



WMS PTCO General Meeting Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes Approval
3. Budget Update
4. 2021-2022 Board Approval
5. Slating (2021-2022 PTCO) Update
6. Principal Update - Monica Garcia
7. Cherry Creek High Principal Ryan Silva

Call to order / Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am by Chris Davis via Zoom Meeting.
- In attendance (23): Ryan Silva, Monica Garcia, Chris Davis, Abby Clark, Addy Padden, Adriana Guez, Bill Ogden, Blair Watts, Bonnie List, Daniele Dattilo, Jill Martini, Kate Briggs, Yvette Watson, Erika Cheley, Tim Thein, Katy Brown, Kelly Lewis, Michele Kiner, and 5 others with unknown names.
- Note taker: transcribed by Erika Cheley, secretary.

Minutes Approval from last meeting (Jan 19, 2021)

- Minutes were motioned to approve but Yvette reminded us that we never received the minutes from our last meeting on Jan 19, 2021. Monica resent later via email. Erika sent both Jan 19 minutes and April 20 minutes to Holly Shrewsbury to be posted on the WMS PTCO website.

Budget Update (Katy Brown)

- Wrapping up the year. Masked Performer was successful. Thank you to those who participated.
- We finished out the year close to where we expected to be. As a result, we can fully fund the grant amount that was budgeted for this year. Our total grant amount was roughly \$40k ...some of which has been dispersed already. We are working with Monica on finalizing the remaining grants.
- We came out ~\$2000 ahead.
- In looking at the balance sheet, we are in a good spot with cash reserves of ~\$40k, which will cover the line items that we fund for the school for next year.
- We also have \$63,000 in checking account.
- We have over \$100k in cash in the bank.

2021-22 Board Approval (Chris Brown)

- We have not yet filled all the executive board position, but the following have been slated:
 - a. Presidents-elect: Christina Nathanson and Tim Thein
 - b. Past president: Chris Davis
 - c. Fundraising: Adriana Guez
 - d. Secretary: Erika Cheley
 - e. Communications: Jill Smith (still need a 2nd Communications positions)
 - f. Treasurer: Yvette Watson and Treasurer elect: Lynn Price
 - g. The promotions position was removed last year from the slate, we now need to update the bylaws.
- Katy moved to approve the slate and Kate seconded the motion. Yvette opposed due to the fact that the slate isn't complete.
- Katy Brown confirmed with the bylaws that the past president is still on the executive board.
- We still have 3 executive board positions to fill:
 - a. 2 president-elect positions
 - b. 1 communications position
- Despite the 3 positions still outstanding, the motion carried to approve the above slate for 21-22 school year.

CCHS Update Principal Ryan Sylva

- Monica turned the meeting over to Principal Ryan Sylva.
- In her introduction, she gave a shout out for Principal Ryan Sylva who was chosen Colorado High School Principal of the Year!
- Principal Ryan Sylva has a 9th grade daughter at CCHS and spent all 3 of her middle school years at WMS. While her 8th grade didn't end properly due to COVID, she transitioned to CCHS well thanks to the work of Principal Garcia and WMS teachers and staff. Principal Ryan Sylva also has a 5th grader who will be coming to WMS in 21-22 school year.
- We're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for COVID. Yesterday 4/19 we had a couple of covid cases but for the most part, after a move from blended to fully in person with 3600 students, we're doing well.
- 5 days per week does present challenges but the advantages outweigh challenges.
- From a parent perspective, his daughter was challenged at times with remote and hybrid learning but thankfully her grades are coming up now since she is with teachers 5 days per week.
- From a Principal's perspective, we have been able to do more with extra-curricular activities. Our clubs can meet and do things together now. Athletics have been operating all year - sometimes with no crowd or limited crowds.
- We're planning to do prom this year for seniors only. We initially wanted to allow both junior and seniors, but that would have required a significant variance for approval. The seniors didn't have their junior prom so this will be exciting for them.
- We are planning June 6 graduation. We will have a crowd like the class of 2020, but we're waiting to see what size of crowd we are allowed to have. Last year, we had 2 guests per graduate and this year we are hoping for more guests per graduate. We are also hoping to have student performers, which makes the ceremony even more unique.
- We currently have 3600 students. We were supposed to have 3900 students but lost 300 to Elevation (full online experience). The majority of those Elevation students will come back next year (all but ~65) so next year we will be at 3750-3800 students. We are going through a phase of slight decline in enrollment - 3rd/4th grade up to 8th grade are

all a bit smaller. We will therefore come back down to 3500-3600 students but we won't get too small and will settle around 3500 students. This is actually fine. We were getting a little too close to 4k students at one point which becomes a bit too much.

