

Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting  
January 15, 2020  
8:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order Moira Aulbach  
Meeting called to order at 8:46 am with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcome to all the new faces at the meeting today.
2. Approval of the November 13 Meeting Minutes Kelly Latona  
No changes noted minutes approved as written.
3. Treasurer's Report Allison Carey  
See report attached.  
Payment (outflow) went out for book fair \$2177.58 It looks like a negative because inflow was in Oct prior to this cash flow snapshot. Other significant out flows include payment to Rec center of \$705 for pool for 8<sup>th</sup> grade rec, reimbursement of \$161.22 for Do Sabol for health and safety/ care and comfort, liability insurance of \$179, and \$529.84 for Ball program from Mr McCann (Ball A VisX) to help w focus and calming for his and other advisory groups. Possible will need to spend more on extra supplies in the future.
4. Faculty Representative Amanda Saxman  
**Mrs. Jordaan - FCS - The FCS Enrichment class was able to donate \$800 to Kyle Nguyen, a student at the high school who is suffering from Leukemia, as a result of their entrepreneur project where they had to develop, advertise, produce and sell a product.**  
  
**Ms. Marino - Band - Two 8th grade band students were selected for PMEA Jr. High District Band which will be held in March at Montour High School. Julia Schwertfuehrer and Molly Kubilius.**  
  
**Mrs. Rankin - Chorus - Mellon's Cabaret will be held on Thursday, Feb 20 @ 7:30 in the Mellon auditorium. Auditions are on January 22 and 23 after school.**  
  
**Mr. Mikesell - 6th grade World and Its People - We have advisory groups in our middle school and currently I have 12 students that range from 6-8 grade. We meet once a week to hold each other accountable and learn about one another. The idea is for students to have at least one adult they are comfortable with and can trust. We will be together as a small group until they move on to high school. In my group, we talk about life lessons, family issues, celebrations, grades, progress in school, social things, etc. Before the holidays, we created a partnership with a local long-term care facility, Manor Care on Greentree Road. After discussing with their Activities Director, we excitedly agreed to bake cookies and get gifts for 12 residents. However, the outpour of support from various families, we managed to get gifts for 61 residents on two floors! We had 10**

students, 4 adults and 3 children under the age of 5. No doubt, Mellon students and families represented well sitting with these residents and making change in the world one person, one day at a time. What a GREAT way to start the holiday break.

We met after break and are excited to share that we have started a cross-generational relationship and are already planning a February visit. I recently purchased canvas' to create artwork that we can share with the residents on our next visit. Each week I stress the importance of time and how it is so easy to give. I truly believe our students understand the concept of time and using it to benefit others.

As always, thank you for supporting the teacher and students here at Mellon

Mrs. Kollar - Writing Lab - **Congratulations to the finalists in the annual Promising Young Writers Contest sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. Out of the 58 8th grade participants, who were nominated by their language arts teachers, Leah Bailey, Kate Mooney, and Brooke Murawski were selected as the three writers to represent Mellon in the national competition. Congratulations also to the honorable mention writers Nadia d'Arrigo and Kamryn Natale. All five ladies will see their work published in this year's literary magazine. Thanks also to the Mellon English department teachers who served as judges.**

**Mrs. Kollar's Academic Lab classes visited the art galleries at the Mt. Lebanon library last Friday to view the artwork and create poems based on the art. They will welcome artists Brett Mason and Lisa Rasmussen this Friday for a short presentation by the artists, then the students will share their poetry with the artists. Many thanks to the library and our guest artists, as well as our Mellon staff and adult writing volunteers, for supporting this project!**

Mr. Holliday - US History 8 - **HAMILTON and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History  
Bring Hands-On Learning to History**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and HAMILTON are pleased to announce the launch of a pilot program this fall with 76 participating schools from across the country, including Mellon Middle School. Middle school students will have access to the education program for the first time. They will join high school students who will engage in a custom-designed education program that integrates the study of American history with the performing arts. Among the program features they will have access to are a wealth of materials on the #EduHamOnline website, including information about more than 45 Founding Era figures, 14 events and 24 key documents, as well as 175 supporting documents, video clips from HAMILTON and more. As with the current iteration of the Hamilton Education Program, students will be encouraged to use their newfound knowledge to create original pieces -- a song, rap, spoken word or scene -- at the end of their classroom studies.

