

**Foothill Elementary Joint SAC-PTO**

**Thursday, April 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
Foothill Elementary Library**

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**Attendees Present:**

- Lisa Schuba, Principal
- Laurel Reckert, Assistant Principal
- Emily Andrews, PTO President
- Nicole Rajpal, SAC Chair
- Robin Miller, PTO Co-Treasurer
- Christy Drury, PTO Secretary
- Donna Wynn, PTO Volunteer Coordinator
- Jessica Sutin, Parent, PTO VP Community for 2017-18
- John Duke, PTO VP 2017-18
- Jen DeCastro, PTO VP Marketing
- Melanie Bauer, PTO, VP Marketing 2017-18
- Sophie Ramus, Teacher, PTO, SAC
- Tara Closkey, PTO Talent Show Chair
- Cherine Herrmann, parent
- Sherri Norland, parent
- Shayna Samuels Turner, PTO Garden to Table Chair
- Kay Lynn Hartman, PTO Spirit Wear Chair
- Alexis Schwartz, PTO Fundraising Chair 2017-18
- Shari Polis, parent
- Angie Cook, parent + incoming KG
- Christy Vaughan, PTO MSA Administrator
- Josh Fiester, Incoming KG
- Francesca Gettelman, SAC and PTO Sports 4 All Chair
- Rachel Oerding, parent
- Dana James, SAC
- Jennifer Peers, parent
- Christina Schlacter, SAC
- Cheryl Meyers, Incoming KG
- Katie Volkmar, SAC
- Melanie Yee, parent
- Kim Bixel, SAC
- Liz Daneels, parent
- Cindy Hunnicutt, parent
- Charles Bloomfield, parent
- Maria Bloomfield, parent
- Dayna Reed, PTO Grocery Giveback Coordinator
- Staci York, parent

**\*\*The notes follow the presentation slides and only note items that were mentioned in addition to the items listed on the slides.**

## Introduction:

- Introductions were made around the room (see above list of Attendees, which included SAC + PTO members as well as parents of existing students and incoming Kindergarteners).

## Principal's Report:

### *Vision:*

- Principal Schuba began the meeting by discussing what she and the Foothill Community have been working on since starting as Principal at Foothill 2 years ago.
  - Five Year Plan for Foothill based on values and beliefs.
  - The Motto/Purpose Statement that came out of these discussions was Together We Grow, with Curiosity, Creativity + Compassion.
  - The Vision includes the Whole Child + Differentiation - Social/Emotional Learning is just as important as Academic Learning.
- Principal Schuba also shared some of the accomplishments of the last 2 years
  - Outdoor Learning Center, Maker Space
  - Foothill is the only school in the District to have the FOSS Next Generation Kits (money raised by the Give to Grow campaign)
  - New lunch schedule has reduced behavioral referrals, 2nd Step Curriculum working on problem solving and learning to speak up for themselves
  - Data Cycles, where teachers meet regularly as a group to discuss differentiation (teaching to each kid in a diverse way, meeting kids where they are) and growth (measured during the year, not just at the end).
  - GROW Block, with smaller student: teacher ratios (Tracking with 3x/year I-Ready scores, running records, spelling inventories, writing samples, etc.)
  - Expanded TAG program
    - Before, the program didn't connect with what was happening in the classroom
    - Now includes high achievers in addition to TAG
    - Meets 4x/week for 45 Min (4-5th Grades), Math Olympiad (4-5th Grades), Casey 6th Grade Math

### *Class Distribution:*

- Principal Schuba mentioned that we are fortunate to have local funding in BVSD, as the state funding is not looking great.
- The quality of the teacher impacts kids the most, but class size is still important and a lot of work has been done around how class sizes and student:teacher ratio can continue to improve
- Current Enrollment is 542 students, with the largest 5th Grade class graduating in May.
- Current enrollment for 2017-18 was at 513 as of 4/18/17.
- Teacher Line Up for 2017-18 was presented
  - Principal Schuba is thinking KG will probably end up as 4 rounds
  - Foothill will have 4 Friends School Teacher Candidates next year - KG, 1st, 4th + 5th
  - Foothill will also have 2 CU Teacher Candidates - 2nd, 3rd

## PTO:

Emily Andrews, PTO President, discussed who the PTO is and what they do -

- Community Building - hope to use MSA more in the future as a communication tool
- Raising Funds -
  - Fund the Fox campaign had the most successful year ever, raising \$80k, which was spent mostly on staffing.
  - Amazon Smile - many people in the audience didn't know about the program. Remind people to Bookmark the site!
  - Grocery Giveback - reminder about this program as well
  - Mini Grants - PTO was able to allocate some of the money raised this year to teachers via Mini Grant submissions

- **Recruiting Volunteers -**
  - Payback Books needs a Chair
  - 30+ Committees at Foothill! Lots of opportunities/needs!
  - Streamline volunteer sign up going forward (will implement an online sign up program) in hopes of increasing volunteers and utilization of volunteers
  - Asked parents for any feedback they might have on volunteering
  - Volunteer Tea - May 10th
  - Seemed to be an interest in evening meetings to get more participation. PTO to hold monthly evening meetings from 5:30-6:00 on SAC meeting nights?
  
- **PTO Officer Election -**
  - Kim Bixel made a motion to approve the slate of officers for 2017-18, Francesca Gettleman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
  
- **PTO Proposed Budget 2017-18**
  - Nicole Rajpal made a motion to pass the proposed budget, Donna Wynn seconded the motion and the proposed budget was passed unanimously.
  - Note - Admin. Fees should significantly decrease going forward with the use of CheddarUp, a local Denver company, to process credit card payments.

**SAC:**

**Nicole Rajpal, SAC Chair, discussed what the SAC is and what they do -**

- **Analyze data**
  - What trends are we seeing, how can we problem solve around and make recommendations to SLT.
- **SAC's rank the spending priorities determined by DAC**
  - Top 2 at Foothill this past year were innovative curriculum, teacher training
- **UIP - way to hold schools accountable, mainly set by BVSD**
  - How are we doing?
  - Where have we been?
  - Where are we going?
- **In need of a community representative for the upcoming school year**
- **In need of a PEN rep**

**Assistant Principal, Laurel Reckert, discussed why Foothill is putting together a Homework Policy -**

- **The topic of Homework is a big part of national, state and local dialogue right now**
- **Also an important piece of school community - What do we value? Who are we as a school?**
- **The draft of the Foothill Homework Policy was shared - has been a 4+ month process, with teacher, parent + student input**
- **Consensus Based Decision Making for this policy so that all factors are considered and that there is a consensus about the expectations around homework (currently not consistent amount grade levels).**

**The meeting closed with Nicole asking everyone to submit their feedback on the draft homework policy.**