a priority performance challenge
    3. Polaris' Unified Improvement Plan Priority Performance Challenge is growth in math. Although our fourth grade growth in math was quite high, the median growth percentile of our fifth grade students was 33. Typical growth is considered to be 50.
  - iii. School Performance Framework: There is an article in the Stapleton Front Porch that describes Denver's School Performance Framework model. Denver sets numbers for acceptable growth higher than what is known to be typical growth in order to ensure accelerated growth for students who need to catch up. The question is whether that much growth should be required of students who are performing at or ahead of grade level standards. In addition, there are schools with high growth and high performance for all groups, but because a sub group's growth is less than that of a comparison group, the school is labeled "yellow" or "red" in the area of equity. There are other schools who have low growth and/or achievement but because both groups match, are labeled green. Next year, the equity indicator will trump all other indicators and schools cannot have green or blue status unless the equity indicator is green. Our CSC disagrees with this practice and is going to delve deeper into the issue at the next CSC meeting.
  - c. Tim gets a lot of solicitations from fundraising organizations, ignore unless it's from a parent, then send to Vanessa, otherwise must fall into 4 fundraising streams we already have.
  - d. New parent is here! Introductions around the table
8. Adjournment – next meeting January 9, 2017