The pilot program is being funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, which generously provided the seed funding for the creation of the Hamilton Education Program in 2016.

Mrs. Coughy - 6th grade Literature - **Mrs. Tanner and I are looking forward to pilot a new book titled Crossover by Kawme Alexander.**

Mrs. Snyder - Tech Ed teacher - **We received a grant from MLFE (Mount Lebanon Foundation for Education) for a little more than \$1,400 to create a Mellon school store**

that will be included as part of the Makerspace. We hope the store will provide practical experiences for life skills students, a place for FCS students to sell their goods that they develop in the entrepreneur unit, and for student council fundraisers. Maybe it can be of some use for the PTA as well?

## 5. Executive Committee Reports

### a. President's Report

Moira Aulbach

- With the holiday break and no meeting in December, there's not much to report.
- Immediately following this meeting, high school guidance counselors will meet with 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents about the transition to high school. If you know of people who could not attend this morning's meeting, please let them know that the same information will be presented at the high school curriculum night which is coming up on January 30 at 7pm. This week, Mr. Wolfson and I will be going to the elementary schools to meet with 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents about the transition to middle school. We also have an evening session tomorrow evening at 6pm in the MMS Auditorium.
- I attended a meeting with Dr. Davis on 11/20 and here are some key points from that meeting:
  - Relay for Life Luminaria sale by the district to support the American Cancer Society. The goal was to line the main entrance of the HS and all of Mt. Lebanon and it was a success! A huge thank you to Bonnie Dougherty Council President, who chaired the Luminary sale for the SD. Bonnie added that they sold approx. 300 and with the township sale was practically 1000 total luminaria kits. The proceeds will benefit the 4 teams of MTL families who have been directly affected by cancer this year including 2 HS students, Mr McFeeley and Senora Quinteras.
  - Flexible Instruction Days – first have to use any built-in make up days on our calendar (Feb. 17). FID's will be used for artic vortex (extremely cold) days only. Teachers will report to school and be available online and in person for certain hours. Looking at office hours of 10-12 and 1-3.
  - MTLSD received a Crime and Delinquency Grant for \$70k to support individual therapy for kids in need in the District.
  - Graduation guidelines adjusted – new honors course – Chorus in the fall of 2020. Act 158 changes related to the Keystone Exam guidelines. Adding alternative pathways for graduation in place of Keystone Exams.

- Matt's Makerspaces coming to JMS and MMS due to a very generous grant from the Conover Family.
- There's a new social and emotional learning room at the high school called the "Mind Den."

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| b. First VP's Report  | Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer |
| none                  |                          |
| c. Second VP's Report | Diane Rattay             |
| none                  |                          |
| d. Third VP's Report  | Chris Wolfson            |

PTA Meeting Principal's Report

January 15, 2020

MMS Cafeteria

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
Go Zone Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go Zone is clearly marked with green curb</li> <li>• Noticed several U-Turns in the Go Zone on morning duty</li> <li>• Might be helpful to put something in the PTA Newsletter about Go Zone safety and driving around the school</li> </ul>
Online Course Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Window for online course selection is 1/31 - 2/5 (MS &amp; HS)</li> <li>• Course recommendations being made for mathematics</li> <li>• Completed through Dashboard</li> <li>• Will send an eblast with more information</li> </ul>
Updated Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Hernandez is returning for 7th grade learning support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thank you to Mr. Colicchie</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mr. Monahan is returning to 8th grade learning support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thank you to Ms. Lewis!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mrs. Bantghe will be taking over the ABA - Life Skills classroom</li> <li>• 2nd Semester Sabatticals               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Bello in Lit 7 - Welcome to Mrs. Graybill</li> <li>○ Mrs. Tomer in Library - Welcome to Mrs. Doult-Wargo</li> <li>○ Mrs. Koblentz in German - Welcome to Ms. Larchuk</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Matt's Makerspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to the Conover family for a generous \$25,000 grant being matched by the school district to expand Makerspace programming in both middle schools</li> <li>• Practical Arts is currently planning and designing facilities and programming in both middle schools</li> </ul>
TeenScreen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary mental health and well-being screening provided by Outreach</li> <li>• Deadline to register is today! (1/15/20)</li> </ul>

