



Roy Cloud School - 2018-2019 School Year

PTO Meeting Notes

March 19, 2019

Call Meeting to Order/Welcome/Introductions – Yvonne Sarles

- The PTO meeting started at 6:32 pm in the school library.
- For attendee list please see Appendix 1.

Dec/Jan Financials Report – Treasurer Jim Balestieri

- February Expenses – Expenses this past month were primarily for the auction, business to business ACH fees (service we use to process online payments), investigative learning projects, outdoor education scholarships (to support families in need), an upgrade to the middle school quad (they put new plants in – it looks great), the spring play, and the 3rd of 4 payments to James Henry (K-1 music).
 - Investigative Learning – Investigative learning is funded mostly by the school site plan and the PTO supports a bit extra. The school district and schools solicit grants from outside organizations for other, extra investigative learning activities.
- February Income – Income was light for February, which is normal. That said we use the same processor for the auction as we do for direct donations campaign so it is hard to distinguish revenue among the two. Thus the previous projections for the direct donations campaign may be adjusted once the information is reconciled.

Teacher Presentation - Jennifer Nguyen, Technology Integration Coach

- Roy Cloud's Technology Integration Coach Jennifer Nguyen gave [a presentation](#) to introduce attendees to the tools she and Roy Cloud teachers are using in their various classrooms including:
 - Book Creator – a simple tool being used by many grades for creating digital books that can combine text, images, audio and video.
 - GSuite – Jennifer is working on getting teachers more comfortable with these applications.
 - Equatio – A program that makes math digital and allows teachers to easily create mathematical equations, formulas, and quizzes. This is collaborative work with the school district.

- Coding and Robotics – barcode reading robots (KIBO) coming in April - will start with kindergarten and work up to 1st grade.
- Scratch - Scratch teaches foundational steps for coding languages such as javascript. There are ongoing workshops for teachers of grades 3-5
- Google CS First – opt-in coding class for 4 and 5th grade girls after school
 - A concern was raised that while this is great progress, it is only speaking to kids already interested in coding when the goal is to introduce the concept more widely and capture more imaginations.
 - Some 3rd & 5th grade classes have introduced the program.
- Lego WeDo 2.0 – This application is district owned and we borrow from the district.
- Hummingbird robotics – a 5th grade activity purchased by Roy Cloud
- Seesaw – student driven digital portfolio and family engagement tool - a great way to show what you are learning.
- Marvel – application for 3rd and 5th grade for investigative learning units – how to design and prototype an app.
- Jennifer also spends time teaching students:
 - Jennifer teaches a web design middle school elective.
 - Jennifer is also teaching digital citizenship to students. She has started with grades K-2 and then will move on to grades 3-5 (if needed) and then middle school using common sense media curriculum.
 - A teacher commented that common sense media is also part of the language arts instruction (Amplify) curriculum for students.
- A parent asked what percentage of Jennifer’s time is spent working with teachers versus students? Jennifer said her schedule was very fluid and it couldn’t be quantified. She uses every opportunity to check in with teachers to see what they need which, per one teacher in attendance, can be challenging to fit into teaching schedules.
- A conversation ensued about the absence of a comprehensive technology instruction strategy at Roy Cloud which would establish a curriculum across all grades, set benchmarks for success, and help the community assess the impact of the technology coach. As it stands, with this piecemeal approach to technology, students in the same grade cohort will have wildly different instruction experiences over time. Jennifer reported that now there is a Technology and Innovation Director and perhaps such a strategy at the district level will be created. A number of schools in the district have technology coaches but not all.

PTO Auction/Dinner Dance - Veronica Spencer-Palmer

- The PTO and the entire school community raises up huge thanks for Veronica and her amazing Auction team! Thank you to all of the volunteers that supported the planning and implementation of this year’s auction.
- Revenues are approx. \$155K including \$54K for the Fund A Need. Expenses aren’t included in this figure.
- Spending for the Fund A Need already started with the Mindfulness event last week.

