

Mariemont High School PTO Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2017

Attendance: Lisa Welch, Regina Sharp, Malia Ridge, Mary Anne Newman, Melissa Taylor, Teresa Mikesell, Julie Bell, Steve Estep, Sarah Grimmer, Kaye Zelinski, Kathy Bauer, Patty Dewey, Nan Dill

Superintendent's Report: Steve Estep

Facilities planning remains front and center. There is a community dialogue meeting tonight at 7:00 in the MHS auditorium. If unable to attend, one can submit questions at questions@mariemontschools.org. FAQs will be posted after the meeting.

The 6 facility teams: Architectural Design, Academic/Collaboration, Arts, Athletics, Finance and Technology have finished their research. The steering committee will take the information from the facility teams and will make a recommendation to the Board of Education. The hope is to have a final decision on the direction of facilities before March.

Mary Anne Newman inquired about the timeline. Mr. Estep said they would like to have the issue on the ballot in the fall of 2018 or the spring of 2019. The question was raised if this would be two different levies and the answer was no. Regardless of the outcome of the option that is recommended, the facility plan will be a combined issue on the ballot.

Mr. Estep shared the many ways to stay connected and informed: Mariemont Schools Website, Twitter and blogs.

Student Council Report: Hannah Coates

The student council organized a successful charity drive for Hurricane Harvey victims. Items were collected in bins, taken to Fairfax Fire Department and mailed out.

Student Council planned a successful homecoming dance. They are now looking forward to Holiday Fair as well as organizing gift donations to be shared with children in northern Kentucky.

PTO Teacher Rep Report: Mrs. Bell

Freshman English teacher, Mrs. Storch is using *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Meyers and connecting that with one of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches. Students are synthesizing thoughts on characteristics of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs. Butt used *Dance, Dance, Transversal* to teach angle pairs. Mr. Wiseman visited the class and may have posted it on Twitter.

Mrs. Long is growing bacteria in biology.

Key Club will be running the annual canned food drive in November for Inter Parish Ministry.

The Berlin Global Leadership Conference will be attended by 3 MHS students and 4 Wyoming students. One of our students has applied for a scholarship. Travel destinations for this trip will be Berlin, Prague, Czech Republic, Poland, Budapest and Hungary. The theme is technology. A couple specific sights of interest are Auschwitz and Birkenau. Next year's Global

Leadership Summit, in Paris and Switzerland, will be focused on the power of communication. The speakers at this conference are amazing. The program has a growth mindset and gets better every year.

Counselor's Reports

Vicki Zaya:

Vicki is meeting students and getting to know them. She is also overseeing Campus Life. After talking with students, they have instituted changes in the morning mindful music. They played Thriller during mindfulness on Halloween. They are alternating music each day, as well.

The next advisory topic will be time management.

Students will be completing the Olweus bullying survey.

November 27th is MHS open house for current 8th graders. This replaces the open house that is normally scheduled in February.

Amanda Leszczuk:

Amanda has met with all of the seniors and reminded them of college application deadlines approaching. There have been 60 colleges visit MHS and tomorrow there will be a career chat about engineering during both lunch bells.

Principal's Report: Dr. James Renner

As mentioned at the previous PTO meeting, there were challenging with scheduling over the summer. Tonight is the first meeting of a committee formed to look at the challenges and see where we can make change to avoid so many schedule changes at the beginning of a new school year. After the completion of all of the meetings, Dr. Renner is hopeful to have a good plan to implement when scheduling this year.

The first evening of parent teacher conferences begins tomorrow and it's not too late to sign up. There is a 3rd night offered for parent teacher conferences for those high demand teachers. If there are not times available that work with your schedule, please connect with the teachers as they are always available to schedule a meeting outside of official conference nights. Additionally, you can follow the high school on Twitter to see what's going on in classrooms.

Report cards will be available online this Friday.

The recent Mariemont Academy 2 day inservice was time well spent. This is not just an average day for the teachers; it's a day for teachers to learn and grow in their profession. Already, teachers are incorporating what they learned at the inservice.

Mrs. Tackett will be on a short medical leave. Please see Mrs. Leszczuk if with any questions.

College Board reps came in last week and took a look at the 17 AP courses offered at MHS. They will share the evaluation and feedback on the MHS AP experience at a later date.

Students have been working hard preparing for the fall play, Harvey. The show will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Treasurer's Report: Melissa Taylor

Membership, donations and spirit shop are all bringing in the dollars we need to fund the myriad of events we support for teachers and students. Thank you to those who have joined and donated to MHS PTO. It is not too late to join.

If you need to make a deposit, please coordinate a time with Melissa to personally connect with her. Please do not leave any funds for deposit in her mailbox.

President's Report: Mary Anne Newman

Quick points made are:

- Membership is down compared to this time last year. Please encourage people to join regardless of ability to volunteer time.
- Sign up for Kroger Rewards. It is a huge help to the PTO at no additional cost to the Kroger consumer.
- Conference Dinner volunteer spots are nearly full. Go online, check it out and volunteer where you can.
- Hearing and Vision screening is finished.
- We still need a chair for the senior boat trip. Chandra is willing to help the new chair and has made reservations for this year.
- Open PTO Positions: Vice President, Graduation Boat Party
- September minutes and revised by-laws were distributed

A motion was made and approved to accept the September minutes. The by-laws were revised with updated membership pricing and stating meetings to be held every other month instead of every month. A motion was made and accepted to accept the new by-laws.

Discussion moved to our status as a non profit agency. Melissa Taylor will research to see if our status is current.

Committee Chair Reports

After Prom: Tara Scarborough needs help chairing this event. We are starting with decent funding due to the last minute accident at the after prom venue last year.

Spirit Shop: Spirit shop is doing well raising funds for the PTO. The Boosters gave PTO all spirit sales. PTO is excited about this opportunity and thankful to the Boosters. PTO will look at creating an online platform for spirtwear sales. PTO is also looking for someone to chair spirit wear sales next year.

Holiday Fair, Patty Dewey: Volunteer sign ups are up to date on the PTO volunteer page. The gym will be available after 7/8:00 pm. Tables will be delivered on Thursday and can be placed during the school day on Friday.

Patty requested that someone run the coloring contest. Melissa Taylor offered to run the coloring contest the night of holiday fair. The coloring contest will be different this year. Art club will judge the pictures and select winners from each grade. A random drawing will also

take place to select additional winners. Names will be announced by a junior or senior with a microphone in the gym.

Patty requested that someone take over the food sales. Discussion was presented to offer this opportunity to a school group/club/sport to take over as a fundraiser. Chick-Fil-A was a big hit last year. More will need to be ordered as last year there was not nearly enough.

Student Directory: Push membership by reminding people they can get a directory. Discussion shifted to talk of a print vs. online directory. Members stated that this is the second year for TPE to have an online directory and the first year for ME. Parents commented that while access to info is easy, access is blocked when the school year is over vs. having a paper directory, which is always available.

Discussion shifted to sports teams having difficulty coordinating coaches gifts, team dinners, etc. With final forms, we do not have access to e-mail addresses making it very difficult to coordinate supplemental activities with sports teams. People were encouraged to reach out to Tom Nerl on how to get addresses or to elect a PA (parent administrator) for each team to get the info needed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and accepted.

The next MHS PTO meeting is Wednesday, January 10th at 8:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Mikesell

