



Roy Cloud School - 2017-2018 School Year

PTO Meeting Notes

16 January 2018

Call Meeting to Order/Welcome/Introductions – Yvonne Sarles

- The PTO meeting started at 6:33pm in the school library.
- PTO President Yvonne Sarles led the group in introductions. For attendee list please see Appendix 1.

Financial Report - Jim Balestieri

- Income since August is approximately \$247,000, driven primarily by a very successful Direct Donations campaign.
- December expenses were \$22,332.86, nearly half of which were the Book Fair fundraising expenses.
- There is approximately \$440,000 cash on hand, which is a good place to be at this point in the school year.

Principal and Vice Principal's Reports – Principal Dana Hardester and Vice Principal Kristen Felding

- Lunch Shelters
 - The lunch shelters are nearly complete after some site specific challenges and mechanical issues. The tables are placed and are being attached to the ground – configured in a way to keep kids from running through the space. There are ADA tables near the end caps and the walkway is in. The number of students it will sit should be around 300. There is still work ongoing to plan how to balance older grades (which may not all fit).
 - Some trees have had to be removed but they will be replaced with mature trees in nearby locations. Benches have been moved around the trees.
 - Planning for a ribbon cutting ceremony is underway.
 - As soon as the lunch shelters are open the parent waiting area will return to near the MUB.
- Playground
 - The main playground has been disrupted due to lunch shelter construction. The future of the swing set, which was removed to make space for the new lunch shelters, is uncertain. A new one will cost \$46K installed. A new set could be taken

out and moved without integrity loss if done so within a 5 year window. But for now, there is no plan for a swing set. It only serves 4 students at a time and takes up a lot of space.

- Security
 - As the lunch shelter work nears completion, the next phase of bond-related school improvements will involve new fencing around the entire school. This will likely lead to changes in parent/guardian, student and staff movement and parking patterns before, during, and after the school day. The Administration will keep the school community updated on the fencing progress and what safety-oriented adaptations will be necessary.
- State of the District and Impact on Roy Cloud
 - Approximately 200 families left the District prior to this school year beginning and ~40 left for a charter school.
 - The big budget crunch was due to the district using misusing \$16M from a “building” fund. The County caught the mistake and called the district on it so they had to pay it back.
 - There are so far 80 kindergarteners registered at Roy Cloud for 2018-2019 and they are planning for 3 kindergarten classrooms. It is likely there will be a 4th second grade class.
 - If your neighbors intend on enrolling at Roy Cloud but haven’t registered for school yet, please encourage them to do so, regardless of grade.
 - Dana has asked for the Superintendent to come and speak to the school in April. There are 80 kindergarteners registered so far for 2018-2019. – there should be 3 kindergarten classrooms.
- Testing
 - Testing for 3-8th graders – first 3 weeks of May. Students have been practicing since the beginning of the school year. Checking in with teachers regularly about how to help support teachers and students as they get ready. Practice tests are currently underway.
 - English learner assessments tests take place the first few weeks of February and the tests are new and improved and more content rigorous.
 - RCSD offers a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) pull-out program at Clifford and Hoover Schools for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders throughout the district. If you would like your child in current grades 3/4/5 tested for GATE this Spring, you can read more information about the GATE program on the [Parent Information website](#). Parents must complete a permission form for their student to be tested. March 16 is the deadline to submit a permission form for your child to be tested. Ms. Martin is the Gate teacher this year.
- Counseling
 - Five teachers have recently been trained for a Student Assistance Program. Invitations are going out to students this week for group meetings to talk about their areas of interest and concern as a peer group. The groups will run for 8 weeks starting next week.

- StarVista recommended a training for teachers called ToolBox to give them additional tools to promote mindfulness in the classroom. About 4-5 teachers will be trained with ToolBox on Jan 26.
- School Internet
 - The week before winter break the District changed the Roy Cloud internet password to reduce the inappropriate use of the wifi by students and parents/guardians and free up important bandwidth for classroom and teacher work. The password is installed on the teacher and classroom computers but it is not for parent and student use and the password is not known or able to be shared. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Teachers Report / Associated Student Body - Anna Rivoli

- 5th grade Walk Through History – 2 out of 4 classes have done it so far - thank you PTO!
- Associated Student Body (ASB)
 - Castle is the end of April – 12 students going.
 - Bought Character Strong – ASB – the first character trait is commitment
- Cancer Awareness week is 2nd week of February.
- The Northstar school dance is on Feb 2.