- The Fund a Need Social Emotional Learning programs will be focused primarily on the students but some opportunities for parents as well.
- There are spaces left in some parties and final purchases can be made. We are letting people know in the Thursday Thunderbolts for the time being.
- There are still corporate matching messages that need to go out to auction participants.
- Lessons learned:
 - Not many grandparents participated in their special account but it was the first year and worth a try again.
 - The venue and auctioneer really drove up the budget this year.
 - The all-digital program really worked and saved money and Veronica's sanity.
 - Let the theme drive the venue next year.
- Looking ahead to next year: We should consider booking Chad the auctioneer ASAP – date TBD but likely late Feb. The venue is also TBD. There is another venue we have used before but they provide no support – you have to bring food in etc - which requires significantly more volunteers.

May 2019 Jog-a-Thon – Casey Wright/Heidi von Briel

- The Jog-a-thon and Color Run are Friday May 17, 2019!
- While the big race happens in May, the festivities started in February with a Jog-a-thon/Color Run t-shirt design contest which is ongoing. Students in all grades submitted t-shirt designs and compete for the most student votes. T-shirts will be made available for purchase in a pre-sale and are worn in the weeks up to the race and on the day of the race.
- New for this year - we are working on combining the Jogathon with the Used Book Fair. We are working with Jen to make arrangements.
- Based on a number of questions and concerns raised about overall school, PTO, and fundraiser communications, the Jogathon team committed to upfront and clear messaging about the purpose of the Jogathon and context for any flyers or requests for action.

2018/2019 PTO Programs Review - Yvonne Sarles, Amy Truesdale, Heidi von Briel

- Community School of Music & Arts (CSMA)- \$30,000
 - This is our 3rd year using this program. All students get 12 lessons throughout the year. There is a set curriculum plus one ceramics project.
 - It was a slow start this year due to the teacher's family emergency. There were a series of subs for 3 weeks including Teacher Amanda and so we asked that she be permanent for the middle school. Then they hired teacher Samantha for grades K-5.
 - All but 3 teachers responded to the poll and they all love the program. K-5 would prefer teacher Amanda teach all grades. Teachers would also like better communication about the curriculum.

- The annual student art show will be April 25 during the open house. We will need a lot of volunteers for that PLUS an Art Coordinator for next year to work with the CSMA art teacher Amanda, be PTO liaison, get teacher feedback, manage small teacher requests, and coordinate the Art show.
- The questionnaire also asked the teachers if they were interested in increasing the amount of art enrichment in their classrooms. Overall they were not in favor, primarily due to time constraints. Teachers
- Science Workshops/Education Outside - \$30,000
 - Middle school has science teachers thus for grades K-3 we have the Education Outside program and grades 4-5 have Science from Scientists. Heidi used the same teacher questionnaire as Amy did to assess teacher preferences for the many different programs.
 - Science from Scientists involves a trained area scientist leading instruction in the class.
 - All 6 teachers for grades 4-5 want to continue with the Science from Scientists program. They like the content and the educator and they are very happy with it. They already asked if we want to continue and we need to commit by the end of this month to lock in the current scientist. This is the second year, funded by corporations. Program is usually \$25,000. Local corporations pay \$20,000 and the school pays \$5-7,000 for 18 classes. Financially it is a great deal.
 - Education Outside (EO) science classes are led by teacher Becca in the garden for grades K-3. All classes use it every other week. Usually EO is a full term program and the teacher is on site M-Th and works on curriculum and the garden but we split our program with John Gill so Becca is only here Monday/Tuesday – split time and split price.
 - 12 teachers (all but one) filled out the questionnaire. The teachers liked the combination of science and gardening – EO has its own curriculum with next generation science standards including economics and earth sciences. The teachers think it works well and they really like Becca for how well prepared she is and how well she teaches and class control. All in all, 5 teachers were extremely happy, 2 wanted to increase EO time for their students, and 2 preferred to have a full time curriculum in the classroom rather than the garden.
 - Sadly though, EO is discontinuing the program. But EO will let us use the curriculum. The group suggested we consider hiring Becca directly. Heidi mentioned Selby Lane has a full time EO person and we should reach out to them to discuss their plans.
 - Other science enrichment workshops are MSI, CuriOdyssey, Marine Mammal Center, Zoo Bus etc. Teachers volunteer to bring in and run these programs. There is about 1 per grade per year but the budget can stretch and some can have two.

