

Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting
November 13, 2019
8:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order Moira Aulbach
At 8:47 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of the October 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes Kelly Latona
No corrections noted so minutes approved as written

3. Treasurer's Report Allison Carey
Given by Moira since Allison not able to attend budget See included report
 - a. Book fair money was deposited but have not received bill, so profit is not known yet.
 - b. Varied education expense was for Good News cards.
 - c. Cost is over on welcome back breakfast but can supplement from bookfair or principal coffee budget
4. Faculty Representative Amanda Saxman

11/1 3	Mrs. Rankin - Choral Director	<p>The 8th grade chorus will be singing at the Jefferson Memorial tree lighting ceremony on December 8th at 5:40pm.</p> <p>On October 14, several 8th grade chorus girls participated in the Sweet Harmony Music Festival at Avonworth High School: Jacqueline Fuellhart, Camryn Bouvy, Maeve McDonagh, Zoe Taylor, Lena Feng, and Natalie Koenig.</p> <p>On November 8, 2 8th grade boys and 1 7th grade boy participated in the Mucho Macho Music Festival at South Fayette High School: Xavier Sanchez, Ben Salvo, and Anderson Cabe.</p> <p>MelloTones are up and running. 39 students auditioned, and 24 students are now MelloTones. Any fundraising ideas for the MelloTones sweaters would be great!</p> <p>The 8th Grade Chorus and MelloTones will be performing a lunchtime holiday concert with Jefferson's 8th Grade Chorus at the Allegheny County Courthouse on Thursday, December 19th.</p> <p>The 8th Grade Chorus and MelloTones will perform a holiday concert for</p>
-----------	-------------------------------------	---

		weary holiday travelers at the Pittsburgh International Airport on Friday, December 20.
11/1 3	Mrs. Coughy - 6th grade Literature (Locomotion Team)	<p>Request for pencils in the supply cabinet (Ticonderogas last longer) as well as lined, notebook paper.</p> <p>In 6th grade Literature the kiddos just finished their character trait posters. This activity was difficult for our students because they were asked to find specific quotes from the book, <i>Stepping on the Cracks</i>, that indicated the Literary Element of Characterization and it's five descriptors, i.e., appearance, wants, personality, speech, and relationships with others. They were asked to document their work using the MLA proper format for using quotes while documenting page numbers.</p>
11/1 3	Mrs. Evangelista and Miss Crossey - 6th grade Math	Mrs. Evangelista and Miss Crossey are so excited to have Premium Freckle for their math students! Their dedicated department chair, Mike Locke, negotiated for them! This resource is something that they hope to continue to use for future Mellon math students. It is kid driven, motivational and standards based. There are also daily math fact practice sessions that cater to the student's needs as well as enrichment activities for those who graduate each level. There are levels for each of our 5 strands of math. Every 6th grader will have access to a Premium Freckle account
11/1 3	Mrs. Euculano - 7th grade Literature (Eagles team)	<p>We had 14 (!) winners of the Uptown Haiku contest that was open to all 7th graders in the district. Their haikus and first names will be displayed on professional signs Uptown this winter to decorate the planters and bring a little poetry to all who pass by.</p> <p>Harper Flynn Natalie Morgan Sydney Mornet Amelia Carey Aisha Sarabekova Sylvie Eriksen Elsa Haywiser Tommy Harrold Will Parrish Josh Ghil Bryce Beamon Isabella Evans Hannah Baker Ella Wong</p>

11/13	Madame Hurt - French	<p>A Mellon Student, 8th-grader Luca Danley, was one of the top 20 scorers in the first round and has qualified for the Finals Round of the 2019 National Francophone Cultural Trivia Contest! Congrats, Luca!</p> <p>In addition, our 8th-grade French students, as part of our National French Week activities, interviewed in French (via WhatsApp) a native speaker of French, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, currently living in Pittsburgh. It was fun!</p>
11/13	Class of 2023	<p>As the holiday season approaches, the Class of 2023 would like to ask for your support in ordering what most people purchase during these times. The sale runs through January 6, 2020. All sales are done online and shipped directly to you from the website. This fundraiser was done a few years ago and it garnered rave reviews.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-o79nfe70_mv6OdnZY3TBAonutmJ99WWMxuLOa6Kduo/edit?usp=sharing</p>

Fundraiser is for Yankee Candles. The class of 2023 is the current Freshmen class. Bonnie D. raised concern about putting the link in the Mellon Memo since it doesn't benefit students at Mellon. This is not the first time a student fundraiser has tried to reach out to multiple schools. Council PTA is trying to figure out best way to proceed since it's a student fundraiser just not a Mellon Student fundraiser.

