

MSEPTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, Jan 19, 2021 6:30pm

General Meeting:

Attendees:

Mita Bhattacharya
Jocelyn Pena
Audrey Rosenthal
Kristen Taylor
Michele Russo
RoseAnn Sands
Tati Clark
Heather Mondillo
Jen Romano
JoAnn Orlando
Kristen Youngberg
Monica Clewell
Sarah Scapardine
Zelda Spence-Wallace
Kathy Boraski
Debra O'Reilly
Jaime Gostkowski
Susan Delaney
Alex Clark
Daryl Schwenck
Tiffany Yordan
Denise Sciascia

- Call to Order and Welcome
- Principal Reports
 - email received that Principals will not be attending MSEPTA meetings
 - parents feedback is principals are not knowledgeable about special services
 - Principals attend Gen Ed PTA's and it appears that special ed students are not a priority
 - evening meetings may be hard for principals and they have a MSEPTA rep and way to communicate
 - option discussed to rotate principals or have a daytime meeting so they can attend and parents can ask questions
 - **Action:** Kristen to discuss option with principals
- BOE liaison report
 - Zelda Spence Wallace is BOE and SEPAG rep
 - confident that we can work together and our voices will be heard
 - Audrey Rosenthal teacher liaison
- Special Services Director Update

- hybrid learning; increasing frequency of in-person learning; autism 5th and 6th program are 5 days per week; looking at preK-4th next for how to phase in 5 days per week; looking at survey results and what next group can be to increase to 5 days in-person
- Question: in HS, can a student do more in-person learning?
 - Kristen, looking at all groups and certain students based on individual needs can go in-person more; the school is discussing if students who choose hybrid learning, can they do more in-person learning?
 - Parents should reach out to case manager to request more in-person learning
- winter retreat was successful; looking for new series of these types of events; 3 presentations coming up and will send dates and time:
 - ESY, criteria, decisions, what is it?
 - post-secondary transition; college bound or DDD, DBR or employment
 - ESS; effective school solutions; mental health; co-host 2 presentations on sensory and behavior
- working with Jaime Velez for user group in Genesis; will have permission sign off in genesis to opt in to MSEPTA and SEPAG distribution list to increase awareness
 - Kristen will share distribution list
 - will be part of new school year forms and required forms
 - recommendation to make it an opt out option
- Teacher liaison reports
 - Audrey: HS students need earbuds and laptops for in-person learning
 - Kristen Youngberg and Jen Romano 6th grade LMS
- Parent liaison reports
 - RoseAnn: MES PTA
 - December: fundraising, match campaign brought in most money
 - soft events; house tours in Dec
 - Inclusion; yearbook sale; driven by presale only Jan 17 and Jan 30, must pay upfront; principals sent the detail to the parents directly; parents can submit picture; go to website
 - hosted story book sessions; 30 min 5 HS teams; next event late Feb; will do again in April and June; Kristen Taylor will be a guest
- SEPAG Update
 - 3 meetings held; BOE and supervisors and admins
 - sent survey form and parent input; analyzed data
 - next meeting to discuss and come up with action items; next month
- Grants-Susan
- Scholarships-Susan
 - form will be sent to HS; need to decide on wording
 - make clear that the student does not have to be going to college; open to anyone who receives special ed services of any kind

- discussing making option for kids with final year in district and kids that are out of district
 - Audrey recommended the grant provide examples of what the scholarship can be used for and have anonymous option
 - **Action:** Daryl and Jocelyn to discuss wording and help finalize Scholarship Form
- Membership-JoAnn
 - 6 teachers added: 33 teachers
 - community: 2
 - student: 1
 - family / parent: 39
- Fundraising Updates
 - Shoe clothing drive for Spring / Updates from Winter-Jocelyn
 - 2900 pounds of clothing for winter clothes drive
 - for scholarships and grants
 - will do it again; school drop off for staff only; parents will drop off outside of school
 - Spring Fundraiser Idea: bake sale
 - Michelle: Poshmark sale of handbags, accessories and shoes
 - make 80% of what sell
 - \$290 redeemed and \$100 pending
 - drop off at school for teachers
 - need to advertise on social media items are available to purchase
- Treasury Report-Tiffany
 - expenses: \$1,831
 - \$7,487 in account
 - gingerbread fundraiser: \$360
 - clothing drive: \$728
 - expenses: mindfulness next Sunday at 4:00; partnering with other PTA's, free event, available to parents; need to register