

MMS PTO Meeting at LMS
September 20, 2016

Attending:

Nimisha Bhatt	Stacy Greenstein	Jin Patel
Mita Bhattacharya	Leslie Hauben	Jocelyn Pena
Laurie Bleickardt	Sharon Howard	Christine Petrane
Alexandra Clark	Angela Malinowski	Mike Richards
Cory Delgado	Amy Miller	Jim Shen
Tracey Drift	Rubina Nagarkatti	Moushumi Shetu
Tom Dowling	Jignya Patel	Christine Zoffinger
Patty Edelstein		

Meeting was called to order by Christine Petrane at 9:30am. Christine welcomed Board Members, principals and guests to our first meeting of the 2016-2017 school year. Introductions were made for benefit of new Board Members and guests.

PRINCIPAL'S/TEACHER's UPDATE:

Cory Delgado (UMS):

Mr. Delgado noted they had a great opening at UMS: orientations were well attended and school had a smooth start. There are 43 new families at UMS in September 2016 and 6 new teachers vs. 12 new teachers last year. The PTO will be hosting the first social at UMS on 9/30/16 and Back-To-School night will be held on 10/6/16. At BTS Night, Mr. Delgado will be communicating (and later enforcing) the parent drop-off and pick-up procedures as this was a mess last year and it is a priority. BTS Night will begin in Block 1A and at its opening a video will be shown with himself and Superintendent. PTO Rep should be there to help boost membership. UMS is also gearing up for the 8th Grade Camp Mason Trip, securing chaperones and scheduling activities and bunk mates. Mr. Delgado also discussed Ms. Edmonds sudden leave of absence. It is expected that this will be a long term absence. For now, there is day-to-day sub until can hire a replacement, but the sub is working with other teachers on the science team and following the same curriculum. Four interviews are lined up for tomorrow.

Mike Richards (LMS):

Mr. Richards expressed thanks to the PTO and Montgomery Twp. Educational Foundation for the banners lining the LMS driveway (MMS PTO paid for ½ of the cost of the banners). With regard to other "Beautification" efforts discussed in the June 2016 minutes, Mr. Richards noted a parent who works in the district bought planters for the exterior of the school, she planted them and also maintains them. Mr. Richards requested \$155 to reimburse her. MMS PTO noted each principal gets \$500 for discretionary spending and \$500 for guidance department. There was a motion by Christine Petrane that the \$155 reimbursement for planters should come from the Principal's Fund, which was 2nd by Jocelyn Pena. All were in favor.

Mr. Richards noted the Book Fair will be held at LMS next week. He mentioned there is a new librarian at LMS who comes with experience from South Jersey. Money has been set aside for new carpet in the LMS Library and they are allowing her to redesign the library in her own way.

Mr. Richards noted LMS is looking for volunteers to spend time in the library and asked PTO to put this request in our eblast.

Back-To-School Night at LMS will be held on 9/28/16 for 5th grade and 9/29/16 for 6th grade. Both BTS Nights begin at 6:30pm in the cafeteria for Principal and PTO greetings and then parents should be in classrooms by 7pm. LMS has 65 new students this year: 25 5th graders and 40 6th graders. Mr. Richards noted we have 12 students who do not speak English but speak Danish, Spanish, French, etc. Mr. Richards held a pizza party for new students which was well received. In total in September 2016, LMS has 420 6th graders (18 homerooms) and 346 5th graders (14 homerooms). Class sizes are 24-25 students each.

Mr. Richards asked for PTO to help fund the Hi-Tops Program during the week of respect. It is a presentation on harassment which touches on sexual harassment but in an age appropriate way. Municipal Alliance has previously funded but is unable to continue to support because the program does not fall under drugs/alcohol. Cost of Hi-Tops program is \$3,150. Mr. Richards expressed how strongly he supports this program. With regard to PTO support for the Hi-Tops program, Jin Patel noted this was not an expense that the PTO had anticipated or budgeted for. PTO does not have enough funds to cover this entire expense; however, Jin Patel made a motion that Mr. Richards could allocate the \$750 budgeted for author visits/assemblies to Hi-Tops. All were in favor.

Teacher's Update:

No teacher's representatives attended PTO Board meeting this month.

BUDGET:

Angela Malinowski reported on the budget at September 20, 2016. It was noted the budget reflects disbursements of \$8,500 for spirit wear and we still have outstanding checks from 8th grade graduation that she would like to have VPs reach out to have payees cash. As Angela Malinowski and Ying Liu are new co-Treasurers for the MMS PTO this year, they reviewed categories for clarification and VPs provided insight on each event/category.

