

MES PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday Oct 13, 2021
10:00-11:00 via Zoom

In attendance: Yuna Kim, Unnati Patel, Ms. Lacy, Mrs. Scotti, Mrs. Evertson, Cookie Franco-Herman, Jennifer Harris, Chris Hoffman, Jennifer Lafaman, Jennifer Volfson, RoseAnn Sands, Maria Ryan, Asma Ahmed, Muneera Dahodwala, Alex Clark, Ninett Awadalla, Jennifer Giordano, Vanessa Diaz, Kara Doyle, Purvi, Huma Waheed, Priya, Urvi Jatania, Danielle O'Connor, Mili, Steph LaTerra, Lakshmi Kumar, Priyansh, Dina Rizkalla, Sarah F, Danielle, SD, Swetha Pevan, Mary Ann Awadalla, Shilpa Kavila, Howzan Tai, Jarred Grimes, AJ, Akib, Village, Sidra Ali, Sayani Bhaumiki, Sowjanya Kaza, Payel Chakraborty, Banu, Zina

PTA Administrative Business

- Meeting called to order by Unnati at 10:15
- If comfortable please turn on camera so we can put faces to names

Monthly Reports

Co-President Report - Unnati Patel

- Welcome all new members
- Introduction of the Board

VES Report – Ms. Lacy

- Thanks to everyone for a great start to the year
 - Parent input and involvement is much appreciated
- Teachers very much appreciated the grab and go treats. It really means a lot!
- Custodian appreciation was great
 - They put a thank you sign up
- Picture day went well. Thank you to all the helpers
 - Will be a composite class picture
 - Make up day will be in November
- Celebrated week of respect
- Held welcome assemblies to go over the 5 rules for a successful year
- Hispanic history month
- Disability awareness month
- Getting ready for Halloween
 - Will have a virtual readers workshop
 - In person parties with 2 parent volunteers
 - Unicef drive will be virtual again
- PD days moved due to Ida to November so have some ½ days
- Parent/teacher conferences in November
- December we will do Young Scholars
 - Will let us know how it will be revised this year

- Mrs. Heintz will not be able to continue her teacher liaison role but Mrs. Evertson is still here

VES Teacher Report - Mrs. Evertson

- Thank you for your support
 - Breakfast was fantastic
- Looking forward to being a liaison again this year and hope can help out

OHES Report - Mrs. Scotti

- Welcome week went well. Thank you to PTA for all the help
 - Everything took a little longer in the beginning but going well now
- Held welcome assemblies for 1st and 2nd
 - Going to each K class
- Teacher's breakfast treats and custodian appreciation were great. All very thankful.
- Picture day is this week
- Halloween parade will be held outside
- In person Halloween parties with 4 parent volunteers
 - Social distancing during parties and contact teacher if want to go outside
- Early dismissal days coming up

Board of Education Report - Cookie Franco-Herman

- Glad to be here
- If need anything please feel free to email

MSEPTA Report - Unnati Patel

- Was a very informative meeting and would recommend attending
- Looking for liaison if anyone is interested
- SEPAG hosting Q&A with Board of Ed Candidates Fri Oct 22 @ 7pm

ByLaws & Standing Rules - Unnati Patel

- NJPTA changed the way bylaws are done this year so we updated our bylaws and standing rules accordingly
- RoseAnn posted link in the chat so everyone had access
- Standing rules can be amended anytime during the year with a vot
- Voted via Google Form: 15 yes votes
 - New Bylaws and Standing rules adopted

Co-Treasurer's Report – Chrissy Hoffman

- Very busy time of year
- All numbers as of Oct 8
- Membership: 248 members including 7 staff
 - Paid our state dues for the first 240 members
- Community Donations: \$220 from membership bundles and a grandparent's donation
- Spirit Wear: ~\$7000 from open houses, membership bundles and online sales

- Huge success at open houses
- Spent ~\$6100 on purchasing new stock
- Online store open and items will be sent home via backpack mail
- Misc. Fundraising: ~\$200 from 1st Day of School Supply boxes and Fall-o-ween
- Purchased folders for K-4 (had pre-school already) ~\$1965
- Teacher's breakfast and custodian appreciation spent ~\$1300
- Spent ~\$175 for welcome week balloons
- Membership is our biggest fundraiser and all the money goes straight back to the school
 - Please become a member
 - Need to be a member to volunteer in the school for insurance purposes and to ensure that code of conduct has been reviewed
 - Admin please encourage staff to become members
 - Members are eligible for grants which will start later this month

Hospitality Report – Maria Ryan

- Super busy so far!
- Welcome Week: Thank you to all the volunteers!
 - Lots of feedback to the PTA and parents which was very helpful
- Staff Appreciation Snack Bar: So happy that so many families donated! Thank you!
 - Thank you to the helpers that helped set up
- Custodian Appreciation: Sol and Mae did a fantastic job! Thank you!
 - Personalized gifts and snacks
- Room Parents: 98% done, only 4 classes left
 - Thanks to those who have volunteered
 - More info coming in the next few days
 - Karen Jeffers is the chair for OHES and Panina Z is the chair for VES
- Picture Day: VES was successful and looking forward to being successful at OHES this week
- Thank you to admin to letting volunteers in this year
 - Volunteering opportunities are advertised through the newsletter and on social media
 - Are opportunities both in person and behind the scenes

Fundraisers & Events - Unnati Patel

- Charleston Wrap: Made ~\$10000 in sales, so made \$4000 in profits
- Fall-o-ween:
 - Virtual pumpkin decorating/carving
 - Please send in 1 picture of the pumpkin for judging and 1 picture of pumpkin + student for the yearbook
 - Judged in 4 categories
 - Raffle with great community donations from Princeton PlaySpace, Sweet Gourmet and YaYa Noodles
 - Halloween House Tour
 - Back again this year - 10 houses so far

- Still time to submit your house
 - 2 great parent volunteers coordinating
 - Goody bag provided
 - Ticket gets you entry into decorating contest, raffle and goody bag
 - Map of house tour will be released for free on Oct 24
 - YaYa Noodles will donate 10% of profits to PTA on October 29 to anyone who says with the PTA
 - Will have poster up by speaker to remind you
 - Can put in instructions if ordering online
- Looking for ideas for winter activities. Let us know if you have any ideas or are interested in volunteering
- Maria, we appreciate all the hard work you put in! Thank you!
- Scholastic Book Fair at OHES postponed until the new year when we can hopefully doing it safely in person
- Rocky Hill Train Show Oct 23-24
 - \$1 of each ticket will be donated to PTA/PTO/PTSA/MSEPTA if mention when buying

New Business/Announcements/Questions

- Introduction of new members: Kara, Vasecara, Vanessa
- Vanessa Diaz would like to thank the PTA and the community for all the love and support they received after the storm
- We are always looking for volunteers in many different areas. We will guide, teach and tap into your specific skills so please reach out to us

Meeting concluded at 11:00