

MES PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 8, 2021
7:00pm-8:00pm via Zoom

In attendance: Yuna Kim, Unnati Patel, Mrs. Camuto, Mr. VanHise, Mrs. Evertson, Cookie Franco-Herman, Jennifer Harris, Chris Hoffman, Jennifer Volfson, RoseAnn Sands, Maria Ryan, Muneera Dahodwala, Alex Clark, Ninett Awadalla, Jennifer Giordano, Aditi Khanchandani, Lakshmi Kumar, Ameet Doshi, Suneeth, Mugdha John, Purvi, Amudha Saranathan, JenNJoshM, Shruti

PTA Administrative Business

- Meeting called to order by Yuna at 7:04pm
- Welcome and thank you for coming
- Meeting minutes from last general meeting approved
 - Approved meeting minutes are posted on the PTA website, which can be accessed through the school website

Monthly Reports

Co-President Report - Yuna Kim

- Thank you for coming and participating
- Been running at full speed since school started and couldn't have done it without the parents help, so thank you
- Can support the PTA by becoming a member and volunteering
- Ramping up to spring when we hope to have some fun outdoor events
 - Hopefully will be a better time now that the little kids can get vaccinated
 - Will be looking for volunteers for numerous events including
 - Book fair at both schools
 - Movie Night with Baseball
 - End of Year Moving Up parties

VES Report – Mrs. Camuto

- Halloween parties were a great experience for both teachers and students
- Staff development days focused on being trauma informed, trauma sensitive school, equity and inclusion
 - 2 jammed packed days but very productive
- Young Scholars gift drive for families in Trenton currently underway
 - Truck will be loaded for delivery next week
 - Sadly due to Covid staff won't be able to join the delivering
- Staff has 'adopted' 15 families in need from the school for over the holidays and are buying gift and items for them
- VES will be presenting at the next BOE meeting on Dec 14
- MHS Peer Leader virtual lessons will happen in the next few weeks
- MHS Carollers will be coming through the hallways

- Will be wearing masks and teachers are to leave their doors open to listen from the classrooms
- Dec 23 is an early dismissal day
- Black Parent Group had their last in person meeting of the year on Tuesday
 - Will continue with virtual meeting on the first Tuesday of the month over the winter
- End of January will have the 4th grade chorus concert
- Quarantine rules have been updated since the county has gone up in CALI score
 - Now must quarantine for full 14 days without chance to test out if are a close contact
 - Travel guidelines remain the same
- Not considered fully vaccinated until 2 weeks after second shot
 - Helpful to send nurse the vaccination card to be added to records
- Helpful to let teachers and nurses know if planning on travel that that will lead to quarantining
 - Will allow to the teachers to plan accordingly
 - Please email the teachers and nurse
- Thank you to PTA for the support for the John Marshall weather assembly
 - Was a virtual live show that went well

VES Teacher Report - Mrs. Evertson

- Thank you for your support, it is very comforting

OHES Report - Mr. VanHise

- Ditto to much of what Mrs. Camuto said including Halloween parties, PD days, carolling, health and safety updates
 - Email right on front page of school website as to where to send students vax cards
- Pillar of character this month is trustworthiness
 - Wore blue on Monday
- Celebrated Diwali and Native American History month
- Cub Culture Corner going well
 - A few times a month Mrs. Scotti and/or Mr. VanHise highlight holidays or current events
- CHOP PJ day was a huge success
 - Had goal of \$3000 and raised over \$7000
 - Spear headed by Alexa Kumar
- NED assemblies (virtual) for 1st and 2nd grade went well
 - Focus on character building and growth mindset
- Winter parties and break coming up
 - Thank you in advance to all the parents that help with the parties
- Thank you to Maria Ryan for planning on treating the teachers before winter break

Board of Education Report - Cookie Franco-Herman

- Have heard all the concerns about food services at the schools
- Had many conversations with Chartwells
 - They are dealing with labor shortages and supply chain issues
 - Action Plan has been put in place to see improvements over the next few months
 - Looking for parent volunteers to join an ad-hoc committee to look at food services
 - In process of being put together now
 - Would like 2 parents from each school
 - Meet ~2 times per month Jan through Mar
 - Expect meeting to not be more than one hour
- Chartwells accepting applications to volunteer in the kitchens or for employment
 - Will pay for training
 - Can contact Cookie if interested
- Is there any food prep that can happen after school hours the day before and have the HS students do it for their community service hours?
 - Not sure, Cookie to ask
- Don't MTSD employ kitchen staff directly rather than through Chartwells?
 - We don't but will ask. Think it is a budget issue

MSEPTA Report - Jennifer Volfson

- Attended Nov 17 meeting
- 657 students receive special services in the district, plus 75 more who receive speech and language services
 - Over 200 of those are in the elementary schools
- Currently collecting clothing and household items at Elks Lodge
- Looking for a point person for the Poshmark Fundraiser
- Looking for teacher liaisons
- Were looking for nominating committee but the time window has closed

Nominating Committee - Yuna Kim

- In charge of nominating people for the 2022-2023 PTA board
- Usually form this committee later but NJPTA changed the rules so doing now
- Board elections will be at the April or May general meeting
- Looking for an odd number of PTA members in good standing to form the committee
- Jennifer Harris, RoseAnn Sands and Samantha Strickland have been nominated so far
- Can accept nominations from the floor now - none
- Voted via Google Form
 - The 3 nominees were voted in

Co-Treasurer's Report – Chris Hoffman

- Paid State dues for 141 new members (\$565)
 - Have 353 members and 15 staff members
- Amazon Smile made \$83.49 this quarter

- smile.amazon.com and put MES PTA as organization of choice
- No cost to you but we make money
- Fallween Yaya Noodle proceeds of \$200
- Spirit wear has made \$2803
- Helped Mrs. Galinas with processing the payments for the NED assemblies (\$2667)
- Paid John Marshall for the weather assembly
- Bell Family Foundation gave \$1000 on giving Tuesday
- Received check from Rocky Hill Train show for \$96 (\$1 from each admission donated)
 - Will split between PTA/PTO/PTSA/MSEPTA (\$24.50 each)

Membership - Unnati Patel for Rebecca Chen

- 371 members including 19 staff
- Staff who are members are eligible to apply for grants
- NJPTA awarded us the Early Bird Award for reaching our membership goal by Sept 30 and the Bright Future Award
- Thank you to those who are members
- The best way to help us is to become a member

Hospitality Report – Maria Ryan

- Thank you to everyone who volunteered for picture day and the make up days
- Jen V coordinated an appreciation gift for all the nurses
 - Vanessa Diaz helped design the cards
 - Cute self care bags
- Room parents should have received an email for the holiday parties
 - Need to check with your teacher to solidify the date and time
 - Need to reach out to parents to collect for the holiday gifts
- Halloween parties went well from our end. Learned a few things that will be put into practice for the holiday party
- Pre-holiday treat bags are being prepared for the teachers
 - Will reach out for donations and volunteers
 - Lauren Arlen heading it

Fundraisers & Events - Maria Ryan

- Fallween was a huge success
- Winter House Tour being prepared
 - Offering option to buy treat bag
 - In the mindset of the season of giving, have other special gifts in mind for those who buy a treat bag
 - More info coming soon
 - Map will be released Dec 19
 - Treat bag pick up will be ~Dec 18

New Business/Announcements/Questions/Comments

- When are the book fairs?

- Haven't solidified the dates yet
- Unnati to reach out to Jennifer Giordano
- Next general meeting Wednesday Feb 9 @ 9am, most likely via Zoom

Meeting concluded at 8:00pm