MINUTES

Asbury Elementary School PTSO

***February 4, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.* | *Meeting called to order by Ann Garner***

# In Attendance

Leah Borsheim, Kim Nyhus, Maren Willins, Celia Romero, Meredith Anderson, Kristi Leech, Greg Weiler, Dave McDaniel, Sara Weneck, Andrea Beatty, Desi Kennedy, Ann Garner, Alicia FaJohn, Shannon Durling, Karen Hampel, Kate Cihon, Sarah Lintzenich, Sarah Simpson, Olivia Jolly, Samantha Weiler, Sarah Johnson, Meaghan McCabe, Andrea Cocking.

# Pearl Wine/The Share Presentation

Ann Garner spoke about a new partnership with Pearl Wine Company that will replace the 5% cash back program that was previously in place and hopefully benefit our school on a more regular basis:

* When a parent, teacher or staff member signs up for the PWC wine club (called “The Share”), PWC will donate a portion back to Asbury each month.
* There are three different subscription levels: The Table Share (4 bottles of wine for $55 a month = $5 monthly donation to Asbury), the Banquet Share (4 bottles of wine for $95 a month = $10 monthly donation to Asbury), and the Connoisseur Share (4 bottles of wine for $150 a month = $15 monthly donation to Asbury).
* The form is attached to the Deet that went out on December 15th.
* If you are already signed up for the wine club, be sure and update your form so that PWC will know you want your donation to go to Asbury.

# DPS Board Updates

* Kristi Leech reported that the School Board unanimously passed a resolution calling for every school in the DPS system to designate at least one bathroom as gender-neutral.
* They passed a second resolution in support of safe gun storage which will direct the Superintendent to create and send home communication on how to store guns safely in homes. The goal is to reach a lot of parents and educate them. Alicia shared that there will also be an event at Asbury in April organized by one of our parents, Michelle White, and one of our 1st grade teachers, Nicole Bruyere.
* A third resolution was passed in support of students aged 16 and older being allowed to vote in School Board elections.
* At the Senate level, a teacher pay increase grant program was passed by the Senate Education Committee. This will help districts increase teacher pay and will now go to the Appropriations Committee.
* The next bill they will be looking at (on Thursday) is regarding increased training for teachers when it comes to behavioral health management in schools.
* Great Education Colorado’s Lobby Day is on March 5th. If you are interested in participating or in receiving legislative updates from Great Education Colorado by email please contact Kristi.

# Principal’s Report

Principal Alicia FaJohn reported:

* A new science curriculum has been approved - Amplify. All teachers will be trained this summer and it will roll out next year. It matches the new science standards.
* We have the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. We are going from 6 Asbury-specific non-student contact days to 4 because the district has released 2 days. The calendar will go out in the Thursday Folders this week and Alicia will share how adding these Asbury planning days have contributed greatly to our success this year.
* We have three positions open for next year. Nicole Degucz (Kindergarten) and Hannah Robbertz (3rd grade) will both be leaving Asbury. Hannah is planning to move back to the East Coast for a year but is unsure of her long-term plans so Alicia has agreed to hold her position for one year in case she decides to come back. Alicia will treat this hire as a long-term sub (similar to maternity leave). Hannah would need to communicate her intent to return in January. Ms. Terri will be retiring at the end of this school year so Alicia is also looking to fill this secretary position. She has been recruiting since Terri shared her plans with her in August.
* Hiring is a very rigorous process for Alicia. Experience with Project Based Learning is important. She is looking for candidates who are able to self reflect, embrace culturally responsive teaching, and she is interested to see how they work within their own biases. It is important for her to find candidates who are committed to the vision we have in the building. These positions will open up internally first.
* The grilled cheese lunch was amazing. The staff loved it!
* There will be a meeting next Thursday at South High School to discuss ideas for future use of the Rosedale School. Alicia will be attending and her priority is to advocate for our school:
  + She has worked to build a really strong culture and community at Asbury and her concern would be to bring another elementary school into our small boundary that already has 5 elementary schools.
  + When Rosedale closed in 2005 many students came over to Asbury. We would take a hit in terms of ELL (English-language learner) students and FRL (free- and reduced-price lunch) students. We have done a lot of work with these groups because we value these populations.
  + Rosedale reopening as an elementary school would result in a decline in enrollment and funding for our school and we would be very impacted by this. Overall, it would pull 200 students from our 5 boundary schools.
  + Because of the points above, she plans to advocate that they do not open it as an elementary school. She will be speaking at the meeting, as will the principal of McKinley-Thatcher Elementary. They are asking for the Asbury and McKinley-Thatcher communities to arrive around 5:45 to meet outside and sit together at the meeting. It is important for you to attend if you can.

# Teacher’s Report

* Our original Kids Heart Challenge goal was $1500 and we have raised over $4000! Because of this, in addition to the Slime Challenge, Mr. Howard will be having a Glow in the Dark party in P.E. classes - the date is TBD.
* We have decided to change to the celebration assembly date from February 12th to February 18th so that Asbury 5th grader Noah Bradley, Heart Survivor, can be present.