- Star Vista student counseling program – \$66,000
 - To supplement the school psychologist (who works on site 3 days a week to see students with IEPs and spend a lot of time doing assessments and going to meetings), the PTO funds 3 on site counselors that serve a cumulative 40 hours per week (an increase of time over previous years).
 - Examples of their work this year include:
 - Since the beginning of the school year, 70 students in all grades have taken advantage of individual counseling with new referrals coming in every week. Individual counseling involves pulling a student from class for 30 mins once a week. The current split is:
 - Grades K-2 - 7 students
 - Grades 3-5 - 18 students
 - Grades 6-8 - 13 students
 - The counselors also augment teacher Toolbox social emotional learning instruction with their own lessons, in approximately 15 classrooms.
 - A 3rd grade friendship group was started this year and the counselors are trying to recruit middle school students for a lunch club. The counselors are also being used for student suicide risk assessments.
 - A parent asked if Star Vista addresses cyber bullying with students and how their work tracks with what the teachers and technology coach were doing re: digital citizenship. The Administration will look into it.
 - The teachers have not been polled about how the year has gone
 - A teacher expressed concern that it took months for her request for a friendship group to be seen by Star Vista. It was suggested that perhaps they are spending too much time teaching in the classroom.
 - A parent asked if there was a process by which school leadership could influence the schedule and elevate priority discussions. The Administration will look into it.
 - A parent relayed that in her student's experience the 1:1 therapy Star Vista provides is "stellar."

2019/20 PTO Election Info – Alicia Truby

- PTO Officer nominations will open up next month for the 8 officer roles. All of these positions are nominated by vote that will go out via the Thunderbolt. If you are interested in those roles let Alicia know.
- Alicia wants minimum 3 people to represent different grade sets to help serve on the nominating committee. Julia Swenson volunteered to be on the committee for K-2.
- Conversations ensued about the following issues:
 - A PTO member asked if 2 people run as a pair for a position? Yes! These roles do not need to be one person. Currently the Secretary position is held by two people.

- 2 PTO members suggested we create “elect” positions to support a structured succession plan for the most difficult knowledge transfer positions including President and Treasurer. It was agreed that having elect positions would be great if there were volunteers and interest to support. Parent Lucy Wicks volunteered to explore the bylaws to see if the PTO could in fact have “elect” positions.

Miscellaneous - Yvonne Sarles

- A new “Copy Cat” administrative helper started March 7. This has been a funded position in some previous years but was phased out once that employee retired. The “Copy Cat” works 3/hrs a day 5 days a week and supports the entire Roy Cloud teaching team by copying, laminating, binding, stocking paper – pretty much any office administrative work that takes up teacher prep time. This position was funded and hired at the Principal’s discretion via the the PTO’s Principals fund and will likely cost approximately \$5,000 thru the end of this school year.

Adjourn Meeting - Yvonne Sarles

- Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.
- The next meeting will be April 16, 2019 at 6:30pm in the school library.
- Future PTO meeting dates are listed on the [PTO website](#).

Appendix 1: Meeting Attendees

1. Julia Swensen
2. Casey Wright, Co-Secretary
3. Anna Rivoli
4. Amy Truesdale, VP of Communications
5. Alex Dendy
6. Diane Prystas, Principal
7. Kristy Jackson, Assistant Principal
8. Jennifer Nguyen, Technology Integration Coach
9. Jim Balestieri, Treasurer
10. Yvonne Sarles, President
11. Mary-Elizabeth Redner
12. Cara Plamondon
13. Effie Verducci
14. Heidi von Briel
15. Veronica Spencer
16. Christine Andiazabal
17. Gail Sheene
18. Lydia Snape
19. Alicia Truby, Parliamentarian

NOTE: This meeting attendance sheet may not be complete. It is possible the sign in sheet was not fully circulated and/or signed names were illegible.