

Sierra PTA General Meeting Agenda

April 24th, 2023

6:00-7:30 pm

In person at Sierra Elementary School Library

OR

Via Google Meet

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qde-prus-jwp>

1. Call to Order at 6:08 pm
 - a. Approve minutes from February 2023 — motion to approve. Sarah Crawford motioned to approve. Becca Rehme seconded the motion. Motion approved.

2. Principal's report and questions
 - a. Construction is underway starting this summer for preschool.
 - b. Friday the 28th is a teacher work day. They will spend this day putting together class lists and taking reading training.
 - c. May 4th is a late start and also arts night.
 - d. Modified contact is the next day May 5th.
 - e. Thank you to the board for an amazing year.

3. PTA Updates
 - a. Treasurer
 - i. YTD Report. There is not much to report. Are there any questions? No questions.

4. Membership
 - a. Membership Update: No updates.

5. Community Events
 - a. Bliss Fundraiser 5/11 4-8 pm final fundraiser for the year.

6. Spring Fundraiser: Read-a-thon
 - a. Thank you to: Kelly Cook, [Sarah Crawford](#), [Sianna Roberts](#), Jessica Fahrenhotz, [Katie Tenhulzen](#), [Amy Ward-Bailey](#), all the teacher, and Troy and Tennille
 - b. Great Success!! Raised over \$30,000, 153% of our goal, read over 378,000 minutes over 87% of our students registered.
 - c. 91 Kids qualified for the Fiske Planetarium Experience on May 24th
 - d. 185 Kids qualified for the Super Star Party on May 3rd
 - e. A huge thank you to all the teachers for their support and encouragement and Troy and Tinelle for engaging with the kids for the closing event. Also, a thank

you to the parents for helping kids log minutes. 137 kids read an hour or more a night for 20 days straight. And that is a huge win.

- f. We will share the list of kids who won the star party by Monday morning so teachers know who to send.
- g. Thank for from Mrs. Forrister to the committee for all the work that went into the read-a-thon.

7. Committees

- a. Arts Night: Thursday, May 4th 5-8 pm
- b. Volunteer Appreciation this Thursday, April 27th, 6-9 at Flights! Join us in Old Town Arvada. Anyone is welcome.
- c. Volunteers are needed for the Strides for Sierra Committee. October 8th is the date set for next year. It is before fall break. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, we need volunteers. We will try to get a meeting before the end of the school year to get things rolling.

8. Board Nominations and Voting:

- a. President: We are reaching out to the community to see if anyone wants to join Mary as co-president so they can learn the ropes and take over the following year.
- b. VP of Committees: Missy Jucha and Chrissy Donegan
- c. VP of Community Events: Chelsea Caldwell
- d. Treasurer: Emily Anderson
- e. Membership: Sheryl Doll
- f. Secretary: Amy Ward-Bailey

Motion to approve the slate of candidates. Motion approved. Welcome to the board.

9. Review and Approval Vote for 2023-2024 PTA Budget

- a) The budget has been posted on the PTA website and the Facebook page for 30 days. There are 3 categories with significant changes. The first was increases in food budgets based on inflation. The second is upping budgets to accommodate pre-k joining the school. The third item is the PTA will give each room mom \$100 towards parties, so no monetary donations will be asked for.
- b) Further information is attached to explain the extra money set aside for as-needed additional expenses if they come up. Mystery Science is also now getting its own line item. We have also added a PBIS fund. It was paid for by an excellent grant this year, but we have added it to the budget for next year to ensure we have it without having to be awarded the grant.
- c) The conference dinner budget has also been increased so that there is a budget from the PTA, and no more monetary donations will be solicited. 3 catered meals for 500 a piece, with a total of \$1500, were added during the budget meeting.
- d) Question: How is the number for the PBIS budget set aside? Why is it only \$500?

- i) This number came from what we spent this year. This year 510 was spent so we feel that 500 is enough but this number can be increased if needed.
 - ii) Mrs. Forrester shared that last year there were a few thousand dollars that other teachers had from grants already so there may be a greater need moving forward once those extra grants are not available.
 - iii) We can make an amendment need be.
- e) Becca Rehme asked is \$100 enough for class parties?
 - i) Sarah Crawford answered that this number was arrived at because in the past \$5 per student was donated. This seems like a good middle ground for now, and we can see how it goes this year and adjust.
 - ii) We want to get away from asking for monetary donations and have everything come from the budget.
 - iii) Motion to approve the budget as is. Approved.
- f) Dawn Schippe asked if \$100 was enough for 4th and 5th-grade parents to do the Pizzas for the parties like in the past. She proposed that we give \$5 per student rather than \$100 per classroom. This would bring us to \$2,425, up from \$2,200.
 - i) Motion to approve this amendment - Approved.
- g) An additional amendment to increase the conference from 3 dinners per year to 4 dinners per year. That would increase the budget from \$1500 - \$2400.
 - i) Motion to approve this amendment - Approved.
- h) Is there an interest in increasing the PBIS budget?
 - i) Mrs. Forrester said that we should leave that budget as is for now and see how we do and then adjust accordingly next year if we need to.
- i) Does the PTA ever look at things like new balls for recess or new nets for soccer goals? There is a need for age-appropriate sizes for younger children.
 - i) Mr. Fastbinder added that we did have enough at the beginning of the year, and they disappeared. Is there a way for us to have enough for each class to get their own equipment for recess?
 - ii) Mr. Brickley said that nets are another issue: They get stolen, and it's a safety issue if children get stuck. But Mr. Brickley will talk to Maria about recess equipment.
- j) An additional change in the budget is that after March 1st next year, there will be no limit to the amount you can ask for in the Excel Grant.
- k) Does the PTA ever talk about new programs that come in? Like a robotics program, a language program, and other enrichment activities?
 - i) In the past, we have not because we have a hard time getting volunteers for what we have, but we are open to that if we can get the support behind it.
 - ii) Mrs. Forrester added that we are still determining where the Lego club and Chess club will take place in the school next year because we are adding pre-k and losing the additional classrooms.
- l) Motion to approve the 23-24 Budget. Motion passed by majority vote.

