



# February General PTA Meeting Minutes

## Mountain PTA

February 4, 2019 | 12:12pm | Meeting called to order by Mhairi McKay-Smith, Mountain PTA President

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### In Attendance

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Scott Johnson, Anna Zobay, Stephanie Luscher, Sigrid Wurthmann, Lindsay Gibson, Jen Schmierer, Alyssa Van Anne, Melissa Kinman, Kayla Ferguson, Alicia Kirkland, Tony Hinojosa, Kris Martinez, Eileen Jaramillo, Natalie Morgan, Karen Doebling, Ruth Burns, Lissie Ham, Amanda Padilla, Karen Morris, Todd Baker, Luis Chacon, Jennifer Kieltyka, Jennifer Guy, Mhairi McKay-Smith, Kristy Ortega, Chris Jordan, Ramey Sallaz

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### Introductions

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Mhairi McKay-Smith made introductions, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order and that only PTA members can vote.

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### Approval of Minutes

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The minutes were distributed from the December General Meeting. Karen Morris made a motion to approve December minutes which was seconded by Luis Chacon. Approved by show of hands.

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### New Business

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#### Grant Requests

##### *Eagle Scout Project - Carlos Chacon-Cuesta*

Carlos Chacon-Cuesta proposed improving the front garden at Mountain and building a snowball target as his Eagle Scout project and requested a grant not to exceed \$1,800. Questions were raised by the staff and membership about the impact on the memorial garden, accessibility due to upcoming construction at Mountain, impact on previous Eagle Scout projects, reducing the project costs, and LAPS facilities department rules for placing items on a playground. The membership agreed to delay the decision as more information is required.

Karen Doebling made a motion to move \$800 from educational grants to general grants. The motion was seconded by Todd Baker and approved by a show of hands.

##### *Second Grade - Everyday Math Templates*

Lissie Ham made a motion to approve a grant not to exceed \$500 for math templates for second grade. The motion was seconded by Todd Baker and approved by a show of hands.

##### *Glass Firing Shelves - Daisy Gorman-Nichols, Mountain Art Teacher*

Karen Doebling made a motion to approve a \$300 grant for glass firing shelves which was seconded by Lisse Ham and approved by a show of hands.

##### *4th Grade Swimming*

Lissie Ham made a motion that \$100 be moved from the 5th grade winter activity to cover the costs of swimming for a larger 4th grade class. Karen Doebling seconded the motion and it was approved by a show of hands.

##### Testing Update - Jen Schmierer, Mountain School Counselor and Testing Site Coordinator

Jen Schmierer presented information about changes to the upcoming state testing schedule. Testing will be reduced from two weeks to one week. The platform looks the same, the question format will be much the same but will reduce redundancy. Fourth grade will have science SBA and classes will still have end of course exams.

## Bylaws Updating for Approval

New Mexico PTA requires Mountain PTA to update our bylaws every three years. Our updated bylaws were voted on and submitted to NMPTA in December. NMPTA requested changes, which were made and the amended bylaws were again presented to the membership. Karen Doebling made a motion to approve the amended bylaws. The motion was seconded by Todd Baker and approved by a show of hands. Approved amended bylaws will be resubmitted to NMPTA for their final approval.

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## Treasurer's Report

Chris Jordan reported that the IRS form 990 was filed in December. He provided a copy of the treasurer's report that stated the effective bank balance is \$51,853. 70. Thus far we have reimbursed teachers for \$3,729.51 in Mad Money for classroom supplies. Grant balances are \$38 remaining for educational grants and \$8,634 remaining for general grants. The budget for fourth grade swimming is \$1,700 but with the unusually large class size this year the cost will be \$1,800, which is \$100 more than we have budgeted.

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## President's Report

Mhairi McKay-Smith reported that the PTA has been asked by members and staff to find out more information about the upcoming construction at Mountain. PTA officers met with Jennifer Guy, had email conversations with school board member Jenny McCumber and will meet with Dr. Steinhaus on February 5 to learn more about the process and the impact at Mountain.

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## Membership Report

Ramey Sallaz reported that Mountain PTA has 93 members.

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## Principal's Report

Principal Jennifer Kieltyka asked Jennifer Guy, LAPS Associate Superintendent, to present her report on construction and security updates at Mountain. Jennifer Guy explained that people have expressed concerns about the construction and another parent meeting is scheduled on February 26 at 5:30.

Mrs. Guy explained the systems award that Mountain won. The goal of a systems grant is to prolong the building life. The time frame for Mountain to get a rebuild is at least 12-16 years and funded through a bond. The goal of systems award originally addressed roofing (leaks), HVAC (no air conditioning in most rooms), holes in stucco, ADA bathroom in nurses office, and an enclosure for lower grade wing. Things have evolved with the systems award and Mrs. Guy is looking for answers as to what changed and why. A list of questions about changes was submitted to the architect by LAPS. Originally the project was to be done in two phases. One question is about the cost effectiveness of changing to one phase, which now requires 5th and 6th grade to be in portables. More ADA bathrooms are part of the new plan and take up a lot of room. New gym floor is now included in the award. The lower wing enclosure does not have doors. It is worth having a discussion about what was the thinking for changes and if it is too late to make changes to the plans. But a risk is losing the money if we delay the process by asking questions.

Addressing the concerns about poor communication by the district about the systems award Mrs. Guy said it was a process problem. There was a breakdown at the district level and a result of a lack of having the education and business side of the house merge. Decisions were made without teachers and parents in the room and teachers should have had first say.

Questions were asked or written on note cards by staff and parents. Those questions were compiled and emailed to Mrs. Guy (see attached for list of questions). She will work on getting the answers.

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## Committee Reports

Reports were from the nominating, Box Tops, and yearbook committees were postponed due to lack of time because of construction presentation and discussion.

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**Next Meeting:** *Monday, March 4th, 2019 | 12:10pm in the Mountain School Library*

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Meeting was adjourned at 1:46pm