

PTCO Board Meeting Minutes - February 20, 2025 8:30am - Homestead Elementary School Cafeteria

Attendance (noted with an X of who is in attendance):

Kori Lawless X	Kelly Tierny X	Lara Girtin	Kristin Hendrix X	Eli Boone X
Chris Hardy X	Emily Maxfield X	Amy Anderson	Jenna Klos X	Erica Jennings X
Shanna Marroquin	Kaurina Hull X	Meredith DuBose	Kelly MacFarlane	Kathleen Scott

Updates from Principal Silva

- Bond passed!
- Phase One starts with West Building
 - West is having some significant mechanical issues ie plumbing, mold and radon
 - Visited Arizona to take a look at some new builds on ways to rebuild
 - Over the next decade there will be replacement of all of Cherry Creek HS
 - New building will start Spring 2026
 - Footprint will move west on the campus
 - The financial services will be torn down and the new West building will go there
 - 2028 is when new building will be completed and then current west building will be torn down and will move down towards the rest of the campus to replace
 - Fine Arts is the youngest building in 1972
 - When the building was originally built, it was not meant for 4000 students so hallways and classrooms are small.
- 3885 total students at Cherry Creek - biggest high school in the state
 - Because of size of school, Creek is able to offer so many types of classes and are able to justify that because the classes are full
 - Math program is a big attraction for people to send their student to Creek
- Transition to high school can be hard because it is challenging and it is BIG
- Exit from high school to college is relatively smooth because they are well prepared due to campus size as well as academics
- A lot of opportunities in athletics - offer ever Chassa sport except downhill skiing and girls wrestling
- Over 100 clubs offered - all student interest driven
- Projected for total build of the new school is 2030
- Plans for the new campus will be approved by May but only phase one is approved for budgeting
- What about parking?
 - Phase two will be hard because we will lose parking
 - When it's all done in 2030 there will be 700 new parking spaces
- Innovative things Silva saw on his trip that he's hoping to bring to Creek
 - Anything is going to be better! Its 50 years old!
 - Having more flex spaces
 - Maker spaces - that multiple groups can use for business department to use
 - Products being made that they are actually selling
 - Media wing
 - Science classrooms he saw in Arizona were very impressive. Table of 4 had their own sink and gas line etc
 - Having 4 of these classrooms would be really nice

- As many flexible spaces as we can
- What about school size in the future as elementary schools are shrinking
 - Every since he's been there, Creek was supposed to shrink in size but it keeps not happening
 - In general, we get 200 new families a year
- Can you choice in?
 - Technically Creek is a closed campus
 - So change in policy took place a year ago, if someone starts in the district but moves out of the district then they can stay within the district
 - There is more flexibility to take non-residents, but in general, we do not take out of district students

Updates from Assistant Principal Mark Wackwitz

- 8 feeder elementary schools that feed into West
- They did not see discrepancies of students from each school which is great
- 1019 students at west this year
- Next year 980ish
 - Incoming 5th grade class is the smallest class he's seen in 7 years
 - 6th moving to 7th this year is one of the largest they've seen
- West has aligned with their care values for years and everything they do is under these care values
- Goal is to have students feel safe and seen and sense of belonging
- 51% of students had a strong to very strong sense of belonging last year - this years goal is to get to 70%
 - So added "community" days for students to get involved
 - Every quarter, 6th graders have an opportunity to meet 7th grade students and they've seen positive outcomes from these interactions
- Incoming 5th graders are given a lot of opportunities to see West and get familiar with the campus, counselors etc to become familiar and feel prepared
- Revamped advisory program to help students feel connected
- CMAS scores just came back and West scored the highest they have in 10 years this past year!
- Even with enrollment down, West is still able to offer classes art, drama, PE etc
- Question about middle school is prominent for establishing study habits - what does West do to help teach this?
 - Varies on content level. Middle schoolers have math practice most every night. Language Arts - expectation is students are reading on their own every night. Social Studies - more larger projects. Science they try to get most things done in class because if it's essential to learning - teacher wants to be there to facilitate that learning
 - If student takes a language based elective - there is some take home practice
- In regards to AVID, is there a path to help that don't have access to that to get those skills
 - Opened up 6th AVID to anyone who wants to go in to it, it's a semester long elective. There is a lot of interest in 6th grade but offered in 7th and 8th
 - Application process to be in AVID is relatively straight forward for students who want to be in it
- Anything done specific to help 6th integrate and get to know other students
 - Staggered start the first day and get to know teachers and then all come together to do activities together to help make it feel like their place
- Thank you for changing the cell phone policy!
 - Didn't take long for students to get used to the new policy
 - Cell phone at Creek - common spaces are OK in classrooms teachers get to decide
 - Seeing a change with younger kids, teachers are requiring students to put them in pouches when they enter the classroom

- Teachers are being more strict with cell phone use which Silva is happy to see

Principal Hardy Updates

- Principal Interviews going on right now!
 - 6 total going today
 - Final interviews are next Wednesday, first week of March expected announcement
- Monday assembly of indigenous people - and it's always a BIG hit at 8:30am
- Conferences coming up the 3rd-6th
- CMAS in April 7th-25th
- 2nd day of play on Valentines Day - students had a great time
 - Unstructured non-technological play!
- Social media instances still taking place
 - Block and report!
 - Accusations made and fully investigated and law enforcement did a full investigation and found there to be nothing for these claims to stand on

Presidents Update

- Minutes approved by Jenna K
- Emily M 2nd
 - Approved!!

Vice Presidents Update

- Email goes out today for auction
- Auction tomorrow 2/21
- 80 tickets sold!
 - Goal is \$25K between auction and 100%
- 3 fundraising events in the next few months

Volunteer Coordinator

- Needing nominations for a few positions but talking
- Are remote meetings an option?
- Dash is a big concern!

Others in Attendance:

- Jennifer Young
- Ryan Silva
- Mark Wackwitz