

MES PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 10, 2021
6:30-7:20pm via Zoom

In attendance: Jenna Huntley, Yuna Kim, Unnati Patel, Ms. Lacy, Mrs. Camuto, Mrs. Scotti, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Evertsen, Jennifer Harris, Chris Hoffman, Jaime Gostkowski, Jennifer Lafaman, Maria Ryan, Jennifer Volfson, RoseAnn Sands, Patty Bajaj, Lara Katz, Sneha Yalaburgi, Hubert Cui, Alex Clark, Ewa Bialobrzkeski, Jackie Merritt

PTA Administrative Business

- Meeting called to order by Jenna at 6:30
- Approved minutes from February's general meeting

Monthly Reports

OHES Report - Mrs. Scotti

- 100th day of school and Read Across America went well
 - Mrs. Ballard organized virtual readings
- Women in History this month
- Combining of cohorts has gone well
 - Implemented a new PPU plan this week
 - Got input from Montgomery Police and District Security
- Next Tuesday staff have a professional development afternoon so students will be asynchronous
- Parent survey coming out next week for hybrid/virtual starting April 19
 - Please spread the word to complete the survey
 - Will include in newsletter
- Parent-Teacher conferences coming up
 - Some teachers using Genesis and others not
 - Genesis scheduling will close March 19
- Looking forward to spring break
- Author visit from Sudipta Bardham-Quallan for 1st and 2nd graders on April 13 and 14
 - Finalizing the class schedules now

OHES Teacher Report - Mrs. Coffey

- Teachers are doing well - very busy!
- Wonderful to open to both cohorts
- Great that we are able to go outside now!

VES Report – Ms. Lacy

- Celebrated Black History Month and Lunar New Year
- Celebrating Women's History Month now
 - Have resources, books, read alouds and highlighted in the morning news

- Equality website for the school and the district are up and running and have a lot of great resources
- Had President's Day and Days of Kindness
 - Thanks to those who donated to the Kindness Bowl
 - Donated ~500 cans to the Hillsborough and Montgomery Food Pantries
- 4 days a week for hybrid kids has been successful
 - Kids are doing an amazing job keeping safe
- New PPU going very well - thinking of continuing it this way in the future
- Read Across America went well
 - 4th graders had great author visit
 - Thank you to the PTA for the support
- Parent Survey coming out next week
- Cultural Responsiveness training for teachers on March 16
 - Kids will be 'Marching to the Arts' during the asynchronous learning that afternoon
- Parent-Teacher conferences coming up and then spring break
- Arbor Day on Apr 8 - sponsored by Montgomery Shade Tree Committee
 - Will send a video this year rather than come in person
 - All 3rd and 4th graders will receive a tree since 4th graders missed it last year
 - Virtual students could request and pick up tree
 - If students have questions they can submit to the teacher and will be forwarded to the arborist for response
 - Unfortunately, will not have live Q&A
 - Teachers given resources so they may be able to answer the questions
- Old Barracks virtual field trips coming up

VES Teacher Report - Mrs. Evertsen

- Nothing to add
- PTA would like to thank the teacher liaisons for sending out our survey, we are getting great responses that will be very helpful

Co-President Report - Jenna Huntley

- Looking for idea for future events/fundraisers so please send an email if you have any
- Monthly meeting minutes are posted on the website

Treasurer's Report – Chrissy Hoffman

- All numbers as of Mar 3, and amounts are what have cleared in the bank so may be a bit different than stated with the committees
- Income:
 - Members: 168 + 25 staff = 193, \$2630
 - Yearbook: OHES \$5777.50, deposit paid \$2415.63
 - VES \$5028.50, deposit paid \$2055.88
 - Done with sales this past weekend
 - Amazon Smile: Oct-Dec \$151.52

- Food Delivery: \$94.20
- Spirit Wear: some new sales
- Grants - received 3 more
 - Apr 9 is the last day for teachers to submit
 - Clarify that VES is not holding onto the grants, since they are rolling this year

MSEPTA – RoseAnn Sands

- Concluded cookie and cake pop fundraiser
- Number of presentations and talks coming up
- Coffee Chat Sat Mar 13 2:00-4:00
- Poshmark fundraiser still ongoing
- Scholarships being advertised now
 - No requirements for where student is doing higher education
 - For any child who has received services
 - Removed portion for teachers to apply this year
 - Deadline Mar 17
- Clothing drive will happen in Apr/May - looking for volunteers to help
- All info is up on the website

Nominating Committee - Yuna Kim

- Have a co-president and co-treasurer position open
- Voting to be done in May, slate of candidates to be released in April
- Need 3 members of committee but would like to have 5
- Open to the floor for nominations - none
- Jocelyn Pena, RoseAnn Sands, Jennifer Harris have been nominated
 - Vote to happen via Google Form: opened 6:59, closed 7:02
 - 11 responded voting the 3 candidates in
- People can nominate themselves or others for the board positions

Storybook Sessions – RoseAnn Sands

- Nearly 30 registered, with about 15 logged on at any point in time
- 2 prizes were given out
- Collaborated with YaYaNoodles for fundraiser that night
- Interested in expanding to VES - will be in touch with the councilors and librarian
- Will run again in April and June

Kids Art - Yuna Kim

- Running at OHES and VES now
- Art being uploaded directly to the site by parents
- Can upload as many pieces by whomever
- Open until Mar 26 with guaranteed delivery for Mother's Day
 - Delivered to school Apr 19
 - Will be sent home with hybrid students
 - Will organize pick up for virtual students

VES Book Fair - Unnati Patel

- Virtual book fair Apr 12-25
- More info to come
- Will send email to teachers to ask for wish list

Yearbooks - Patty Bajaj

- Closed second set of sales
- Asked families to upload selfies for cover photo
 - VES cover already approved
 - OHES cover submitted for approval
- A few teachers have not sent in their class screen shots yet
 - Will take the photo as is - will be representative of how schooling has been this year!
 - Will send email to secretaries to follow-up

New Business/Announcements/Questions

- What does recess look like? Trying to decide if to send kids in person.
 - Outside has been set up into zones and each class remains in their zone
 - K and pre-school will start using the playground equipment soon and we will see how that goes before extending it to other grades
 - All kids remain masked and there is sufficient adult supervision
 - At VES both the blacktop and the grass have been zoned off
 - Staff have been provided with socially distant games to play but kids haven't really needed them
 - Kids can bring in things that they can play with independently
 - Waiting to see how the playground use goes at OHES before opening at VES
- What will the transition look like for kids who haven't been in the school yet this year? Especially K students who may have never been in the building?
 - School counselors will be the most influential - can reach out to get a tour after school one day if need
 - All hands will be on deck with meeting the kids off the bus
 - Do have a process in place for this, know it is a big day for some
 - Teacher will know which kids are the new ones and can help accordingly
- Is there a conversation happening about what is happening now? The social emotional impact of all of this is a lot - excited to go to school but scared of exposure to COVID
 - There are always conversations happening throughout the day just because of the day-to-day rules
 - Hope the children know that this is all in place to keep them safe and we are doing everything to keep them safe
- Ms. Vail and the teachers have been very helpful throughout and have taken the time to answer questions, have conversations and give the kids a tour
- Is there a possibility that the cohorts will split again?

- Once survey results come out, we will know more but hope to start back with combined cohorts and add Friday morning
- Can hybrid students take the bus?
 - All hybrid students have been added to a bus route but will need to call transportation to discuss

Next meeting Wednesday April 14 @ 6:30

Link will be sent out week of meeting

Meeting concluded at 7:30