



Merryhill Midtown- Parent Teacher Student Organization

Minutes of the October 1, 2020 MMPTSO General Meeting

I. Welcome- Priya Chisholm

The meeting was called to order at 5pm. Priya stated that due to Covid 19 County Health Regulations, the meeting will take place virtually. Participants were asked to write their full name and grade level in the chat for attendance purposes. Furthermore, there was a link to a digital attendance sheet posted in the chat box to capture all attendees who filled out the form.

Present: Priya Chisolm (President), Melissa Chechourka (Vice President), Stacey Edgar (Treasurer), Jackie Simon (Secretary), and Elaine Wesphal (Head of School). Other attendees listed in alphabetical order: Miguel Aguallo, Nicole Bilich, Sally Chow, Ali Cooper, Jennifer Cuny, Kristy Dias, Costa Dimitriades, Caroline Dunn, Nichole Gerdts, Tarah Gold, Jessica Gonzalez, Brittany Hoey, Morgan Lefforge, Jessica Mills, Yoko Mortel, Shellie Nast, Diana Nguyen, Shephali Patel, Sarah Rudes, Adriana Smith, Rosemarie Speth, Leslie Stribling, Dashi Suzuki, Kim Tanimoto, Stacy Toledo, Gurjeet Toor, and Katie Vavao.

II. Approval of the May Meeting Minutes- Priya Chisholm

The minutes for the September 3, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Treasurer Report- Stacey Edgar

- A. Review of current finances- The total balance as of 9/29/20 is \$7853.96 with a membership count of 96 or 82% of last year's membership total. Monthly deposits were reviewed including \$750 for the School Cents program which was mailed to the prior treasurer.
- B. There were no expenses. A refund of \$400 will be issued from Challenge Success for the virtual event recently held which cost less than the original price paid last year, but postponed due to Covid.
- C. There were no questions or discussion.
- D. The Treasurer's report included 2 attachments:
 - a. July 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020

- b. 2020-21 MMPTSO Actual vs Budget

IV. Membership Status- Priya Chisholm

Our current membership is at 99 members. Thank you to everyone who has signed up and paid.

V. Event Fundraising- Melissa Chechourka

A. Dinner Nights

- a. Some partnerships are available for fundraising, but many businesses are not hosting fundraisers due to the economy during Covid.
- b. Requests have been made for Mountain Mike's pizza locations in Natomas, Elk Grove and Roseville for the week of 10/26/20. If those events work out, we will try additional options.
- c. If families have other ideas, please share that information with Melissa.

B. Fleet Feet- Stacy Toledo and Dominique Williams

- a. This fundraiser is running in conjunction with our RTFH virtual event which Dominique is leading.
- b. Stacy spoke with the contact at Fleet Feet and the company is willing to host a fundraiser for 1 month with 10% donation for all 3 in-store purchases at the following locations: Sacramento, Davis, and Elk Grove. There is no minimum purchase amount required.
- c. Customers need only show a digital or printed copy of the flyer. Stacy will work with Ms. Kennedy and the store to create the flyer.

C. Leatherby's Spirit Night- Stacy Toledo

- a. Stacy reached out to Leatherby's on social media to make a request for MH to be a "school of the week." Merryhill is on the list to be a school of the week for Merryhill families to get a FREE kids burger and fries when they wear school logo wear to a Leatherby location. The list is quite long, so our week is not yet determined.
- b. It is unknown which location our school will be assigned.

VI. Grade Representatives- Jackie Simon

A. Item tabled from May 7, 2020 and September 3, 2020 meeting re: 4th grade Shoparoo party.

- a. According to current 5th grade teachers, there are 30 children from 2019-2020 school year who are still in attendance at MH including OA students.

- b. If the idea is \$5 gift cards for 30 students, that would be \$150. The budget was set at \$80. Leatherby's is a possibility given they are supporting a school spirit week in the future for our school.
 - c. Gift Cards could be sent via email to save on postage. There was open discussion about the company, price of gift cards, and cost of postage. Further discussion acknowledged that getting mail for a child is fun, and would be the recommendation.
 - d. Jackie volunteered to stamp and decorate the envelopes and deliver the gift cards to Michelle for mailing.
 - e. Melissa Chechourka motioned to spend \$175 for gift cards and postage.
 - f. Stacy Toledo seconded the motion.
 - g. Votes were verbal. 0 No votes, 0 abstentions, all voted Yes. Motion carries.
 - h. Priya explained why voting was counted this way at this meeting.
- B. Item tabled from May 7, 2020 and September 3, 2020 meeting re: 4th grade Box Top party. No discussion. Party was held and reimbursements were made.
- C. Questions from Grade Representatives- All grades have at least 2 representatives. MMPTSO has changed to Grade Representatives rather than Class Representatives due to Covid and the reconfigurations of school schedules.

VII. Special Committee- Bylaw Updating- Jackie Simon

- A. Volunteers for committee- Given the current pandemic, our bylaws are out of date because they do not accommodate for virtual meetings, virtual voting, etc. We need to update them to be able to maintain our non-profit status. We have a former parent willing to help serve as a consultant because she is currently working on her sorority updates. We need a few volunteers to work for 2-3 meetings to make the updates. Kim Tanimoto, Miguel Aguillo, and Caroline Dunn volunteered to help.
- B. Zoom meetings begin Tuesdays after 6pm beginning the 2nd week of October.
- C. There was some discussion of using the polling feature in Zoom for voting. There was some discussion that volunteers who are familiar with the feature could help.

