**Mariemont Junior High PTO**

**Meeting Minutes — September 16, 2015**

1. **Call to Order Teresa Mikesell**

Teresa Mikesell called the meeting to order at 9:04, and thanked the board members and guests for their attendance.

**II. District Update Steve Estepp**

Mr. Estepp thanked everyone and discussed several items with the group:

* The Quality Profile for the Mariemont School District was sent out in the mail and it takes a look back at the past year and details the strategic plans for Destination 2026. The planning period is over and the implementation phase is has begun. If someone didn’t receive the postcard, it’s available online.
* The district has launched School Messenger and everyone should have received a test text. If not, they can contact the school office or Lance Hollander. In the event of an unexpected emergency, the district can communicate immediately to all parents and guardians.
* Warriors Beyond was launched late last spring. It includes initiatives that take students outside the classroom and include the Washington DC trip for eighth graders and a variety of international trips for the high school students. It’s important for parents to look ahead to these trips, and plan financially if they’re interested, as they can be pricey.

**III. Principal’s Report Molly Connaughton**

Ms. Connaughton introduced herself and asked for the people present to introduce themselves and their children. Then she discussed several items with the group:

* Lots of new things happening this year. The later start time has been really nice. New interventions have been added that have been very successful, including: focus classes for extra support and the library is now open until 4:00 to help with homework. The expeditions have been going really well. A special thanks to the community and parents for their support for these expeditions.
* Planning for the 2016 Washington DC trip has begun. Current ninth graders presented to current eighth graders about their experiences and parents meetings are underway.
* Junior High is big on communication— Junior Highlights come out every Monday with pictures and show what the students have been up to and School Scoop comes out on Fridays to let parents know what’s happening in the classes the following week.

**IV. Counselor Report Amy Skinner**

Mrs. Skinner introduced herself as the teacher representative, school counselor, and student advocate. She is available to help with any student, whether it’s academic or social.

* Nicole is a wonderful, additional resource for help with your children, who works through Child Focus. A referral is necessary, as she is paid through insurance and isn’t employed by the school.
* The Warrior Run is October 10 and this is the third year that they have partnered with the Mariemont School District. Seventh and eighth graders are competing for most participation and the winner gets to throw water balloons at Ms. Connaughton. Make sure the school knows of all student involvement— there is a link on the Warrior Run website for MJHS.
* There was discussion of holding a Day of Service where students would head out to help out in a particular area of the city. Several ideas were suggested.

**V. Treasurer’s Report Carolina Purdy**

Carolina Purdy provided the Treasurer’s Report for review.

* The Junior High isn’t doing any additional fundraisers this year and is counting on all parents sending in money as an “armchair fundraiser” when they sign up to join the PTO. We are $1200 below last year’s total. The message doesn’t seem to be getting out.
* Several ideas were suggested on how to better communicate to all parents and make donating easier. Other suggestions were made for easy fundraisers, such as Amazon Smile, Target, and Kroger.

**VI. Warrior Coalition Melanie Stutenroth**

Melanie said that the next Warrior Coalition Meeting is on Monday, September 21 at the Terrace Park Community Building at 7:00 and encouraged all community members to attend. She discussed the importance of connecting to junior high aged children and how helping them implement strategies can be very helpful.

**VII. Book Fair Amy Weiss**

Last year the book fair netted a total of $100 in Scholastic money. Ms. Connaughton made some alternative suggestions that would be more productive than the book fair. Other opportunities are being researched to replace the book fair. Teresa Mikesell made a motion to cancel the book fair, it was seconded, and everyone agreed.

**VIII. President’s Report Teresa Mikesell**

* Volunteer Spot is up and running for all parents to sign up for volunteer responsibilities throughout the year. Word needs to get out about Volunteer Spot and Teresa asked those present to tell friends.
* Teresa thanked everyone who helped with Junior High Orientation.
* The first dance of the year is scheduled for Friday, September 25 from 6:30-8:30, it will be outside or, in the even of rain, it will be held in the gym. There will be face painting, soccer, and cornhole. Admission is $5 and includes pizza. Please see Volunteer Spot to help with drinks and snacks.

**IX. Conclusion / Minutes / Adjournment**

* Molly invited everyone for a tour of the school.
* Upon motion by Teresa Mikesell, and seconded by Meg Comer, the September 2015 minutes were approved. The meeting was adjourned.