

Monarch PTSO Board Meeting Friday, November 13, 2015

Individuals present included Jerry Anderson, Cory Nickerson, Anita Harrington, Lynne Wexler, Robin Goldstein-Lincoln, Bonnie Katzive, Steve Carr, Samantha Wexler, Jack Peters, Brenda Brown, Lou Bendrick, Cory Nickerson, Susan Alexenko, Chris Wilderman, Carly Remington, Sam Gambee, Tori DeVore, and John Beaupre.

Meeting called to order at 11:30 am.

Welcome

Cory Nickerson, PTSO Social Media chair, began with introductions of attendees.

No Place For Hate

Student Club Representatives for No Place For Hate, Carly Remington, Sam Gambee, and Jack Peters spoke about the group's objective to reduce discrimination and promote acceptance. They highlighted the group's Valentine project where they distribute inspirational quotes and candy to all Monarch students. The group began with 10 members and now has 110 students participating. Members attended a national training on active bystanding and see Monarch students speaking up more already. Interested students can join No Place For Hate and learn about upcoming meetings by visiting their on-line chat group.

Journalism, Newspaper and Yearbook

Student Club Representative Samantha Wexler spoke about Monarch's journalism classes as well as the Newspaper and Yearbook club. She highlighted the Introduction to Journalism class that freshman can take as well as ways students can write articles for the newspaper as guest contributors. She explained that the club has 30-40 students with separate editors for the newspaper, yearbook and website, as well as editors for each subject. Club members attend conferences like J Day for further training and networking opportunities. Monarch's Howler was nominated for a national award and Monarch's yearbook is top ranked. Club graduates have gone on to careers in journalism. The group publishes 5 issues of the Howler each year. Teacher advisor, Bonnie Katzive, was also present.

School Safety with Chris Wilderman BVSD Director of Operations, Safety and Environmental Services

Chris Wilderman began with a brief summary of his professional experience as a police officer and school resource officer in Adams 12 prior to his current position with BVSD. He then explained that when the most recent bond passed money was earmarked for safety/security improvements. Toward this end the district is working with a security consultant to assess current safety systems in all schools to determine recommended improvements. The installation of security cameras, something that the district has historically opposed, was also discussed as a possible safety improvement recommendation. Another area of concern is a system to increase security for office staff in addition to students and teachers.

Chris also indicated that Colorado Senate Bill 15-213, otherwise known as the Claire Davis Act takes governmental immunity away from schools allowing parents/guardians to sue schools in cases of heinous crimes on a student (\$300,000 per death with a \$900,000 cap) beginning in 2017, though a subcommittee is still in the process of delineating what specifically defines an acceptable “duty of care” to prevent such acts/liability. To learn more you can google search the Claire Davis Act or SB 15-213.

With regard to the car and pedestrian traffic challenges at Monarch, Chris indicated that the district has hired a traffic engineering company to help identify possible solutions beyond those that have already been taken at Monarch. Any proposals will include both the Monarch K-8 and Monarch HS campuses, and pedestrian as well as vehicle traffic. It was also explained that the BVSD employee serving as the campus monitor at Monarch is responsible for assisting with traffic as well as campus safety.

Principal’s Update

Dr. Jerry Anderson, Monarch’s Principal, began by mentioning that the PARCC state assessment results are expected in December (85% participation rate for Monarch). Dr. Anderson also indicated that Monarch is focusing on the use of data to ground classroom instruction. She also summarized the 3 current proposals for new school day start/end times: 8:30-4pm, 8:45-4:15pm, 9-4:30pm. Dr. Anderson is in favor of 8:30-4pm. Once decided the Monarch staff will determine how best to structure the school day, tutor time, possible homeroom class, etc. Updates on Ideal School Day can be found on the BVSD website.

Boulder Valley Credit Union with Steve Carr

Steve Carr shared information about the Boulder Valley Credit Union, soon to be renamed as Premier Members Credit Union in light of their recent merger. The credit union is open during the school day during both lunch periods except Wednesdays. Steve also mentioned the importance of learning about finances as studies have found that 75% of college students report being ill prepared to handle their finances. He also indicated that the Credit Union has shared branching in all 50 states making it easy for high school graduates to continue their banking at a Credit Union wherever they attend college. Steve also pointed to low banking fees as another benefit of the Credit Union. And finally Steve indicated that the Credit Union offers student scholarships (\$2,000 per student) and makes a yearly donation to the PTSO based on Monarch’s student, parent and family, and teachers enrollment at the Credit Union.

Budget Review with PTSO Treasurer

Brenda Brown, PTSO treasurer, reports total income to date as \$11,521, slightly under this year’s PTSO budget of \$15,700. Brenda also stated that the PTSO would consider a spring fundraiser if more funds are needed by teachers in the form of mini grants for classroom needs. Brenda will also look into whether or not Monarch could participate in Colorado Gives Day.

Mini Grant Review

Cory Nickerson explained that the PTSO's primary purpose is to support teachers and classroom instruction typically in the form of mini grant allocations. Mini grant applications submitted by Monarch's teachers will be reviewed on December 10. Parents interested in assisting in the review of the mini grants should contact a PTSO board member to participate on December 10 from 9-10:30am.

The PTSO also offers a \$50 stipend to all classroom teachers, though many teachers do not take advantage of this money. The PTSO will survey teachers who do not make use of the stipend to determine what might increase teacher participation.

PTSO Needs

Cory Nickerson indicated currently unfilled PTSO board positions (e.g., social chair) and those positions that will be open in the coming school year. Anita Harrington, PTSO's Volunteer Chair, mentioned the need for parent volunteers for the upcoming Open Enrollment Showcase activities.

The topic for the PTSO's next general meeting on **Friday, January 8 is Prom and After Prom.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.