

August 30th, 2016
MLS PTO Board Meeting Agenda

Board Members Present: Carleen Kupcis, Sarah Kelsey, Beth McCarthy, Stacey Carden, Melissa Hoover, Elizabeth Wertheim, Amanda Beresford, Peggy Williams, Christina Keller, Cheryl Wetmore-Simpson, Mike Irani

I. PTO Member-at-Large Comments

Sarah noted that all PTO members are welcome to attend the board meetings.. IF we happen to get a lot of parent representatives that would like to speak, we may have to implement a time limit.

Carleen asked all board members to please submit your reports ahead the board meeting. This is to give all board members time to review your report so that we can have a productive discussion at meetings.

II. Secretary's Report: Beth Wertheim

- Mindfulness Funding Vote took place via email. It passed with no Nays recorded.
- Although the vote passed the board will wait until the winter holiday to fund the program.

III. Principal's Report: Mike Irani

Thank you for organizing the kindergarten popsicle play date and thank you to the Hospitality Committee for the faculty breakfast. He said that both events were a great way to begin the year.

Notes about Funding- It was an unexpected, yet amazing scenario last year when the PTO was able to provide funds for all of three of the funding priorities. As we go forward, we need to make sure not to put a burden on the MLS families with too many requests.

1.

PD fund- if we stay on the same track this could potentially move from a 3 year to a 2 year cycle.

2.

The new interactive boards will be arriving Sept 6 and we are hoping to get them into rooms by Sept 9. A decision was made for all of the boards to be on wheels.

Currently the boards will be located in the following classrooms: Ms. Franco, Ms. Thomas, Ms. La Fleur, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Brodie (sharing with Ms. Wetmore-Simpson), Ms. Brann (French).

3.

The Fitness Lab at Henley is very intriguing. A mini fitness lab at Meriwether would a great benefit for the students. It could also be used as a break space for certain students that find PE overwhelming. Potentially this could be located at the back of the stage, the curtains can be shut and used as a partition to remove light and sound (similar to Hollymead). Mr. Massie has been asked to come up with potential ideas.

Peggy mentioned that Jeff Toms (a Meriwether parent and PE teacher at Henley) was very involved in creating the Fitness Lab at Henley and could be a great resource.

4.

The Project Based Learning Fund will soon be available; it has \$7000 in it.. The initial thought was for each each grade level and specialists to receive an additional \$1000. However, this system no longer works because of our new mixed grade levels. The new plan is for each teacher to be given \$250 (teachers can combine funds to stretch their money even further if they wish).

5.

Please take the time to look at the Bond referendum. It will be a BIG deal at the upcoming election. Please encourage everyone to pay attention.

-Sarah asked if the PTO should adopt an official stance.

-After some discussion, it was decided that the PTO should be neutral. It should be a priority to educate fellow parents, but they should feel free to vote either way.

IV. Faculty Representative Report: Cheryl Wetmore Simpson

Thank you for the lovely faculty breakfast. Also, the teachers really enjoyed the smoothie truck.

A survey was taken to find out what types of food the staff prefers; the information will be passed on to the Hospitality Committee for future events.

12 classrooms already have their Art Print volunteers set up. Other teachers have asked their parents but are still waiting to have volunteers sign up.

Carleen noted that Art Print volunteers were accidentally left off of the volunteer form. The plan is for teachers to ask for volunteers again on Back to School Night.

Mrs. Parmalee is checking in on printing cartridges. Once the budget is approved, they will be ordered within 48 hours.

The faculty is happy with the quick turnaround with receipts.

Melissa mentioned that if it isn't causing a hardship, to please ask the teachers to wait until they have \$50+ before submitting receipts.

I love having activities for parents/families that do not cost money so that everyone is included.

V. Co-President's Report: Sarah Kelsey and Carleen Kupcis (please refer to report)

- Classroom Funds
- Bluebirds Care
- Box-Tops Receptacle

Dan Arrington came to Sarah and Carleen to ask about replacing the current container used for collecting Box-Tops. Dr. Irani said that it would be okay for the replacement to be a wooden box be installed on the wall. The slot needs to be large enough and emptied regularly. Peggy and Christina will reach out in the next Meriwether Matters to see if someone would like to volunteer to make it at home according to specific dimensions (and perhaps design approval).

- Open Positions – Yearbook

We have yet to fill this position.

Amanda can try to ask the volunteer list for a committee chair to organize the effort. In the past, it has been typical that fifth grade parents handle the yearbook. Could the fifth grade coordinators could reach out directly to the parents?

- E-Zone (Alternatives to SPEAK and Related Logistics & Admins)

Teachers and TA's serve as admins to make sure kids get to where they need to be. There was a small stipend, however teachers can no longer get paid while still on the clock. Perhaps TA's could help b/c they are not technically on the clock.

They will continue work on this plan, if anyone has any ideas or suggestions please reach out to Carrie. Parent volunteers?

Carrie would like us to look into an alternatives to the speak program of the past. Let's invite Carrie to a board meeting to explain her thoughts.

- Art-Print

moving on in the interest of time

VI. Co-VP's Report: Stacey Carden and Beth McCarthy (please refer to report)

(Stacey) inquired about the location of the VP mailbox. There is a large wooden mailbox located in the office workroom, with folders for each committee.

VII. Treasurer's Report: Melissa Hoover (please refer to report)

- 2016/2017 Budget Proposal

Notes about report:

- The first 2 pages of the report are fund raising efforts and the following 2 pages are the services we provide.
- "same" means that it is reasonable to expect the same amount coming in again this year.
- Fun Fair—we make a little more than \$ 2, 500, but we have a large problem if it rains. - Therefore, it is looked at as income that we can not count on.
- It is important to make sure that this year's proposed budget and all future proposed budgets are not approved solely because they are expected to be approved. She would like time to be allotted in the agenda each year before the incoming chairs take their positions to make certain that the budget is reviewed in depth.

Vote

Beth McCarthy motioned to pass the 2016-17 Proposed Budget and to put it up for a vote at the Back to School Night PTO meeting. Stacey Carden seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with no Nays recorded.

VIII. Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Amanda Beresford (please refer to the report)

- We are still in need of parent volunteers for Art Print.
- Cheryl will ask the teachers to make sure to ask for volunteers at Back to School Night.

IX. Communication Coordinators' Report: Christina Keller and Peggy Williams

- Everything is going great!

ATTACHED:

*Please review written reports prior to the meeting. Copies of the agenda will be provided but please bring a laptop or copies of the additional materials for your reference.

IMPORTANT DATES:

9/7, 8:00 coffee chat - PTO Budget proposal and school improvement plan

9/9, 6:00-9:00 Kids' Night Out

9/13, 6:00-8:00 Back To School Night

9/16, 6:30 Movie Night... Under the stars