

MES PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 14, 2021
6:30-7:20pm via Zoom

In attendance: Jenna Huntley, Yuna Kim, Unnati Patel, Mrs. Camuto, Mr. VanHise, Ms. Heintz, Jennifer Harris, Chris Hoffman, Jaime Gostkowski, Jennifer Lafaman, Jennifer Volfson, RoseAnn Sands, Jocelyn Pena, Alex Clark, Jackie Merritt, Raina Rauf, Rebecca Chen, Muneera Dahodwala, Jennifer Petruso, Cherisha Shah

PTA Administrative Business

- Meeting called to order by Yuna at 6:32
- Approved minutes from March's general meeting

Monthly Reports

VES Report - Mrs. Camuto

- All teachers had an afternoon of training with Dr. Robin Daniel for diversity, equity and inclusion
- Have upgraded and renovated the outdoor classroom in the courtyard
 - Teachers have already been able to use it
- GaGa Pit has been installed on the grass by past student for his Scout project
- 4th grade virtual field trip to the Trenton Barracks
 - Thanks to the PTA for supporting
- Guest Speaker Eric LeGrand
 - Spoke of resilience and living life to the fullest
- Arbor Day last week
 - Montgomery Shade Foundation provided videos and seedlings
 - If didn't get a chance to pick up the seedling can still do so from Mary Jacobs Library
- Parent Teacher Conferences went well
- Thank you to the PTA for the treats that were delivered on Monday!
- Monday Apr 19 the next phase of instructional model occurs
 - Expect 61% in person, 38% all virtual
 - Classes average 12-18 children
 - By removing furniture and being creative with seating are able to maintain 6ft distance between all children in homeroom classes
 - Some related arts classes may have less than 6ft
 - Since maintain 6ft in homerooms children are permitted to eat snack in the classroom
 - Can also do in the cafeteria and now that it is nice, outside
- Increasing recess zones on blacktop and grass
- Some recess equipment has been introduced after spring break
 - Used by only one class and sanitized between uses
- Tomorrow have open house for new hybrid students

- Specific invitations were sent out to the 160 students
- Ready to give out bustags and PPU signs to the new students, or students whose bus routes may have changed
- Newsletter coming out tomorrow to remind everyone of the protocols and items needed for hybrid
- Next instructional phase planned for May 3 with a full day schedule
 - Working on the schedules now
 - Friday would remain an early dismissal day
 - Introduced two additional lunch periods to ensure social distancing
- Is a pick up tomorrow and Friday for those who haven't picked up the Stronger Together T-shirts yet
 - Spirit day wear the shirts on Monday

VES Teacher Report - Ms. Heintz

- Thank you for the treats!

OHES Report – Mr. VanHise

- Very similar update to VES
- Author visit from Sudipta Bardham-Quallan for 1st and 2nd graders occurred on April 13 and 14
 - Thank you for the support
 - Can we do another book sale?
 - Sudipta is signing the books now and then we will sell them
- Spanish teachers are planning events for Cinco de Mio
- Teachers also participated in PD with Dr. Daniel
- Next phase will have increase in students of 20%
 - Class size from 10-11 to 17-18
 - Not all classes can maintain the full 6ft, those classes will have snack in the cafeteria
 - Those classes have been given a schedule
 - An email can be sent to the parents to inform them
- Are trying to increase airflow with open windows and getting outside for snack
- Playground has been opened for Pre-K and K and looking to do so for 1st and 2nd on a limited basis
 - One class at a time and supervisors have been given specific instructions
- May 3rd full day schedule now being reviewed by teachers
- Pre-K and K will stay early dismissal because it is not developmentally appropriate to make such a big schedule change this late in the year for our youngest learners
 - Moving PM classes from 11:30-1:30 to 1:10-3:50 is too much of a change for them
- Will parents be notified if their child's class is having snack in the cafeteria?
 - An email can be sent from the teacher or admin
- Can students use the water bottle filling station?

- Not currently open but can discuss with the school nurse and Dr. Mandelbaum for when school goes full-day
- Schools are prepared to begin full-day May 3 and just waiting for confirmation from the district. Communication will go out as soon as know start date for sure
- VES has added two additional lunch periods to accommodate all the children and maintain 6ft apart
- Fridays will remain early dismissal
- There is no opportunity to change from virtual to hybrid now. Those numbers were needed to make the plans to be able to move to 5 days and then full-day
- Animal magnets may need to be reviewed to ensure they are all correct and will be done before Monday

Nominating Committee - Jocelyn Pena

- Jennifer Harris, RoseAnn Sands and Jocelyn Pena reviewed candidates and are ready to submit the slate of Candidates (see attached)
- If any nominees from the floor would like to put their name forward they may do so up until 20 days before our May 12th meeting at which point we will vote
- Voting will take place during the May meeting via Google Forms
- Any questions? None

Co-President Report - Yuna Kim

- Trying to finish out the year with a bang
 - A few ideas are being looked into

Treasurer's Report – Chrissy Hoffman

- All numbers as of Apr 9, and amounts are what have cleared in the bank so may be a bit different than stated with the committees
- Income:
 - Members: 169 + 26 staff = 195, \$2665
 - Yearbook: OHES \$880.50
 - VES \$1113.75
 - Numbers don't match Patty's because sold a few of last year's books this year
 - YaYa Noodles added into food proceeds so now \$448.00
 - Spirit Wear: some new sales
- Expenses
 - Paid for teacher morale boost

MSEPTA – RoseAnn Sands

- Is a stand alone PTA for parents and teachers to advocated and support students who receive any services, K through 12
- Next meeting Apr 20 @ 6:30
 - Link on MSEPTA website which can be accessed through any school website, under the PTA tab

- Looking for board members
 - Are ~200 children who receive services so there is a big pool of parents who could help
- Clothing drive is about to start - Apr 19-23 drop off at Elk Lodge
- Poshmark promotion ongoing
- Thank you to administration and teams for the inclusion initiatives
 - Socks for Down Syndrome
 - Autism Awareness spirit week
- Jocelyn, MSEPTA co-president, would like to thank RoseAnn for doing such a great job in sharing the MSEPTA news!
- Are there any social competency programs?
 - Are a lot of school wide practices embedded into the day and classroom
 - Guidance counsellors do run groups to help kids in many ways ie. making friends, etc.
 - Parents can reach out to teacher if have concerns
 - No one way to start these programs, can come from the parent, teacher, friend
 - Talk with teach and they can let you know if they recommend to talk with guidance counselor

VES Book Fair - Unnati Patel

- Gong on now, fully virtual until Sun Apr 25
- 25% back in scholastic dollars
 - Used for library and classrooms
- Cool 360 degree view of fair and a lot of neat things included for the virtual fair
- Please spread the word
- Open to anyone
- Shipped directly to home, free shipping is spend \$25

Transportation Appreciation - Unnati Patel

- Apr 27 provide grab and go breakfast
- Want to show them our appreciation as they are an essential part
- Need 2 parent volunteers to help set up in the morning
- Will engage the district to help show appreciation

Kids Art - Yuna Kim

- Made ~\$500
- Apr 28 school delivery
- Can order anytime

Storybook Sessions – RoseAnn Sands

- April 29 @ 5pm
- Geared to Pre-K, and K but all are welcome
- Must pre-register on MSEPTA website
- Theme is celebrating differences

New Business/Announcements/Questions

- Can find all our info on website, facebook and in the newsletter

Next meeting Wednesday May 12 @ 6:30

Link will be sent out week of meeting

Meeting concluded at 7:33