SCIENCE INVENTION CONVENTION:

Mita Bhattacharya reported that the Science Invention Convention is a joint event with the MES PTA. The committee discussed doing a fundraiser for the event but reps of the MES PTA would like to keep this a breakeven event. However, demonstrators are expensive so there was discussions to involve local businesses (have them pay fee for vendor table) and also involve the Robotics Team from MHS. Additionally, were discussions to get rid of tshirts and do lanyards instead to cut expenses, as well as to increase registration fee to \$25. Mita noted MHS and the demonstrators were booked in December so have booked a February date.

PTO MEMBERSHIP:

Jignya Patel noted PTO membership was down YTD compared to last year. LY had 328 parent members and 75 teacher members. Currently, MMS PTO has 135 parent members and 33 teacher members (current proceeds of \$3,038). Jignya plans to do an eblast, as well as to push memberships at Back to School Nights. She will ask teacher reps to push membership at faculty meetings. Membership forms will also be placed in the office.

SPIRIT WEAR:

Tom Dowling reported that sales of spirit wear at open houses at LMS and UMS were successful and we have already covered out cash outlay for merchandise. He has volunteers in place for upcoming Back-To-School Nights at LMS and noted that we sold out of Locker Shelves at the open houses and will take orders for these at BTS Nights.

BOOK FAIRS:

Jocelyn Pena reported LMS Book Fair will run from 8am-3pm the week of 9/26 and will be open during both BTS Nights. She is looking for another chairperson, as well as volunteers. Christine Zoffinger reported the UMS Book Fair will be set up Friday 10/21 and will run 10/24-10/28. Colleen Walsh is the chair. UMS Book Fair will be set up on the stage in the auditorium vs. the library so all students will have access during Flex. It is option for teachers to bring their LA classes. Christine Zoffinger will send out an eblast for volunteers.

UMS SOCIAL:

PTO is responsible for the Fall Social at UMS, which will held this year on Friday 9/30. Last year, we did not charge entry fee for students into the Fall Social; however, this year, we will return to charging \$5 per student. Nicole Dowling secured DJ through the Student Council. We decided this year to use the same DJ that is used by Student Council for all other socials. Tracey Drift noted LY we did not have enough change for snack stand and discussed proper change request for Front Door and Snack Stand with Angela Malinowski. LY we did not have pizza at the Fall Social but Student Council usually does have pizza at all other UMS Socials so we will purchase pizza this year.

LMS SCHOOL STORE:

Jocelyn Pena reports she did an inventory on the LMS School Store and has decided not to purchase anything additional at this time. She prefers to liquidate current inventory. She has volunteers in place for next week.

STUDENT DIRECTORY:

Leslie Hauben reported that Student Directory is done jointly with the MES PTA, but noted the bulk of books sold were to LMS (of 536 books sold only 65 to UMS). Currently have \$7,000 in ad sales. Viability of this going forward is in question. Both entries in the directory, as well as directories purchased have declined since 2012:

2012	997 Entries
2013	730
2014	656
2015	612
2016	250

Leslie Hauben asked that people consider putting their information in the directory even if they don't purchase so it looks more substantial for those advertising.

FUN FRIDAYS:

Mita Bhattacharya reported that budget for Fun Fridays is not sufficient. Budget currently reflects \$350 for each Fun Friday event (there are 2 Fun Fridays for 5th grade and 2 Fun Fridays for 6th grade) and the DJ is \$250 for each event which leaves only \$100 for snacks, water, and

crafts. Although, Mita noted they will not serve pizza this year. Angela Malinowski made a motion to increase the budget for Fun Friday to \$500 per event or \$1,000 per grade which was 2nd by Christine Petrane. All approved.

TEACHER GRANTS:

Stacy Greenstein noted that teacher grant paperwork needs to be updated on the MMS PTO website. With regard to the Laura Merkel Grant, Stacy reached out to Dr. Hurdy for recommendations and, as of the meeting, he has not responded.

YEARBOOKS:

Christine Zoffinger presented year book update for LMS. We had ordered 700 yearbooks LY and committee is considering reducing the amount ordered slightly. Christine Zoffinger will send an eblast in MMS PTO newsletter detailing procedure to upload school pictures to be included in the yearbook, as well as procedure to order.

BOARD OF ED UPDATE:

Amy Miller, a member of the Montgomery BOE, reported how excited the BOE is about the Referendum. The Referendum provides for the completion of projects such as new gym floor at UMS, PPU at UMS, windows and roof at OHES, etc. BOE will be forming focus groups and sending surveys the 1st two weeks in December and encourages everyone to complete the survey and give their feedback. Results will be posted late winter/early spring.

UPCOMING PTO MEETINGS:

Next MMS PTO meeting to be held on October 18, 2016 at 9:30 am in the UMS Conference Room.