# Treasurer’s Report

Leah Borsheim went over the fundraising highlights:

* We are in the positive! Donations received have exceeded our expenses.
* We have sold all of the DU hockey tickets. There are still basketball tickets available.
* We have a new business sponsor - CareNow Urgent Care.
* In terms of Direct Give donations, we currently at $95,536.30.
* King Soopers grocery cards have brought in $366.69.

Ann spoke about the upcoming vote to contribute an additional $20,000 to Alicia’s budget for next year:

* We have already committed $105,000 to supplement the 2020-2021 budget. This ask for an additional $20,000 will bring us to $125,000. For reference, we contributed $120,342 to the 2019-2020 budget, so this is only $5,000 more than last year.
* Per our bylaws, PTSO members will need to vote to approve or deny the request because it is greater than $2,500.
* DPS made significant changes to the costs of hiring staff and has also cut funding in certain areas. In addition to this, some of Asbury’s grant funding has expired.
* Alicia also explained that our MI paras earn more than the average para salary used by DPS to calculate the budget. Our MI paras are extremely qualified and it is important to retain them.
* Alicia plans the budget based on projected student count and the attached $ amount per pupil. After SchoolChoice numbers are available, she will have a better idea but will not know the exact funding to expect until we have a final student count in the fall. We enrolled 4 students for the current school year in the past week.
* Ann stated that the PTSO has $20,000 set aside that we will not need to touch for this additional request and believes we can sustain this level of fundraising of $120,000-$125,000 and continue to set aside money as we go. We can continue to grow that from year to year.
* The question was asked about where we keep that extra money and how it can yield the most interest possible. Ann welcomes any and all ideas and research into this matter.
* Ann will email a Google Form to all PTSO members for them to submit their vote. It will be sent out tomorrow with a Friday noon deadline.
* Alicia and Ann are happy to talk to any families who have questions.
* Overall, the PTSO Board feels very comfortable with this ask. It is very similar to what we gave last year and the resources are available for us to do it.

.

# Committee Updates

Community Ticketing

* We still need someone to take over this committee.
* Ann will send out a Sign Up Genius for people to sign up to help sell basketball tickets on the playground before and after school.

Read-A-Thon

Samantha Weiler [weilersamantha@yahoo.com](mailto:weilersamantha@yahoo.com), Lizzie Mussoline [lizziemussoline@gmail.com](mailto:lizziemussoline@gmail.com), Leah Borsheim [asburyfunds@gmail.com](mailto:asburyfunds@gmail.com)

* We are set with our dates and have a good group of people ready to help. Additional help will be requested for smaller tasks like counting feathers.
* Alicia will read from the roof again this year.

School Tours

Listy Lehman [listy.lehman@gmail.com](mailto:listy.lehman@gmail.com)

* School tours are going really well. We have had lots of families come through.
* This Friday will be the last tour.

Dining Out

Kim Nyhus [kimpnyhus@gmail.com](mailto:kimpnyhus@gmail.com)

* Our Chook Dine Out is today with a 20% giveback with mention of Asbury.
* Our McDonald’s Dine Out brought in about $200.
* Our next Dine Out is at Spanky’s before the DU Basketball game (February 20th) with 20% back on all sales.
* Please head to Illegal Pete’s on March 12th from 5pm to 8pm. They will be donating 50% back to Asbury.
* Birdcall is scheduled for April 21st with a 20% donation with mention of Asbury.
* Kona Ice is scheduled for May 15th.

Spring Wing & Silent Auction

Kim Nyhus [kimpnyhus@gmail.com](mailto:kimpnyhus@gmail.com), Kristi Leech [kristileech@gmail.com](mailto:kristileech@gmail.com), Alison Strom [alisonstrom27@gmail.com](mailto:alisonstrom27@gmail.com)

* The Save the Date is ready! The posters will go all over the school and the Save the Date has also gone out via School Deets. The invite is in the works.
* We are hoping to have even better attendance this year. We usually have around 180 attendees which includes about 30 teachers. We are working on ways to get even more parent involvement. Anyone can be invited, but we cannot put out a public advertisement (i.e. flyers around the neighborhood, post on nextdoor.com) because we are giving away alcohol.
* Kim was able to secure the venue (Galvanize - Platte St. location) for $1,600 instead of the $5,000 rental fee they usually charge.
* We are working on obtaining alcohol for the event. We currently have 4 cases but need a little more. We are waiting to hear from Bear Creek to see if they can come to the event and provide cocktails. We would love to get two more cases of wine or even other types of bottles. We are considering doing a whiskey wall or 6-pack wall in addition to the wine wall.
* Kristi, Andrea and Alison are preparing to dive deep into the Silent Auction piece - please let them know if you have connections for auction donations. If you are able to donate, we can provide a tax deductible receipt. We can also provide this to businesses providing donations.
* Kim will pass around a volunteer sign up sheet.
* Shannon is organizing the experiences and is looking for families to host the following experience ideas: Caddy Shack golf party at the Harvard Gulch golf course, family game or park day (Sweet Cow has a truck that can come to events), escape room, scavenger hunt, pool party at the Colorado Athletic Club. You can team up with other friends to host.

# 2020-2021 Board Elections

* The elections will take place at the April meeting.
* We need nominees/volunteers!

# Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd at 6pm.