10. School Gift Proposals and Vote

- m) As of now, it looks like we will have \$32,000 to spend on the school gift. The voting is a weighted voting system, so vote on your top 3. With the current budget, we have enough for 3 to be fully funded and a 4th to be partially funded.
- n) Mimio Boards in Classrooms: Coleene Knight and Bryan Fastbinder share the presentation for Mrs. Lasak since they have been using the new Mimio boards in their classrooms.
- i) The current projectors are going out quickly, and they are not great, so instead of replacing the projectors with more outdated technology, we would like to get Mimio Boards in all the classrooms.
 - ii) Students can project from their Chrome Books. They also help the teachers move from behind their computers and get more involved with their classrooms.
 - iii) The purpose of replacing them over time is to space them out so we are not in the same position as we are now, as all the projectors go out at the same time.
 - iv) To start 2nd and 3rd grade would get a complete set. They cost 2,696.65 per board, with an additional cost of \$480 for installation. With the \$13,800, there would be Mimio boards for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and the remainder of the classrooms would get them the following year.
 - v) Mrs. Forrester added that the technology budget will be less next year, so we need to remember that when we are spacing them out. Do we know what the lifespan of the Mimio Board is? Mr. Fastbinder answered that we don't know and we need to keep in mind that technology is constantly changing, and it is hard to keep up to date with those.
 - vi) Mrs. Cassidy asked if the boards in the classrooms go out can we use the Mimio boards we currently have? They are outdated, so we don't want to spend \$480 installing an old board.
 - vii) The installation for the boards we have has gone up to 615, so the request for this is proposed to increase to \$14,340.00. The \$4,000 line item that is currently being used for Chrome books will be used for Mimio boards going forward because the district is providing Chrome books for every student.
 - (1) Requesting \$13,800 increased to \$14,340.00
- o) Playground Shade: Dawn Shippee is proposing that we get some funding to cover half the cost of a 14-foot shade umbrella.
- i) This would ideally be installed over the sand pit. The other 50% of the total cost would come from the city of Arvada. This spending would be contingent on getting the grant from Arvada. If that is not granted, the money will stay with the PTA. This grant also requires student participation, so next year, the 4th and 5th-grade students will help.
 - (1) Requesting \$4,000
- p) Two Way Radios for all Teachers. Mr. Brickley is proposing that we get an additional 9 radios so that the specials teachers, admins, sped, and physic all

have radios. But we only have 1 radio per grade. We need a radio for each teacher so that all teachers can hear the announcements as soon as they go out.

- i) This will help increase safety, security, and communication for the school next year.
- ii) To top it off, we are in a cell phone dead zone, so the radios would help us ensure communication.
- iii) Leanne from google meet would like to propose that we buy an additional 2 radios so we have enough to cover pre-k and have extras. The proposal is to raise this number to \$5,460.

(1) Requesting \$4,095 increased to \$5,460

q) School Track: Shannon Gentry, a parent at Sierra, is proposing the school track. More than 50% of the students at Sierra use the track for the Run Club. P.E class uses the dirt track. And so do after-school programs.

- i) Since so many of the students at Sierra use the track, she would like to remove the current track and put a more durable track in.
- ii) The total for the project will come to \$50-\$80K dollars. There are other grants that will pay up to \$80K, but we have to have at least 10% of that in hand to apply for the grant.
- iii) To expand it from 2 feet to 5 feet would be the variant in cost.
- iv) We would like to talk about moving forward and requesting more money for the next few years from the school gift.
- v) Sheryl added that there is a \$15k anonymous donation if we can get the rest of the financing to help the school get the track in place.
- vi) The relocation of the sprinkler system is included in the bids that they have in hand.

(1) Requesting: \$14,000 (the \$9,000 allocated last year and an additional \$5,000 from this year's school gift)

r) RESULTS: The Membership voted to approve the gifts as follows:

- i) \$14,340 for Smart Boards approved
- ii) \$5,460 for Radios approved.
- iii) \$4,000 for Sun Shade approved.
- iv) \$8,000 to be held towards a future track approved.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 7:30.