5. Executive Committee Reports

a. President's Report

Moira Aulbach

- At Mellon, we are excited to be holding our first Day of Giving event on Wednesday, November 27th. The Day of Giving will serve as a kick-off activity for our Mellon Advisory Program. Students will be participating in team-building activities throughout the school with their advisor and advisory group. We will also be raising money on this day to support our student council's November giving initiative - supporting food banks and Meals on Wheels programs in the South Hills. We think it will be a great day for our students and staff!
 - **DAY OF GIVING LOGISTICS:**
 - **WHAT:** 6 activities, 25 minutes each
 - **TIME:** 8AM - NOON (or two shifts of 1.5 hours each)
 - **WHERE TO MEET/RECEIVE DIRECTIONS:** Mellon Cafeteria

- **LIST OF ACTIVITIES THAT NEED PTA ASSISTANCE:**
- Gymnasium: 2 Volunteers
- Activity: Human Hungry, Hungry Hippos

- Cafeteria: 4-5 Volunteers
- Activity: Trivia
- (This is where we will also be selling some snacks, so some of the volunteers listed above would be helping with that process).

- Auditorium: 1-2 Volunteers
- Activity: Lip Sync Battle

- Library: 1-2 Volunteers
- Activity: Heads Up (Ellen's DeGeneres app)
- Mellon's 8th grade trip to Washington, DC in the spring will be voted on by the School Board on November 18 at the School Board meeting. Mr. Mikesell will be the coordinator again for Mellon.
- Lebo PRIDE, which is the parent education and support group for parents of students with special needs, is meeting on November 20th at 7pm in Room D205 at the high school.

Danielle Abel and Kara Sauerwein from Wesley Family Services will be presenting on Mental Health and Education. Danielle works with Mt. Lebanon students at the high school and Mellon, and Kara works with students at the elementary buildings and Jefferson Middle

- Looking for Nominating Committee members to be voted on at our January meeting. The committee includes Mr. Wolfson who is appointed and 4 other members, one from each of Mellon's feeder schools. Start thinking of PTA members that can serve on this important committee.
- I have a meeting with Dr. Davis on November 20. Any questions you may have for him, just let me know.
- No December PTA meeting. See you again in January!

b. First VP's Report
None

Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

c. Second VP's Report

Diane Rattay

none

d. Third VP's Report

Chris Wolfson

PTA Meeting Principal's Report

November 13, 2019

MMS Cafeteria

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
Go Zone Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go Zone is clearly marked with green curb• Noticed several U-Turns in the Go Zone on morning duty• Might be helpful to put something in the PTA Newsletter about Go Zone safety and driving around the school
Link to Principal's Coffee MMS Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1th66FP_j3sl7HS2kLtQccnH886xSm5uMsUToEchfM30/edit?usp=sharing
Mellon Advisory Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Advisory Program (Tuesday Talk) is moving forward<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "One Trusted Adult"○ Mixed grade advisory groups - assist with transition○ Students identify staff members directly or indirectly that they trust or share something in common○ Olweus Programming○ Advisory Meetings○ Timely Topics○ Day of Giving
Career Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Day went well!<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Good feedback from teachers present in the sessions.○ Nice variety of career presentations.
Fundraiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cookie Dough Fundraiser is over!<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items delivered today after school!• 30% increase over last year's sales!• Should end with between \$8000 and \$9000 profit!

School Safety Drills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuation Drill on Friday, 11/8 was successful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed several practice reunifications with success Moved over 1100 students off the Mellon / Washington campus and back in under 45 minutes All MMS students were out of the building and moving in under 10 minutes
Mellon Mindful Minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 2 of the MTLSD Strategic Plan is Social and Emotional Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving towards starting each Monday with a Mellon Mindful Minute
Important Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/18 - Student Outcomes Report @ School Board Meeting 11/27 - Noon dismissal for students for Thanksgiving Recess 11/28 - 11/29 - Thanksgiving Recess - No School 12/2 - Rockets Field Trip 12/4 - Eagles Field Trip 12/6 - 2nd Quarter Midpoint 12/12 - Chorus Concert 12/16 - Orchestra Concert 12/19 - Band Concert 12/23 - 1/1 - Winter Recess 1/15 - PTA Meeting

Question was raised by Ann B regarding assigned tables at lunch and if any change was coming. There are a number of children who feel they are stuck at a table without the ability to change seats or change without the stigma of being the one who tattled. The kids thought they would switch at beginning of Quarter 2 but apparently that didn't happen for seventh grade. Mr. Wolfson did explain that this practice was something that was noted in best practices and he has significantly fewer children in the office upset over lunch trauma since the installation of assigned tables. The kids do have the ability to switch but need to talk to a lunch monitor about it. Some parents expressed an appreciation for it since it negates the stress of finding a spot every day. Mr. Wolfson will bring it up in a quarterly staff meeting to discuss concerns since he was unsure of the actual details of the 7th grade switch but said that was the original plan and he believes that 6th grade did switch. Another concern was voiced about

how social emotional learning is going to happen and how it will be pushed to the HS level.

e. Secretary's Report

Kelly Latona

Please sign in

Thank you note from Mrs. Tomer for the great addition of books for the library

f. Historian's Report

Linda Harrold

none

6. Committee Reports

a. Council Delegate

Natalie Kukla

PTA Council held at Hoover 11/6/19

Pres: Time for each PTA to organize their Nominating Committees

Superintendent:

