

Garnet Mesa Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Notes
September 4, 2024
8:30-9:45am

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- We are guests of GMES, please remember to sign in and out at front office. Wear name badge/tag. This is to set an example and also in case there is an emergency.
- PTO is not a place to bring up grievances with a particular teacher, do that one-on-one outside of PTO meetings.

2. Summer Update and Financials

- New electronic sign was installed over the summer! Sign is shorter than expected due to misunderstanding, but still looks great. Sign is on a timer so the flashing lights don't bother the neighbors at night.
- Corridor was cleaned out over the summer. There was quite a bit of PTO "stuff" that was found; that "stuff" will be moved to dedicated PTO closet by the library.
- When the DCSD-owned building in Paonia sells, the money from the sale will be used to tear down the corridor and replace it with more grass/playground area
- The partnership with City Market brings in a lot of money: ~\$800 for the quarter ending in March 2024. GMES will put information about this in Tuesday Folders, hopefully with a QR code to make it easy to sign up.
- \$10,797.26 in PTO account to start the year; no plans for funds—yet.

3. Money for Grades

- Last year, each grade level was given \$500 (\$250 each for SPED and ELL). This money is for each grade to spend however they chose, no strings attached. Most of the money got used to fund field trips (e.g. pumpkin patch for kinders).
- Some grades (3rd, 4th, and 5th) didn't know what to spend the money on as The Nature Connection funds their field trips. Fifth grade used the money to buy Rubik's cubes and yellow hats for Field Day.
- Idea: use PTO money to help cover school supplies? Wouldn't be practical this year, but worth a discussion for next year.
- Specials teachers (Art, Music, P.E., Computers, Library) operate under a different budget and do not need the extra funds.
- This year, PTO will again give each grade \$500 and \$250 each for SPED and ELL.

4. Book Fair (and Conferences)!

- Book Fair is one of the biggest PTO events. The Book Fair CANNOT happen without the help of PTO volunteers. Thank you volunteers!
- Book Fair will happen during the week of September 30th, to coincide with Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Conferences will happen on Monday, September 30th (no school for kids), and either Wednesday or Thursday of that week.

- Book Fair will be set up on Monday during conferences, Tuesday and Wednesday for Special Visitor Lunches, and Wednesday or Thursday during conferences.
 - Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend the Book Fair with their child(ren) when they come to the Special Visitor Lunch
- The Book Fair will be set up in the Discovery Center, same as last year. Books are shipped in rolling display shelves making it easier to set up and take down.
- Small trinket-type items will be kept behind a table (they tend to get broken or stolen), with a closet shoe holder used to display what is available.
- There will be a signup sheet for teachers to bring their class to the Book Fair during school.
 - There will be information sent home so kids can bring money to school to purchase books.
- Tiona Richards is working on a way for teachers to make a wish list of books they'd like to purchase for their classroom.
- Tiona Richards will send out an email with a link to SignUp Genius for PTO members to volunteer for a shift. Parents who help run the book fair will get a discount on their purchases to thank them for their time.
- Teachers are provided with coupons (two per teacher) to give to students for a "free" book. Coupon is worth ~\$10. Teachers can hand these coupons out at their discretion.
- There is a "round up" option to round up the total to the next full dollar amount. This year it's called "Share the Fair." Money goes to paying for more books for GMES.
- Conferences: PTO provides a meal for teachers on Monday evening. Last year, Walmart provided a nice variety of sandwiches, chips, and veggies. The plan is to do the same this year (with the exception of having no onions this year).

5. Comments from Mr. Siennicki

- Biggest highlight is new electronic marquee sign.
- Cleaning out the old corridor to prepare for demolition is ongoing.
- CMAS scores improved over the last year; school as a whole is moving in the right direction. CMAS scores will be released to students/guardians during conferences.
- Grant-funded early literacy consultant is coming to GMES on Thursday, Sept. 5th.
- Fifth graders have been greeting the younger students at the doors in the morning, helping out with bus lines, etc. in the afternoon. This has been a big help and seems to be having a very positive impact at GMES.
- There is a new concrete pad on the playground. This is for an outdoor education center. It will be a carport, similar to Lincoln Elementary School.
- Shawn, a new custodian at GMES, has been busy painting/sprucing up GMES. There is new paint in the Discovery Center, refreshed paint outside. Painting will continue over Fall Break.
- Half of the Discovery Center has new carpeting. The other half will be installed at some point in the near future

- Doors being locked in the mornings seems to be working.

6. Parent Comments

- Possibility of having outdoor/playground supervision in the mornings? Would be very helpful to families with students at GMES and the middle/high schools.
- Safety issues with kids crossing 7th Street at the B Street crosswalk in the afternoon. Can Delta Police supervise? Maybe have a crossing guard like at 7th and A Streets?
- Some outdoor housekeeping needs done: there is a loose sign near the front loop, big cottonwood trees need trimmed. The trees are on Mr. Renfrow's radar.

Next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, October 2nd at 8:30.