**High Peaks Elementary School**

**Ed Team Meeting**

**October 7, 2021**

**3:10pm – 4:10pm**

**Outdoor Classroom**

In attendance: Chris Basten, Wendy Brown, Ruby Childs, Lynn Dolph, Zachary Fink, Christmas Gainsbrugh, Samantha Gribsby, Lauren Harmon, Vanessa Hetzel, Mary Sznewaja and Adrienne Williams-McCleskey.

**New Business**

Giving Tree Update: Mary was not present at the beginning of the meeting so Samantha updated the Team. Samantha said she thought we were at our goal of $50,000. This goal is less than previous years. Participation rate is 59%. Encouraging participation is the focus of the Team and teachers. Zach said competition is a great motivator. Samantha said there have been some large donations and some great matching gifts to help us reach our goal. Wendy mentioned that some people have asked her for the Tax ID#. Samantha said she would get that to Wendy. Later in the meeting Mary arrived and confirmed that the goal of $50,000 has been reached and that The Giving Tree is going very well.

Yearbook: Wendy said she and Mary are working on the yearbook and getting a team of volunteers together. She said the yearbook is challenging because BVSD is not allowing volunteers to go on campus to take pictures of the kids. Wendy said she is going to have to rely on teachers, paras and staff to take pictures in the classroom. Zach mentioned that maybe Diane Glander could help since she is a good photographer. The Team discussed how pictures of the kids with masks on are okay as this is the reality of this school year. The Team discussed ways for the teachers to share photos with Wendy and Mary. Google folders for each grade can be shared. Wendy and Mary need access to SeeSaw to get those photos. Wendy asked the teachers to let her know what will work best for them to get the photos to her and then it can be set up. Wendy said the Yearbook needs to be turned in for printing by Spring Break but most of it should be done much earlier to ensure it will be complete.

Spirit Wear, Back to School Supplies and Moo Caps: The volunteer overseeing spirit wear has moved away. Vanessa volunteered to research options for ordering spirit wear. We need a new company for ordering Back to School Supplies too. The Team discussed whether or not collecting/sorting/submitting Moo Caps is worth the time. Moo Caps bring in about $100.

Blue Sky Bridge or Similar Organization: Wendy asked if given the sexual assault situation at Fairview High School, if High Peaks is interested in bringing any kind of training for the kids to our school around this issue. The Team discussed possibilities – Blue Sky Bridge and Feather Berkower, whose training would only be for parents. The Team decided this is too much for the elementary age group. Chris mentioned that the Second Step Program suffices.

Substitute Teachers: With all the media around the lack of substitute teachers in BVSD, the Ed Team wanted to check in and see if there was anything we could do to help out. Chris said this is definitely a problem. If High Peaks knows ahead of time that a teacher will be absent it is not as hard to get a sub but when a sub is needed the day of, finding someone is very, very hard. Lauren mentioned that BVSD is making it easier to get the credentials to become a substitute teacher. Ruby wondered if there was a way to get CU students and Teach for America involved.

Social Committee Request: Adrienne asked if the Ed Team could provide funding for breakfast/coffee on late start Wednesdays. The Ed Team said they will provide funding for the Social Committee to get the breakfast on their own or the Ed Team will purchase and deliver the breakfast themselves.

Teacher Updates/Requests: Lynn said that they started a new writing program and it would be nice to have the teacher books that go along with it. Each book is about $200. Zach suggested waiting a while to make sure the teachers like the new program. Lynn said she would check in with Britt and get back to us.

Teachers asked if they could use the old Halloween carnival games outside for Halloween parties. The Ed Team said yes and thinks the games are in the shed.

**Old Business**

Books for Fourth Grade: Lynn said she got the books.

Teacher Conference Meals: The Ed Team will provide conference meals. Tuesday October 19 will be Flower Child and Thursday October 21 will be Illegal Petes. Mary agreed to add a button to the website where parents can choose to donate money to provide for teacher conference meals.

Masks: no need for Ed Team to supply any at this time.

Shaved Ice Social: Wendy and Chris said the shaved ice social was well attended and the kids had fun. It brought in about $100 for the school, however the main purpose was to provide a social event for students. Chris mentioned that the school is also planning to have a Blue Bell ice cream event to celebrate the Blue Ribbon award. He is working on this and may reach out to Ed Team later.

Andersen Farm: Ruby discussed the Andersen Farm event on Monday October 18, a no school day. She said 4 families have signed up. Flyers went out today in kids’ Thursday folders. Sixty people are allowed to attend at the special rate. Wendy mentioned that the point of this activity is to provide a social event for the school, which are lacking during pandemic times.

Ruby also mentioned that the restaurant fundraisers she has set up have not been well attended lately. She is trying to set one up with Chipotle now. Zach suggested combining with BCSIS to get more attendance.

Samantha suggested pushing Amazon Smile and King Soopers participation.

Budget Update: Mary provided a current budget handout.

Principal’s Update: Chris said this school year had a slow start because many kids had not been in school before or for a long time since they were remote learning. About 2 weeks ago, teachers started reporting they were finally hitting stride. Chris said it has been taxing to the BVSD system to try to get everything covered when substitutes are needed. Lynn said how much teachers miss parent volunteers to help in the classrooms. Chris said he feels fortunate that Covid mitigation strategies are working well at High Peaks but that things are still hard. Everything is just harder but he remains positive and hopeful. He said teachers in BVSD saw a need for a phonics program in 4th and 5th grade to help kids catch up. BVSD established a differentiated funding model, which means funds are distributed based on need. 96 kids at High Peaks are now in this new program and it is helping. Chris said this is a great example of teachers seeing a need, asking the district for help and successfully receiving the help to do something. He said he is looking into hiring a part time academic tutor.

Next Ed Team Meeting is Thursday November 4, 2021.

Ed Team meetings take place the first Thursday of each month.