Auction and Fund a Need Update – Avis Hains and Pam Bartfield

- Ticket sales (\$100 each) have started for our [Annual Fundraising Auction!](#) It will be Saturday February 24, 2018 at [Domenico Winery](#) in Redwood City. The theme is Hollywood Glam.
- Volunteering opportunities – we have a lot of help but still need people to help organize teacher parties and outings, classroom gifts, and to help with the silent and live auction donations. Want to volunteer to help? Have something to donate for the auction? Please contact: roycloudauction@gmail.com.
- Auction items: We are doing great for auction items but could use a bit more help. We are particularly interested in hosts for 2-3 additional parties, affordable 2-3 night getaways, and company tours (e.g. Pixar, Google)
- Fund a Need video planning is underway. The video is a great way to capture imaginations about what the funding could accomplish. Recall that the theme is generally health and wellness. Specific emphasis will be on funding for Legarza PE staff to support structured activities during lunch recess, water station outside the MUB, and generally new programming and equipment related to outdoor spaces.

Book Fair Wrap Up - Alex Dendy

- The Book Fair was a fun event and fundraising success. Cutting down the days and hours of the Book Fair did not appreciably impact the amount of revenue.

- Next year the first day will be December 3 and additional volunteers will be welcome. Also, students would benefit from additional coaching about money and costs so they are prepared to understand what they can afford at the Fair.
- Thank you Alex for running such a fun and successful event for Roy Cloud (and for agreeing to do so again next year!)

Direct Donations Update - Jolie Kalvaria

- The 2017-2018 Direct Donations Campaign is over and was a huge success!
- Donations as of 1/15/2018: \$174,000 plus an additional \$12,000 in matching funds bring the grand total to \$186,000.
- Progress toward donation goal: 106%.
 - Last year we raised \$160,000 or 91% of our goal.
- Progress toward 100% participation: 220 donors total or 40% of Roy Cloud families
 - Last year 224 Roy Cloud families donated.
- Looking ahead:
 - Giving Tuesday was not as big this year as last year (~\$4,000 this year compared to ~\$17,000 last year), likely a result of the campaign having formally ended at the end of October. Thus in 2018-2019 less resources should be put toward it.
 - The new software this year allowed donors to pay the credit card fees and many did (about half) which paid for the software. The software also allows for more analytics.
 - Recommended strategies to increase participation, no matter the amount, are always welcome.
- THANK YOU to our generous donors! And THANK YOU to the team who ran the campaign this year!

1st Day of School Supplies Program – Marybeth Milionis

- Marybeth found a company that will allow for online school shopping tailored to specific school supply lists. They deliver the school supplies in a curated box, available for pick up at back to school events before school starts. The aim is to remove back to school supply shopping stress. About half of the nationwide participating schools use it as a fundraiser (add % to the total cost).
- Here is the process:
 - Teachers submit final school lists in February. The company then uses those lists to develop a Roy Cloud grade-specific shopping list.
 - Starting April 1 and until June 30, parents/guardians can visit the website and order the supplies for the next school year. The company works with the standard top brands – Crayola, Ticonderoga, etc.
 - About 2 weeks before school starts the boxes ship to school and they get handed out at Maze days.
 - Students take the box home and then bring items individually to school.

- What they offer:
 - The company works with the standard top brands – Crayola, Ticonderoga, etc. They work well with optional items like calculators or headphones and they partner with Under Armor and Vera Bradley on items like backpacks. They also offer cleaning supplies often requested by teachers like paper towels and hand wipes.
 - Pricing is comparable if you went shopping today but not the same as back to school shopping discounts.
- The group discussed the possibility that some students may feel left out if their parents/guardians chose not to purchase supplies this way.
- Alice Harkey suggested it serve as a fundraiser given all of the legwork the program will require.
- We don't have to vote on this as a PTO because it doesn't have an expense. Principal Hardester is supportive about having the teachers thinking about their supply list now. Yvonne will brief teachers at the next staff meeting on Thursday.

Miscellaneous - Yvonne Sarles

- Mohamad Moghadam asked about the Arts for All program and related concerns about the level of support needed to support the new teacher during class time.
- Lucy Wicks asked out about how the music-based social and emotional learning program [The Astronauts](#) was going. Principal Hardester reported that the school district canceled it.
- The Spring Dance will be April 27. It is an 80's theme - Girls Just Want to Have Fun. Thank you Emily Chapman for organizing it!

Adjourn Meeting - Yvonne Sarles

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00.
- The next meeting will be February 21, 2018 at 6:30pm in the school library.
- Future PTO meeting dates are listed on the [PTO website](#).

Appendix 1: Meeting Attendees

1. Karen Brux
2. Cameron Hoffman
3. Marybeth Milionis
4. Michelle Ortiz
5. Anna Rivoli
6. Belinda Mendez
7. Jim Balestieri
8. Yvonne Sarles
9. Rochelle Romer
10. Alex Dendy
11. Mohamad Moghadam
12. Avis Hains
13. Alice Harkey
14. Lucy Wicks
15. Casey Wright
16. Kristen Fielding
17. Alicia Truby
18. Dana Hardester
19. Gail Sheene
20. Leanna Staben
21. Stephanie Chen
22. Jolie Kalvaria
23. Stacy Homrig
24. Pam Bartfield