



Merryhill Midtown- Parent Teacher Student Organization

## **Minutes of the January 7, 2021 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 rename themselves with their full name and grade level 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), Stacey Edgar (Treasurer), Jackie Simon (Secretary), and Elaine Westphal (Head of School). Student Government Representatives were: Sadie Westphal (Secretary) and Copeland Williams (Spirit Coordinator). Other attendees listed in alphabetical order: Veronica Angin, Lauren Celello, Sally Chow, Jen Cuny, Nicole Gerdts, Morgan Lefforge, Jessica Mills, Yoko Mortel, Shephali Patel, Diana Nguyen, Sarah Rudes, Sam Smalls, Rosemarie Speth, Monique Stovall, Kim Tanimoto, Stacy Toledo, Joseanna Tse, and Amber Williams.

### **II. Approval of the May Meeting Minutes- Priya Chisholm**

The minutes for the November 5, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **III. Update from Administration- Elaine Westphal**

- A. Ms. Westphal discussed that Priority Registration starts on Monday, January 11, 2021. A notification was sent via email on Wednesday, please read and review. This year documents are signed via “docusign.” The communication is sent to the primary account holder for the link for each student. Each registration will be prompted to pay after docusign is completed. Docusign and payment MUST be completed by January 22, 2021 before enrollment is confirmed. Enrollment T-shirts are being handed out. Make sure to size up for next year.
- B. Mr. Kennedy is kicking off a 2021 challenge related to fitness goals. Watch for this in an upcoming newsletter.

- C. Two parent information sessions will be held via Zoom at the end of the month hosted by child rearing professionals. Separate sessions will be geared toward primary/elementary students and middle schoolers.
- D. Starting this month, the first Friday of the month will be a Distance Learning Day. This will give an extra day for staff to be able to meet with students, conference with parents, and give students the opportunity to check in with staff as needed.
- E. Question from Jackie Simon about the outcome of the “Good Job Raffle.” Ms. Westphal stated that the raffle went really well and it will be featured in the yearbook. It had a game show theme which live streamed into the classrooms during professional development.

Priya Chisholm acknowledged that Student Council representatives are present and asked for them to update members as needed. Sadie Westphal explained that they have not had a meeting since the last PTSO meeting, but they are scheduled to meet the first Friday of each month moving forward. Ms. Westphal shared that the opportunity for Student Council to meet across grade levels together is a benefit to the first Friday distance learning day. No updates for Give Back Bingo or the mask project at this time.

#### **IV. Treasurer Report- Stacey Edgar**

- A. Review of current finances- The total balance as of 12/01/20 is \$9764.66. Monthly deposits reviewed included a \$606.00 deposit for the See’s Candy Fundraiser. Expenses included 1st trimester Teacher Appreciation and custodial gift cards.
- B. Upon Stacey’s request for comment, Jackie Simon briefly mentioned that she would like to talk with Ms. Westphal and Amber Williams (8th grade representative) to discuss Spring See’s fundraising to make money quickly for the 8th grade experience that has yet to be determined. Priya Chisholm clarified that the money was raised in less than 1 week.
- C. Ongoing fundraising collections were mentioned briefly. No update on Mountain Mike’s fundraising. Minted fundraiser raised \$330.00. The check should be received within 3 weeks.
- D. Stacey Edgar pointed out that our budget is \$3000 in the black, which is a wonderful outcome given the year that we are experiencing.
- E. The Treasurer’s report included 2 attachments:
  - a. July 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020
  - b. 2020-21 MMPTSO Actual vs Budget
- F. No questions were asked regarding the budget.

## **V. Special Committee- Bylaw Updating- Jackie Simon**

- A. The committee participants were acknowledged. Kim Tanimoto has been very diligently working on creating and editing the documents. All members are encouraged to review the by-law documents and come to the February meeting prepared to discuss and make recommendations. Jackie Simon put her email in the chat and encouraged members send questions in advance if desired.
- B. Priya Chisholm explained that the documents she shared are a comparison of the original and revised by-laws and SOPs (standard operating procedures). Furthermore, she explained that the documents should be understood as bylaws are written broadly and SOPs are the minutiae or “nitty gritty” of operating the organization.
- C. Sam Smalls agreed with that explanation and thought that members should keep that in mind when they review the documents.

## **VII. Recent Events- Priya Chisholm**

- A. Merryhill donated a record breaking 476 stuffed animals were collected and delivered to the Sacramento Food Bank. Ms. Westphal was thanked for her willingness to facilitate the drive-thru collection.

## **VIII. Upcoming Events- Priya Chisholm**

- A. Virtual Bingo Night- Adriana Smith and Morgan Lefforge are hosting a game night on 1/22/21 from 6:30-7:30pm for all grade levels. Print out the bingo sheet in advance and hang out with families and friends virtually. Great prizes are sponsored by the PTSO!
- B. Second Trimester Teacher Appreciation- Shellie Nast and Cathy Senderling have volunteered for the event scheduled for the beginning of March.
- C. Online Dangers Seminar- Shephali Patel shared that she did not yet have a date for the FBI online safety seminar, but hoped to share some options by the next meeting.
  - a. Stacey Edgar asked if this event is strictly for adults? Shephali explained that she will ask for very clear guidelines on who should attend the event. This is a standard FBI presentation. There are some predatory online behaviors discussed that may not be appropriate for young ears and she was trying to be agreeable and not request a “tailored” discussion. It will be a Zoom format.

## IX. New Business- Priya Chisholm

- A. Question/Comments in the chat:
  - a. Comment: Bingo will be featured in the newsletter the weekend before, too
  - b. Questions: Is there a due date for the kindness bingo cards to be submitted for all of the grades?
  - c. Response: Nicole — funny, I can't find a due date anywhere! I will add a reminder in the newsletter this weekend but anytime next week is fine. We are still collecting them.
- B. Jackie Simon asked for feedback from Ms. Westphal, Student Council and 8th grade in general about how we might celebrate graduation in a pandemic. Some outdoor options might include ziplining or a ropes course. How would kids like to celebrate graduation if they can not go on a field trip to Disneyland, Six Flags, etc?
  - a. Sadie Westphal said she thinks it [ziplining] is a great idea and she would be happy to take it back to the Student Council and her grade to discuss.
  - b. Copeland also likes to zipline.
  - c. Sam Smalls mentioned iFly as an option. However, it is very expensive and it's indoors.
  - d. Priya Chisholm mentioned that she checked on the Westwind drive-in theater. The quote was \$7500 for 75-150 for a Monday through Thursday movie experience and \$12,500 for a weekend movie.
  - e. Posted in the chat: <https://quarrypark.com/>
- C. Teacher Appreciation Week will be synced with the National Teacher Appreciation Week from May 3-7.

Next meeting is on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Meeting is adjourned at 5:33pm.

Submitted by Jackie Simon, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_