Important Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/16 - 5th Grade Transition Meetings</li> <li>• 1/17 - 5th Grade Transition Meetings</li> <li>• 1/17 - end of Semester</li> <li>• 1/20 - Classroom Management Day - No School for Students</li> <li>• 1/21 - Teacher In-Service - No School for Students</li> <li>• 1/31 - 2/5 - Online Course Selection Window</li> <li>• 2/4 &amp; 2/5 - Locomotion e-Mission in Science Class</li> <li>• 2/6 &amp; 2/7 - Racers e-Mission in Science Class</li> </ul>
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e. Secretary's Report

Kelly Latona

Please sign in

f. Historian's Report

Linda Harrold

None

## 6. Committee Reports

a. Council Delegate

Natalie Kukla

Report given by Moira Aulbach

PTA Council Meeting – 1/8:

b. February 11 is the annual PTA meeting with the MLEA. Let me know of any questions you may have for the MLEA.

c. Reminder that volunteers have to have their driver's licenses available to give to the school secretary to enter a building to volunteer.

d. PTA Council looking into creating a District Fundraising page on the website that would provide everyone with information on school-related fundraisers **only**.

e. Dr. Steinhauer's Report:

i. Compostable trays in Elementary and Middle school cafeteria one day a week beginning in January.

ii. Lebo Parent University coming up on January 27 from 7-9:15pm. Online sign up for courses very easy. (brochure)

iii. There has been an international influx of students into the MTLSD. A parent group has been created and is meeting regularly.

iv. The School Board welcomed 3 new school board members: Justin Hackett, Jacob Wyland and Valerie Fleisher.

v. Flex Days – 72/500 schools in PA were approved. One email will go out by 10am from the Homeroom teacher only at the Elementary schools. Middle and HS will be on dashboard by 10am.

f. Community Reports:

- i. MTL Magazine: 3 new commissioners. Communication survey sent out by the municipality determined that folks are mostly happy with the forms of communication that they receive. Top 3 modes of communication are: MTL, mt.lebo.org website and LeboAlerts.
- ii. Outreach: Vaping 101 class for parents. And, they are offering help to coaches/AD's in helping student athletes deal with stress.
- iii. Police: ALICE Training going on. Police are teaching a Vaping class to 7<sup>th</sup> graders.
- iv. Library: MLK day activities. K Readiness – working on a program with Mr. Ramsey on helping preschoolers get ready for Kindergarten. Lots of programing available at the library – check out the website!

7. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition

Melissa Bailey/Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

We usually do a pool party for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the end of the year. This year it will be held June 5 from 12-3. The pool, pavilion, and buses are arranged. PTA gives us \$900 with the cost of pool rising it doesn't leave much left. We will be sending out a link soon to ask for both financial help and for volunteers to help organize and to be there day of event. Please email Melissa Bailey to put our name on list for volunteering. You will need casual clearance and you can stop by school to fill out the paperwork. Her email will be provided on the link that will be emailed to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents.

8. Old Business

none

9. New Business

Nominating Committee

Per our bylaws, we have to elect a 5 person Nominating Committee which consists of Mr. Wolfson (appointed) and 4 other members, one from each of Mellon's feeder schools. Kiersten Lane (Howe), Mary Klaber (Washington), Ann Bozick (Markham) and Diane Rattay (Foster) have agreed to serve in this capacity. Open positions include: Treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. If you are interested in any of those positions, feel free to talk to one of the committee members. Motion made by Melissa Bailey to accept nominating committee, seconded by Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer.

## 10. Adjournment

At 9:22 am

### Attendees

1. Diane Rattay
2. Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer
3. Melissa Bailey
4. Linda Harrold
5. Sally Ellwein
6. Karen Rapkin
7. Katie Shaw
8. Caroline Lasek
9. Bonnie Dougherty
10. Amanda Saxman
11. Jenn Rick
12. Allison Carey
13. Kelly Latona
14. Moira Aulbach
15. Erin Mooney
16. Chris Wolfson