Mariemont High School PTO
September 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:
Patsy Kaschalk, Dawn Harden, Jennifer Moriarty, Kim Newton, Roseann Hayes, Kathy Deadrick, Molly Steele, Sarah Grimmer, Jennifer Westmeyer, Amy Weis, Vanessa Chu, Jen Fiorenza, Astrid Michels, Erika Hinebaugh, Hester Sullivan, Linda Ramey, Monica Wilson, Nan Dill, Denise, Scholtz, Patty Stahl, Maria Borgerding, Dina Wilder, Molly Stewart

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Denise Scholtz, Patty Stahl

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – Gretchen Wittry:

- This year's Homecoming theme is children's books
- Ms. Block is the new student council advisor. She is helping them revamp dances this year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Steve Estepp and Tom Golinar:

- We've had a terrific start to the year.
- Steve discussed the upcoming 5.95 mil levy. He and Tom will be attending 50 levy chats throughout the district. The most frequently-asked question is why? There are 4 main reasons we are asking for the levy:
    1. We've lost $3.2 million in state funding and anticipate losing $900,000 more when the tangible personal property tax is eliminated (the question is will that be phased-in or sudden elimination?).
    2. The district has maintained budget growth of less than 1 percent per year vs 2-3% among most districts. Most of our budget is in people, the board chose not to give base pay increases to the staff for the past 3 years.
    3. School districts in Ohio don't get inflationary increases as home values increase so levies are our only option.
    4. We choose to keep a couple of months' cash in reserve for unexpected or catastrophic problems.
- If the levy passes, we'll maintain full staffing levels, small class sizes, solid academics, up-to-date curricular material, competitiveness with other districts, arts and stem classes.
- We've made a huge building investment that we need to protect.
- If the levy isn't successful, we will eliminate $1.9 million or 1% of our budget. The cuts are published on our web site in order to be transparent. People, busing, field trips, elementary art and gym etc. would be cut.
- We have made $1.8 million in cuts over the past 3 years in part by the lower costs of operating new buildings as well as operating with one less elementary.
- We have not been adding administrators. We have 2 fewer than in the last levy plus we've got 8 fewer teachers with 100 more students.
- Linda Remy asked if the $3.2 million cuts were cumulative over 3 years? Yes. Also, will the state change their policy on making an inflationary adjustment? Steve answered this has been ruled unconstitutional but the state hasn't shown much interest in changing the system so we have to rely on levies. How do businesses pay tax? The tangible property tax went away and the state went to commercial activity tax – this money goes to the state. 20% of our tax comes from business property tax.

- Roseann Hayes asked if Steve is seeing support for the levy? Steve answered that he hasn't seen negativity but the biggest concern is complacency. We need to protect what we have. Buildings are so tangible but operating dollars are not so pretty so it's very important the parent base talks and votes!

TEACHER'S REPORT – Julie Bell:

- A huge thank you for the kick off lunch!
- Key club students will direct parents at Monday's Open House.
- Teachers and staff have 100% PTO participation.
- Terry Thomas had the Hamilton County Safety Committee give a safe driving presentation.
- Emily Colpi has a new 'maker space' where students can create. There is a website and youtube video www.smore.com/kdhuu.
- The new focus is on learning target/means to an end/working toward a goal.
- The Eliminate 5K is September 21. It supports the UNICEF/Kiwanis effort to eradicate maternal neonatal tetanus in third world countries. They've been so successful that it will be eliminated in a few years. www.warriors4theworld.org

COUNSELOR'S REPORTS

Pam Tackett:

- Thank you for the pizza for freshman orientation.
- There is a new program connecting freshmen with upper class team leaders. They will offer guidance and connection through year round activities beginning September 18.
- Campus life is in its third year – they now have 60 members, up from 20. They have begun Leadership Quality of the Month. The video can be seen on Warrior Watch – they have interviewed Dr. Renner, teachers and seniors speaking about leadership qualities.
- Campus life has lunch coordinators – first lunch is Cooper Hayes and Grace Westfall, second lunch is Audrey York.
- Today they gave out Friday suckers for sweetening life. They will begin outside lunch (if you have picnic blankets to donate, please give to Pam), they will participate in Homecoming Parade, Warrior Run and Halloween door decorating and trick or treat.

Amanda Lesczuk:

- Please see the new CCPC brochure and save the date list.
- 67 seniors attended the College Application Workshop, thank you to the PTO for support.
- Juniors, seniors and their parents should be getting an email every other Friday with college updates (contact Amanda if you haven't received).
- Naviance – under the college tab shows all upcoming college visits (open to grades 10-12).
- Juniors and seniors can miss up to 3 days for college visits.
- Amanda and Wendy Long will be visiting junior English classes September 23 & 24 with college updates, PSAT sign up (October 11) and college planning.
- Amanda is meeting with all seniors regarding their post-secondary plans.
- New this year: there will be a free ACT/SAT combo test for juniors November 22. The results will show whether they're more suited for the ACT or SAT. There will be a later test for sophomores.
- Wendy Long is checking all seniors' credits to be sure they're on track for graduation.
- Upcoming career chats include Jen Jones – nursing September 25, Kelly Schulz VP of Fidelity Investments and many more. Information will be emailed.

- Community service hours must be entered online. Propose the plan prior to the work then verify afterward with updated hours.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Dr. Renner:

- Cincinnati Magazine recognized MHS as the #1 high school in the city. Our AP and ACT numbers were great and will be even better next year.
- We're coming out with District Dashboard and Student Score Card in the parent portal. This will show district data and your own child's data over the years. This will help identify trends and necessary enrichment/intervention. Emails will be coming out.
- Parent portal is up and running.
- Open House is Monday – it will start in the auditorium then follow your child's schedule.
- We are now offering Mandarin Chinese – 15 students are currently enrolled.
- Jim reiterated the levy importance. We want to protect and maintain but even bigger ideas are coming.
- Linda Remy asked about German – this is now an online option with 30 students, Frau comes in once weekly and Jim mentors the class while the counselor intern monitors it. Online is available for other languages too.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dina Wilder:

- Approved this year's budget. Motion by Hester Sullivan, second by Dawn Harden. The total C&C fundraiser year to date will need to be adjusted down to take out directory.
- Our surplus is lower since we spent an additional $5000 for teacher requests last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SPIRIT SHOP – Erica Hinebaugh:

- Spirit shop has already deposited $2800, spent $1200.
- Hours are 11:30-1:00 for non-game day Fridays and during the game (pregame – 3rd quarter) for home football games.
- We can take special orders.
- Question? Can we make the 'Be Better' shirts available for everyone, not just athletes?

FALL SPIRIT SHIRT – Denise Scholtz for Mary Beth York:

- There will be a fall spirit shirt available for the Madeira football game!

KROGER FUNDRAISING – Denise Scholtz for Marion Molski:

- Please sign up online. It would be helpful to send a reminder email.
- We made $2400 in the last quarter.

FLOWER FUNDRASISER – Denise Scholtz for Mary Beth York:

- Coming for Homecoming.

DIRECTORIES – Denise Scholtz for Delta Crabtree and Julie Curran:

- They have been delayed but are coming soon.

ADDITIONAL:

- Patsy Kaschalk is looking for a home for the AFS student from Germany.

- Erika Hinebaugh made a suggestion that the three day weekends in September and October be changed from Friday off to Monday off to avoid conflicts.
- Jennifer Moriarty asked if there will be more restaurants at lunch in addition to the sushi? Jim answered no because of strict rules for a 350 calorie lunch.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion by Hester Sullivan, second by Dawn Harden.

Submitted by Molly Stewart, Secretary