VIII. Recent Events- Stacey Edgar

- A. Meet and Greet- There was a Meet and Greet for anyone who would like to learn about being a Grade Rep. There were at least 20 attendees and a lot of new faces. We shared ideas and discussed how we have managed this task in the past.
- B. Challenge Success- Around 87 participants. There was discussion that the timing of this event was great given the current pandemic.
 - a. Flexibility is key to managing stress.
 - b. The meeting was recorded and the link will be in this Sunday's newsletter.
 - c. Be sure to check in with your student's teacher(s) and to discuss concerns and keep lines of communication open.
 - d. General appreciation for the topic and the recording.
- C. Discussion not on the agenda-
 - a. There was a question posed in the chat, "Will we be addressing the school opening now that we are in the next tier and schools will be opening in the next 2 weeks?"
 - b. Ms. Westphal said she does not have anything prepared as it was not on the agenda and the situation changes rapidly. There was a brief update in the Sunday newsletter. The waiver was sent and the County notified the school that the waiver was moved on to the State level for approval. She expects the process to be quick, but it's unknown at this time how long it will take. Two week notifications will go out to families and school will resume once it makes sense, but there is no firm date that can be announced at this time. There is a staff work day coming up, which will be utilized to prepare for reopening. Once there is a date, notification to families will go out and there will be an opening guide released as well. 6th-8th is likely to return soon also if we stay in the current health tier, so adjustments are being made. The guide is approximately 25 pages with maps, pictures and a plan to review. Evening meetings will also be scheduled via Zoom for parents to ask questions.

IX. Upcoming Events- Priya Chisholm

- A. Run to Feed the Hungry is 11/26/20 and is virtual. Contact Dominique Williams for more information to join the Merryhill Midtown Team (refer to the flyer previously sent out). There was some discussion of coordinating this event with the PE teachers because they are looking for creative ways

to get kids moving (ex. walking with their pets). Flyer will be in an upcoming Sunday newsletter. Staff will also receive the flyer.

B. Magic Show- sponsored by PTSO on October 27th at 5pm. Prepare items and learn some tricks and watch the show (refer to flyer sent previously).

C. Halloween activities- Jessica and Nicole Bilich- There was a lot of discussion including:

- a. A virtual costume contest and a front porch contest.
- b. PTSO could make Halloween hunt bags for students for parents to pick up and hide items, but logistics could be difficult for handling items. Precautions for handling items for 300 bags is a lot of work. Is there a consensus of whether parents want bags of goodies? Currently, there is no food sharing or group activities allowed on campus outside of cohorts.
- c. Scavenger hunt card- find decorations in your neighborhood and turn in your card for a prize.
- d. Bingo cards
- e. There was a suggestion that Grade Reps coordinate class activities with the teacher whether classes are on campus or not.
- f. Parents commented in the chat:
 - OMG love the porch idea.
 - I love the hunt idea
 - Can we sell the bag of “Halloween eggs” for a nominal amount as a fundraiser?
 - No bag please :)
 - It all sounds good.
 - I love the other virtual suggestions tho
 - Halloween Bingo... Or maybe an online costume contest? We zoom in as a class? I don't know if that is even possible.
 - bingo, no bag
 - Personally, no bag
 - love the other virtual ideas but don't need a bag
 - Bag not virtual
 - I like the scavenger hunt idea
 - My kid is over virtual
 - I would prefer to see any budget/donations go to prizes for the costume/porch contests
 - I love that suggestion... age appropriate activities :)
 - @katievavao me too!

- I do like the porch costume idea:)
 - g. Melissa Chechourka made a motion for the PTSO to sponsor a Halloween decorating contest.
 - h. Morgan Lefforge seconded the motion.
 - i. Votes were verbal. 0 No votes, 0 abstentions, all voted Yes. Motion carries.
 - j. Jessica, Nicole, and Jackie will work on a flyer for contest ideas and parameters.
 - k. Ms. Westphal mentioned that drive-by photos or videos would be fun to put into a video shared with the parents, as long as it's a student activity.
 - l. There was additional discussion including: have students decorate a "SPACE" just a door, or a room, or a porch (inside or outside).
- D. Pumpkin Contest- Jackie Simon- PTSO is supporting the School Librarian, Leanne Morano, to promote the Character Pumpkin contest via the Grade Reps.
- E. Trimester Teacher Appreciation- (11/13)- Jackie Simon- Ms. Westphal is ok with a food truck for an Appreciation event. Budget for TAP was \$1300 for the year. A parent mentioned a Belgian Waffle truck which she nor I have been able to reach via phone. Tarah and Jackie will work on the event.

X. **Resources- Priya Chisholm-** Resources were reviewed as listed in the agenda.

XI. Miscellaneous- Priya Chisholm

- A. Request by parent to revisit the gift card party. A parent requested that all students in 5th grade be included in the celebration so that new kids do not feel left out. Ms. Westphal stated that there are no more than 10 kids. OA kids not from Merryhill do not apply, so we do not need to worry about none MH students. There are 44 5th graders, which would require a larger budget than previously approved.
- B. A parent offered to make a donation to offset the expense.
- C. Rosemarie Speth made a motion to increase the allotment for the Shoparoo gift cards to be increased to no more than \$250 to include all 44 5th graders and postage, thus making the prior motion in the meeting obsolete.
- D. Morgan Lafforge seconded the motion.
- E. Votes were verbal. 0 No votes, 0 abstentions, all voted Yes. Motion carries. Jackie and Stacey will work on getting this completed.

Meeting is adjourned at 6:12pm.

Submitted by Jackie Simon, Secretary _____