

Mariemont High School PTO Meeting Minutes  
September 6, 2017

**Attendance:** Lisa Welch, Regina Sharp, Piper Sauter, Heather Hobart, Vanessa Chu, Meg Comer, Kathy Bauer, Tessa Foley, Jeri Gatch, Ann Hobart, Kaye Zelinski, Carole Fahnestock, Amy Weiss, Patty Dewey, Julie Coates, Nan Dill, Melissa Taylor, Sarah Grimmer

**Superintendent's Report: Steve Estep**

Facilities planning is front and center. Information was mailed in the Experience newsletter and is available on the school website. Options are narrowed from 8 to 3 being

1. Keep everything as it exists and repair/upgrade as needed.
2. Hybrid renovation & rebuild: similar to Mariemont and Terrace Park Elem. projects
3. Complete tear down and new build

Along with these options, on the website you can find drawings and the cost of the options, as well as an ESTIMATED cost breakdown to property owners.

There are 100 people on 6 facility teams beginning a series of meetings tonight. The team categories are: Architectural Design, Academic/Collaboration, Arts, Athletics, Finance and Technology. These research committees will bring their recommendations to the board in early spring.

Two additional notes are that the school's Quality Profile will be mailed next week and will also be available online. The Community Scavenger Hunt will be Saturday, September 9 and will begin at Mariemont Junior High School.

**Student Council Report: Hannah Coates**

The student council is looking forward to an exciting year. The three themes they are considering for homecoming this year are: National Parks, Movies and Music. Student council will be planning spirit week, the Snow Ball, a charity event, spring fling and other fun things for students at MHS.

**PTO Teacher Rep Report: Mrs. Bell**

The Global Leadership Summit led by EF Tours was a great learning experience for those that attended. A few of the topics covered of the course of the trip were food sustainability, growing healthy foods and how to make homemade pasta.

Thank you to the PTO for the back-to-school teacher lunch. It was wonderful.

We have 100% staff participation joining the MHS PTO.

Kelsey Timmerman, author of the school-wide summer reading assignment [Where Am I Wearing](#), will be visiting the school this Friday. Luke Wiseman is planning enrichment activities for the students on this day.

The first Warrior Bell took place on Friday, September 1 where the PSAT was discussed. Counselor Zaya asked students to fill out a get to know you form. Warrior Bell groups will remain the same all year and it is the intention and hope that students will use their Warrior Bell teacher as another contact/resource for any questions or concerns they may have.

Carolina Timmerding shares that we have 2 exchange students this year: one from Argentina and the other from Germany. As well, she is proud to say we have one of our MHS students studying abroad this year: Margot Baumgartner.

The next Global Leadership Conference is next summer for any student interested. 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. These trips take students out of their comfort zones and give them a chance to take charge, interact with international students, develop leadership skills and have fun.

## **Counselor's Reports**

### **Vicki Zaya:**

Vicki is new to Mariemont this year, but not new to working with children. He came from Ursaline and brings 17 years of experience as a social worker and counselor with her.

Thank you to the PTO for the lunch provided to the freshmen for orientation. Vicki surveyed the freshman about orientation and will use their feedback when looking at planning next year's event.

Campus Life meets this Thursday.

Vicki plans to meet with all freshman by the end of the quarter and all sophomores after that. Any students wanting to meet with her can set up appointments any time.

### **Pam Tackett:**

The PSAT is coming up on Oct. 11th. It will be 7:45 - 11:00 with a fee of \$16. Students can opt out of taking the PSAT by informing Dee Walter. This is a practice test for sophomores. This test is how juniors qualify as National Merit Finalists. Kahn Academy and homework on Blackboard are two free resources that students can use to practice for this test.

We will be beginning the practice of Mindfulness on September 12 at MHS. Research shows that practicing mindfulness creates an environment of acceptance, reduces behavior problems, and increases positivity. Alpha Waves music will be played the first five minutes each morning to promote mindfulness.

Pam is a part-time counselor for our juniors and seniors. She and Amanda Leszczuk work together. Pam covers more of the social and emotional counseling and Amanda handles college and career support. Pam's typical schedule will include Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. If students would like to see Pam on one of her off days, they should speak with the guidance secretary.

The MHS counselors are now on Twitter. You can follow them @MCSDCounselors

Pam read a report form **Amanda Leszczuk**: 77 seniors attended the college application workshop. Amanda is meeting with each senior (137 total) by the end of October. Senior parents should stress college deadlines, requests in Naviance, and give a 3 week lead out.

FAFSA presentation will be September 11 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Jr. and Sr. parents should attend. The FAFSA deadline has changed to October 1st this year.

Juniors and their parents should attend a college planning meeting on Sunday, September 21 from 5-7. Students should bring laptops and college notebook. Parents should bring family calendars. There will be a similar presentation for sophomores in February.

It was mentioned that some of the leaders for the senior college workshop did not show up for the meeting which did not allow for the best experience for all of the seniors attending the workshop. The counselors are aware of this and already working on plans that would address this problem should it happen in the future.

### **Principal's Report: Dr. James Renner**

Dr. Renner thanked all of the counselors for their work in the scheduling process this year. This year was especially difficult with schedule changes this year and Dr. Renner would like to create a committee of students, parents and counselors to look at the scheduling process and make changes to avoid the last minute revisions that make it very taxing on counselors, teachers and students.

The teachers had an enriching staff retreat before beginning the school year. Teachers spent time visiting just what they are preparing students for: college and career. The staff met with the Director of Human Resources at P&G, as well as taking a tour of GE and connecting with Xavier University. Several MHS Alumni led the teachers through their experience.

The high school wants to provide leadership opportunities beyond the typical team captains and student council options. Some leadership experiences created are: a team of sophomores planned and led freshman orientation, students planned the day of enrichment with Kelsey Timmerman, service project abroad committee is open to all, the school hosts leadership chats, students planned the ALS walk last year, etc. Dr. Renner sees the school motto changing from "Scholars of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow" to "Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow."

Instructional coaching this year are Mr. Wiseman and Mrs. Leatherwood.

Open House will be September 18 at 7pm

In addition to the several points Pam Tackett made about the PSAT, Dr. Renner added that the 9th grade will take a PSAT9 test and that the seniors may be on a late arrival schedule.

### **Treasurer's Report: Melissa Taylor**

Melissa reviewed the new budget. Someone asked if PTO is paying for the Respect Retreat. We have a portion allocated for that which is listed on the budget paperwork available. Increases to the budget were made for spirit shop (increase in income), hospitality and teacher requests (increase in spending). Melissa mentioned the MHS PTO Reimbursement Form is available on the PTO website. Please send any reimbursement needs to Melissa Taylor.

### **President's Report: Malia Ridge**

Quick points made are:

- support the Community Scavenger Hunt, flyers are available if interested.

- If you have not designated MHS PTO on your Kroger Rewards account, please take the time to do so.
- We are looking to create an online directory. If anyone would like to help Tiffany Poffitt with this, please let Malia know.
- Chris Lewis will chair the Flower Fundraising
- Community Product Surveys will be Jan. 9th and May 9th. This is a great fundraising opportunity for MHS PTO.
- Open PTO Positions: Vice President, Graduation Boat Party
- All other chair positions are filled and were announced at the meeting (list attached)

Malia discussed changing the bylaws to reflect MHS PTO holding meetings every other month instead of every month. With the variety of forms of communication we use now and the general low attendance at the meetings, despite today's great turn out, the PTO board would like to meet once every other month.

A motion was made to vote for reducing meeting to every other a month, to approve the budget, to approve all committee chairs, to approve the April 2017 Meeting Minutes and to approve the August PTO Board Meeting Budget Minutes. The vote was made with all in favor. 0 opposed.

### **Committee Chair Reports**

**Snack Bar:** Snack bar runs from 2:45 - 3:15. We are using online sign-ups this year and really need volunteers to give some time to the snack bar.

**Holiday Fair:** Patty Dewey requested a second chair to holiday fair to coordinate the food offered at MHS during the holiday fair. Malia agreed that we need to find someone.

**MAA:** All proceeds made from the athletic concession stands benefit all art students in the district. MAA needs help staffing the concession stand. Please sign up online.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and accepted.

The next MHS PTO meeting is Wednesday, November 1st at 8:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Mikesell

