



October General PTA Meeting Minutes

Mountain PTA

November 5, 2018 | 12:11pm | Meeting called to order by Mhairi McKay-Smith, Mountain PTA President

In Attendance

Cathy Snelson, Todd Baker, Sigrid Wurthmann, Anna Zobay, Stephanie Luscher, Branden Willman-Kozimor, Amanda Padilla, Esther Smidt, Donna Schaefer, Karen Morris, Lissie Ham, Jennifer Kieltyka, Mhairi McKay-Smith, Kristy Ortega, Chris Jordan, Ramey Sallaz

Introductions

Mhairi McKay-Smith made introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained the voting procedures and that only PTA members can vote.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were distributed from the October General Meeting. Cathy Snelson made a motion to approve the October minutes which was seconded by Todd Baker. Approved by show of hands.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Jordan reported filing IRS form 990, as required by our bylaws. Our accountant filed for an extension until February 15, 2019. A copy of the IRS extension approval was mailed to NMPTA. Our LANB bank balance as of 11/03/18 is \$58,118.45. We have reimbursed teachers \$2,580.77 for Mad Money used in their classrooms.

Our fundraising was extremely successful thanks to the generosity of the Mountain community and the hard work of volunteers. We raised \$9,531 more than we budgeted, though we do budget conservatively. The PTA officers suggested a revision of the budget to spend the additional money.

Cathy Snelson made a motion to increase the line items for 4th grade swimming, field trips, teacher appreciation, and the Kindergarten trip to the Santa Fe Children's Museum with the remainder of the money added to the general grants. Kristy Ortega seconded the motion. Approved by show of hands.

President's Report

Mhairi McKay-Smith expressed gratitude for all the help in October with FUNd Run, Teacher Lunches, Book Fair, Silent Auction, and Halloween Carnival. Our PTA is fortunate to have the support of the Mountain community.

The science fair committee asked for help finding judges. Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Schaefer provided some history of the district science fair. Funding from LANL has decreased from \$10,000 to \$2,000 (or \$5 per student). This year judges are needed at Mountain as well as at the district science fair. Cathy Snelson, a volunteer lead judge from LANL, explained changes made to the district science fair. Last year 75 judges had 2.5 hours to judge 400 boards. In order to improve feedback to students the lead judges suggested that this year elementary school students compete to get into the district science fair. With fewer boards, judges will have more time to talk with students.

The PTA is renewing our contract with 1st Day School Supplies to provide school supply kits for the 2019-2020 school year. Also, the yearbook committee has begun working on the yearbook. Yearbook cover contest submissions due Nov. 9.

Membership Report

Ramey Sallaz reported that Mountain PTA has 7 new members, for a total of 93 members for the 2018-2019 school year. This is an increase from last year when we had 68 members at the November meeting.

Principal's Report

Principal Jennifer Kieltyka presented her report. She and Linda Hand (Mountain computer specialist) are working with Troxell to set a date to install the smart boards purchased by the PTA. Three days are needed for installation. Smart boards may be installed during winter break.

Mrs. Kieltyka thanked volunteers for providing lunches during parent-teacher conferences. The meals provided an opportunity for staff to eat lunch and laugh together.

New Business

Grant Requests

1. First Grade Headphones - Mrs. Luscher & Mrs. Zobay

Karen Morris made a motion to approve a \$400 educational grant for headphones which was seconded by Lissie Ham and approved by a show of hands.

2. Laminator - Raneé Stewart, Mountain School Secretary

Lissie Ham made a motion to approve a general grant not to exceed \$2,500 for a laminator. Branden Willman-Kozimor seconded the motion and it was approved by a show of hands.

3. Kindergarten Listening Center - Mrs. Kirkland

Branden Willman-Kozimor made a motion to approve an educational grant not to exceed \$500 for a listening center. Karen Morris seconded the motion and it was approved by a show of hands.

4. Project Vex Robotics Team - Tony Hinojosa

Branden Willman-Kozimor made a motion to approve a \$110 educational grant for a Next Level game kit and engineering notebooks for the robotics team. Karen Morris seconded the motion and it was approved by a show of hands.

5. Nutcracker Art Project - Mrs. Nichols

Kristy Ortega made a motion to approve a \$130 educational grant for nutcrackers for the Mountain Elementary Nutcracker performance. Lissie Ham seconded the motion and it was approved by a show of hands.

6. GATE New Mexico Map - Mrs. Unal & Mrs. Clayton

Todd Baker made a motion to approve an educational grant of \$130 to preserve a large wooden map of New Mexico made by GATE students so it can be displayed permanently at the school. Branden Willman-Kozimor seconded the motion and it was approved by a show of hands.

7. Student Snacks - Amy Yost, Mountain School Nurse

Karen Morris made a motion to approve a \$150 educational grant for snacks for students which was seconded by Todd Baker and approved by a show of hands.

Bylaw Changes/Formatting for December Approval

To be in compliance with NMPTA our PTA is required to update our bylaws every three years. Copies of bylaws were on hand as well as on our website and linked in our newsletter. Please submit any feedback by November 20. Our updated bylaws will be posted on November 22. The PTA will vote to approve the updated bylaws on December 3rd.

Smart Boards - Update from Jennifer Guy

Mrs. Guy was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the LAPS request of an additional \$5,000 for smart board installation. Our PTA will postpone a discussion of this until Mrs. Guy can present the information at a general meeting.

Nominating Committee

As part of our standards of affiliation our PTA must elect a nominating committee at a winter general meeting. This will be done at our December meeting. Members who are interested in serving on the committee or interested in being officers next year should contact Kristy Ortega.

Committee Reports

Fund Run

FUNd Run chairperson Kristy Ortega thanked the great volunteers and sponsors who made the FUNd Run a success. Teachers feedback was that they liked having stations for their classes to meet and boxes for water bottles were useful. The nurses station was helpful. The staff costumes were great and, along with the music provided by Mr. Hinojosa, made for a fun atmosphere. Thanks also to the LAFD for coming and running with the students.

Halloween Carnival

Carnival chairperson Todd Baker shared that he is still collecting feedback from carnival volunteers and will present a full report at the December meeting.

Silent Auction @ Halloween Carnival

Silent Auction chairperson Mhairi McKay-Smith reported that the Silent Auction was extremely successful. Thanks to the generous support of businesses in Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Taos the auction earned \$5,779. The teacher experiences were again extremely popular and the PTA greatly appreciated their support.

Book Fair

Book Fair chairperson Chris Jordan reported that fall book fair went well. Mrs. Pittman ran the fall fair with the support of the PTA. Chris suggested we consider asking for more volunteers the first few days of the book fair when it is extremely busy. The online fair option was used for the first time at this fair and one person used it.

Box Tops

Box Tops chairperson Lissie Ham reported that the first submission of the year was made and we earned \$600. December 3rd is the end of the contest for first semester.

Next Meeting

Monday, December 3rd, 2018 | 12:10pm in the Mountain School Library

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm