Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019

Mariemont Junior High PTO

Welcome & Introduction – Paola Biro

* In attendance: Amy Skinner, Ann MacRae, Malia Ridge, Brandon Beck, Kristin Wolujewicz, Paola Biro, Dina Wilder, Mark Urton, Rob Polca, and Kelley Ching

Principal’s Report – Rob Polca

* Changes to Expeditions program: adjusted the previous every-Friday schedule to 4 Fridays per session to increase impactfulness - will publish dates of each session so parents can plan appointments, etc accordingly
* 9/18/19 High School Open House to see construction progress and plans
* Warrior Bell changes: students now rotate to different classes during Warrior Bell (Mondays students go to their first bell, Tuesdays to second bell, etc). - changes made to know where students are during Warrior Bell, and to increase academic assistance during that time
* 5th Bell is now homeroom. All classes are exclusively 7th / 8th grade classes during that bell.
* Coach Joe Social Studies teacher will be out for a medical procedure. A well-qualified sub has been hired to fill in during his absence.

Counselor’s Report – Amy Skinner

* Teacher Nominations for the ribbon wreath for character traits
* Warrior Run October 5, 2019 by 1N5: 10th year; funds signs of suicide and Sources of Strength at MJHS - explained how students are chosen for Sources program leaders - students leaders are “not counselors but are the connectors”
* Relayed that teachers were very happy to have PayPal as option for payment for PTO membership

Treasurer Report – Kristin Wolujewicz

* see Budget spreadsheet
* 9/15/19 updated directory will be available online. New members will get an email to download app & get access to the directory
* Membership is down (52 this year vs 57 last year at the same time) and donations are down, so we will keep emailing reminders to encourage more families to join

PTO Report

* Membership & Reward Programs: new PayPal option is a great addition - reminder to change charity of choice reward to MJHS for these 2 quick years that students are at MJHS
* Orientation: 7th grade orientation went well; 8th graders there helping out with new students was nice - Mr. Polca & Mrs. Skinner said they noted that the 8th grade orientation could be shortened to ½ hour next year because the kids were all set and so it went quickly
* Back To School Luncheon: went well & was appreciated by all faculty and staff
* Snack Bar: volunteers are low this year. We discussed possible reasons and solutions (some new parents are overwhelmed by the seemingly crazy 10 minutes; “veteran” parents volunteered to show new volunteers the system). Perhaps we should consider setting it up as “volunteer every Monday for a month” vs daily signup slots. It will be necessary for parents to sign up if the snack bar can operate, and this is an important source of funds for the PTO.
* Conference Dinners: confusion over the PTO providing main dish for the dinners. Signup.com will be changed to reflect that parents sign up for the dishes.
* Tailgate Party—Malia Ridge: date of event is 9/27; signup online to chaperone and donate items. Mr. Polca will add the $5/students donation to the publicity for event.

Miscellaneous

* Concern raised by a parent over Account Sheets being punitive in nature. - Mr. Polca explained that the system was piloted and is used to set systematic expectations across the school. Thus far, approximately 10 students have received signatures vs the many, many without who were entered in the raffle for gift cards. He and Mrs. Skinner explained that the lost account sheet yielding a signature was a piece that may need further consideration and adjustment. Mr. Polca said he was willing to discuss this issue further outside of this meeting.

Next PTO Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at MJHS Library