

West Campus PTA Minutes

1st PTA Meeting for the school year

When: 5pm, September 12, 2023

Where: Jives coffee shop (16 Colbrunn Ct, Colorado Springs)

People Present: Maria Baez-Diaz, President; Denise LaPlante, Secretary; Ron Hamilton, Principal; Jacilyn Evans; Melody Collins-Bass

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Current treasurer, Autumn Hayes-Diges is stepping down. Jacilyn will advertise open position on Dojo to elementary families.
- Budget proposed and approved for 23-24 school year. (See below) Revenue will be primarily from King Soopers, and expenditures mostly to Teacher Grants. There are fewer 8th graders this year than last, so we will keep the budget for yard signs the same and have room if prices increase. 10 yearbooks will be ordered in the fall semester to take advantage of the lower price. We will run holiday assistance through PTA. The amount brought in will be spent based on school needs, and the net effect to the PTA budget is zero. If additional fundraising or expenses arise, we will vote on budget changes during the year.

Budget Item	23-24 Budget
Dues Collected	\$100
King Soopers	\$3200
Other fundraisers	\$500
	\$3800 Revenue
PTA Infrastructure	\$350
Teacher Grants	\$2500
Teacher Appreciation	\$400
Yard Signs for 8th Graders	\$365
Yearbooks for 8th graders in need	\$300
	\$3865 Expense

- **Fundraisers**

- King Soopers Quarterly Disbursements - approximately \$800 each
- Krispy Kreme - We would like to repeat this fundraiser. Denise will check with Autumn about status.
- Concession Stand for West Home Games - Student Council will run concessions this year instead of PTA.
- Other - We will not participate in the Harlem Wizards fundraising opportunity at Holmes this year because it falls in the same week as two West events. One potential future fundraiser is to staff concessions at Garry Berry stadium.

- **PTA Operations**

- Updated By-laws

- By-laws were updated to the new Colorado PTA template with no changes to the structure of our PTA. A motion was made and passed to approve the new by-laws.

- Teacher Grants

- Grants of up to \$250 will be accepted. The form for requests will be brought up in Wednesday's faculty meeting. Denise will look into a digital format. Maria suggested that, when possible, the actual item requested be purchased by PTA instead of giving money directly to teachers as a way to save some money. Mr. Hamilton can use the school's Amazon account, and we reimburse the school as a way to accomplish this.

- Teacher Appreciation

- For ESP (Educational Support Professionals) week, there will be a teacher provided potluck during staff development day (no students) on Monday, October 16th. The new faculty lounge space will be highlighted. PTA will provide dessert for teachers and staff. Details TBD as Maria and Denise will both be out of town - maybe have something delivered.

- Locations for future meetings

- Next meeting on October 10th will be at Jives again for continuity. Another off campus option is Dice Guys once they are not using meeting space for community theater production.

- **Membership**

- Dues for 23-24 stay the same.

- Parent involvement has been an ongoing issue. Some identified barriers are having meetings inside the school. Other locations will be tried this year to bring more families. The name PTA can also cause some to not engage; we can explore something more neutral like a parent advisory council when sharing. Those involved will continue to advertise by word of mouth. Communication can be made via Dojo for the elementary and the whole school newsletter for both middle school and elementary.

- As this year continues, we can explore if operating as a PTO through the school is a better option for our community. Dues are another potential barrier to families currently. Mr. Hamilton will check on D11 policy about PTA. Denise will research if the King Soopers funding can change to a different entity without starting over who is signed up.

- **Halloween Carnival - Friday, October 20th, 5-7pm @ West**

- PTA will sponsor the Halloween Carnival by having a booth with information about PTA. Other activities will be run by middle schoolers for the younger kids. Each of the nine advisory classes will choose a traditional carnival booth to host. In addition, there will be karaoke and food available. This will be the first year with the hope to establish a traditional fall event.

- **Other Upcoming Events**

- 9/30/23 - GameQuest hosted at West from 11-5. Middle schoolers from across town are invited to come for board games and role playing games. GameCon has been happening in the spring, and this will be a fall option. Tickets are \$5 each. There are 20 tickets reserved for West students in need. Those interested in tickets or volunteering can go to gamecon.info. Event is set, and PTA will not be involved this time.

- 10/7/23 - School Beautification from 9-12 in conjunction with COS I Love You CityServe. We do not have a building manager, so the grass is mowed but not much more outdoor maintenance is done regularly. Volunteers will weed, clean up, paint, etc.

- 10/19/23 - Quarterly Community Engagement from 5-7 pm with dinner provided. As part of MIS (Major Improvement Strategy) #3 to involve parents and community this will be the first of quarterly events. There will be a strategic conversation for parents and students about the next 100 years at West.

- 10/20/23 - Halloween Carnival - See above

- o 9/29/24 - 100th Anniversary of West Celebration