Nov 11th and 18th SB looks at academic performance

HS Counselling Prog 1 of 2 in state recognized this year

25K from Conovers for Matt's Maker Spaces in both Middle schools

Nolan Fetco recognized for food services innovations

*Mr. McFeeley now on "special assignment" in main office during his treatment. Joel Thompson moved to day-to-day as "acting principal" and Dan Ridge from MMS moved to HS to take Joel's unit position temporarily

Parent Univ Jan 27th

Flexible Instruction Days - approved, organizing roll-out and instructions - anticipate use for extreme cold days with advance notice

Council Nominating Committee to be formed for next mtg, position to fill (at this date) are: Secretary and Treasurer - MMS needs a representative on this committee along with FES, Howe, HS, and Council

SB: Sarah Olbrich - Audit completed

Mt. Lebanon Community office:

Veteran's Day (now passed) celebration 5pm

Please complete Community Survey

Budget proposed - NO increase at this time

11/21 & 12/5 are "Light Nights"

3 new commissioners elected Tuesday - take up their positions next month

Outreach: Plain Sight Trailer - available, the PTA can bring to school events for parents to attend

P.D. - received AAA's Platinum Award for 15th year in a row

Library: Construction on time. Many winter programs coming!

F.D. - reminders at holiday season: #1 Kitchen fires are 31 holiday fire, #2 candles, #3 cars parking over dry leaf pile

b. Career Day

Tara Heidenreich

Report read by Kelly since Tara unable to be here.

Eighth Grade Career Day 2019 was a huge success. It was held on the morning of Friday, November 8th. Mellon's wonderful Guidance Office (Ms. Whealdon, Mrs. Gillespie, and Mrs. Klaber) organized the event with the support of the PTA. Kristine Sorensen, news anchor at KDKA-TV, was the keynote speaker and spoke to all ~220 eighth graders. Next, the students broke into classroom sized groups and rotated through four different presentations (based on each student's individual interests). We had sixteen career day speakers (with some presenting up to four times over two hours). The PTA provided water, coffee, donuts, and cookies. I will also submit a write-up to the Mellon Memo. Many thanks to all of the organizers and speakers for a great morning for the eighth grade.

Keynote Speaker:

Kristine Sorensen, KDKA-TV News Anchor

Career Day Speakers:

Architect, Carolyn Sponza

Attorney, Brian Walters

Auto Mechanic (Parkway West), Dave Kania

Cosmetology (Parkway West), Caroline Simone

Dentist, Anu Shree

Dietician, Andrea Chiarchiaro

Education, Sue Watson

Entertainer, Billy Hartung

Entrepreneurs and Owners of Commonwealth Press, Shannon & Dan Rugh

ER Doctor, Terri Hepps

Finance, John Riesmeyer

Fire Chief, Nick Sohyda

Legislative Assistant, Romel Nicholas

Management Consultant, Teresa Woodland

Military Recruiter, Army Sgt. Soto

Software Engineer, Mohinder Dick

c. Book Fair

Kelly Latona

Book Fair was held Oct 17 in the Mellon Library from 8-4. The time was changed from the calendar since we were in the library after the secretary leave at 4 no one can enter the building. When it was in the gym the C9 door was left open. No issues were noted by the early

closure. Official closeout from Scholastic has not been done yet but profit should be between \$600-\$700. We did spend 240 scholastic dollars so the Literature/ LA, reading specialist (7) and could each spend \$20 and the librarian received \$100. The money that the kids donated to All for Books was spent by Mrs. Tomer as well.

7. Old Business

- a. Reflections report submitted by Tanya read by Kelly since Tanya was not here.
- b. I'm happy to report that we collected a total of eight entries for Reflections from MMS. Our artists and writers are remarkably talented!

I had missed submission instructions due to an incorrect email, but Bonnie reached out. Her guidance was that because MMS was under the total count for each category, judging at our school level was not required and all would move forward. (Bonnie, please keep me honest, but I believe it was five in each category Moving forward per school?) I delivered all by the deadline.

1 music composition

2 literature

3 photography (one young man entered two. I didn't see any rules limiting to one entry and passed both along)

2 visual arts

- c. Writing Lab - November has 11 dates with time slots open for volunteers - especially as holiday season gets busy, student assignments still need help and any hour you can volunteer is much appreciated!
Mr. Wolfson commented that maybe a writing lab training could be done at Parent's University to capture more people who could then help their kids with their writing and even get the 5th grade parents trained before their kids get to MMS so they are ready right at the beginning. Natalie to talk to Eve Kollar the writing clinician about it.

8. New Business

None

9. Adjournment at 10:07am

10. In Attendance

- 1. Diane Rattay
- 2. Chris Wolfson
- 3. Bonnie Dougherty

4. Amanda Saxman
5. Melissa Bailey
6. Natalie Kukla
7. Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer
8. Linda Harrold
9. Ann Bozick
10. Kelly Latona
11. Moira Aulbach