- In terms of transitioning for the 8th to 9th grades: we will have transition times scheduled the week before school starts. That Thursday before school starts, students will get their schedule (Aug 12th). That Friday Aug 13, we will have orientation (helped by some of the older students.) They will have a simulated school day where they will navigate the campus without actually being in school. They will have the opportunity to meet teachers (10 min periods).
- During most summers, we see many incoming 9th graders walk through the campus (since CCHS is open during the summer). This will again be available for 9th graders to walk through with an older student, a sibling or parents.
- Students will get their schedule during check in. Students are always guaranteed to get their core classes (includes world language) but we don't guarantee their first elective, so the student may instead get alternative selections. A freshman schedule consists of 6 classes and 2 off periods. 1 of the off periods is for lunch and the other is for homework/help from teachers.
- Some students do elect to take 7 classes, but Principal Sylva only recommends this if the student is doing performing arts, debate, student government, etc. 7 academic classes would be an overload for that student.
- We do have Advisory classes – the students all meet with their advisor Wednesday morning for 50 min. with roughly 24 other students. All students have the same counselor, the same Dean, the same psychologist for all 4 years. The first month of Advisory will be working on the transition from middle school to high school. Eventually, the first half of Advisory will be working on Advisory types of activities and the 2nd half of each Advisory period will be to work with teachers they don't have a common off-period with.
- When we get to late Jan, we will start talking with the students about scheduling for the next year. We will also discuss Homecoming. We help to normalize this so that the students aren't only hearing from their friends as to what to expect. Remember that the Advisor is with a student for 4 years – this helps with relationship building.
- If your child does athletics - especially fall sports, please look at our website to see the summer activities for pre-season camps. Or even pre-season camps for non-fall sports. Ex: basketball starts in winter but there still may be summer options in basketball.
- Back to school night 26 of Aug. We aren't sure yet if it will be held virtually or in person.
- We do see a need to start getting parents back on campus to create connections to schools – we're seeing this at all levels across the district.

Q&A:

Bonnie List: last year, they did a modified version of orientation on that Friday before school begins. Are you going back to full orientation?

Yes, a full orientation make sense this year. Modified made sense last year, but now, we will return with all students on campus.

Daniele Dattilo: please talk about Advisory a bit more since our students haven't seen what that looks like? We'll have Advisory for all 4 grades at the same time and no other classes are held at that time. We may have to backfill a little content from what they didn't get last year in Advisory, but we're in the process of planning it now. This is the case for even some of the juniors – they didn't have the same experience due to COVID so many Advisory classes will have some backfilled information.

Principal Updates (Monica Garcia)

- We are not yet fully back to normal. We still do not allow for visitors but starting after school today (and yes, late buses will run.) We will add some clubs during the last week of April, all dependent on teachers that step up to host.

- Recognition ceremonies will look different and will still be restricted. We are limited on hosting outside events due to weather and traffic sounds. However, recognition ceremonies will be in person students and will be recorded and published for families to view by each grade level. We will still do certificates and invites. The NJHS ceremony will be a hybrid and will be held in person right after school, but we will record it and publish for parents.
- We will offer celebrations for each grade during the last week of school. May 27th for 8th grade (this will be larger than 6th & 7th grade celebrations). May 26th for 7th grade and May 25 for 6th grade. We will still have spacing and masks but we will offer some of the traditional year end activities like yearbook signing.
- Regard Covid, some cases are still coming in but now rather than daily notifications about positive cases, parents will be notified by the district only on Fridays on a weekly level. If your student has been impacted directly, the school will notify parents immediately, but the rest of the community will be notified only on the weekly basis. Note: despite going 5 days, we haven't had as many cases transmitted in building but rather, we are still seeing that it is usually coming from outside the community.
- We are finalizing master schedule and it next year will remain the same in that 7th grade will have electives first classes of the day, 6th grade will have electives in the middle of day and 8th grade will have electives at the end of day. School day will still be 850am - 345pm.
- Staff updates:
 - a. 6 retiring teachers due to early separation package:
 - i. Sandra Miller PE teacher / Eva Nahorniak will take her place
 - ii. Judy Still 8th grade LA teacher
 - iii. Mike Donhowe 8th grade Math
 - iv. John Shanks 7th grade LA
 - v. Amy Gimenez Elevation
 - vi. Christen Owen 8th/7th grade math at Elevation
 - b. We do have positions still to fill, but the above retirements did help absorb the cuts.
 - c. Kelly helm has decided to take an Assistant Principal position at Eaglecrest HS. We will interview for her replacement (it will not be a placement) and will have a new assistant principal next year.
 - d. Almost complete with the rest of our hiring. We have had very strong pools of candidates this year and in some cases had anywhere from 40-80 applicants for some positions.
- WMS enrollment: projection of 1095 students. Currently WMS is 10-20 below that due to some families waiting on other private school. Principal Garcia is required to follow a specific order for enrollments: first, is school of choice wait list, then intra-district, then non-resident. Cannot move to the next list until the prior list has been exhausted.
 - a. 6th grade next year will be 344 students - we start seeing smaller class sizes
 - b. 7th 374 students
 - c. 8th 377 students
 - d. We will level out at ~1000 students (we were at 1300 2 years ago.)
- We do have plans for orientation that will look different. 2020 – web orientation was difficult. All middle schools in the district will be hosting a Summer Launch Camp with project-based learning for both incoming 6th and 7th graders (since 7th graders didn't have that last year with COVID).
 - a. It will be held Aug 2-4, 2021 in a 1/2-day format both am or pm options to accommodate families. There will be no charge and teachers will help. Students will attend all 3 days.

- b. We will also have an in-person WEB day that the 8th graders will lead on Aug 13th - am.
 - c. The Summer Launch Camp will replace PAWS.
- Back to school nights – we are looking at doing both in-person and virtual to accommodate families.
 - a. 6th grade Aug 19th pm.
 - b. 7th and 8th grade Aug 25 (not to conflict with Aug 26th CCHS Back to School night).
- WMS hopes to do athletics next year.
- Students have done really well with the transition to 5 days. Very long days for the students as they cannot really pull down their masks. We do have to remind students to wear masks above the nose.
- We are putting equipment back out for recess to get them moving but the recent snow doesn't help.

Closing

- Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am by Chris Davis.
- Please contact Chris Davis if you have any interest in helping out for PTCO next year. Chris Davis <c.davis@compass.com>