

Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting
October 16, 2019
8:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Moira Aulbach

Meeting called to order at 8:45am with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moira then introduced Nolen Fetchko the director of Food services who invited us to try some samples of both Mellon's breakfast and lunch items. Nolen reported that breakfast begins at 7:15am and continues until 8am. His name email and phone are on all the menus and district website. He is looking to help out as much as possible typically that is with food. Comment was made by the audience that the food service is available and good quality for meeting, ceremonies, and parties in the school and pricing is very good. Mr Wolfson commented that the staff at MMS has been happy with every event that Nolen catered for the staff including Teacher appreciation lunch, breakfast and Schools to watch celebration.

2. Approval of the September 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes Kelly Latona
No changes noted minutes stand as written

3. Treasurer's Report

Allison Carey

Mellon's PTA membership is currently at about 650 and donations shy about \$106 but the numbers are difficult to tease out via the new membership toolkit, but it looks as though we made the money we were hoping to in our membership drive. Moira thanked both Allison Carey and Bonnie Dougherty for their work with the new toolkit. Allison for digging into it to find all our actual members and donations and Bonnie for helping to get the program started throughout the schools.

4. Faculty Representative

Amanda Saxman

Welcome to Mrs. Saxman for agreeing to be our faculty rep this year. These are the following comments and concerns from faculty and staff

- a. Mrs. Crossey is looking for parents or volunteers to help with cutting out interactive notebook material in math. Photocopies and instructions would be provided so this could be worked on at home.

This request was added to the newsletter (Mellon Memo) to look for volunteers also mentioned that if she forwards it to the HS to Mrs. Kolko HS students are always looking for volunteer hours.

- b. Thank you from the teachers for the supplies in the supply cabinet esp. the binders and lined notebook paper—it's always needed.
- c. Foreign Language T-shirts will be going on sale this week. They are a fundraiser for UNICEF. Orders will be accepted until Oct 24

5. Executive Committee Reports

a. President's Report

Moira Aulbach

- Mt. Lebanon 7th grade language arts classes were invited to take part in the Uptown Haiku initiative. As part of this initiative, students learned about and wrote traditional and American haiku poetry, then had the opportunity to submit their haiku to be judged by the staff of the *Pulse*, Mt. Lebanon High School's literary magazine. The winning haiku poems will be printed on signs to beautify the planter boxes Uptown during Pittsburgh's long dark winter. Only the poem and the student's first name will be printed on the sign. Students needed to turn in their Haikus by October 11.
- I attended a meeting with Dr. Davis on 9/28 and here are some key points from that meeting:
 - MTLSD is a PASCHE Partner of the Gutta Institute in Germany – it's a program that supports 12 high school students from around the country in learning more about the German language. Mt. Lebanon is sending 4 kids to Estes, CO for a German STEM triathlon.
 - The Curriculum Council, made up of Department chairs, Guidance, HS Administration, Dr. Davis and course-specific teachers, meet in the spring to discuss recommendations for course changes and then these changes get voted on at the following year's November School Board meeting. The whole process takes 18 months.
 - MLFE is looking for volunteers to serve on the foundation. Volunteers can be parents, teachers, and/or community members. They meet once a month – 3rd Wednesday of the month at Jefferson. The committee supports 2 fundraisers: Taste of Lebo evening and Lebo blanket sales. Let me know if you or someone you know would be interested. Melissa Bailey spoke briefly as a member of the committee stating it is brief meetings and some of the recent projects include camera from Weather balloon for 8th grade launch, Mrs Rodrigues has done many projects including mosaic by HS auditorium, and knit the stair case just to name a few.

- Goals for the Superintendent:
 - Learning for the Future: Branding Matt's Makerspaces at the Middle Schools. District partnering with CMU on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the District's Unified Arts program and in 8th grade – creating a class pet that can read emotions.
 - Flex Instructional Days for snow days: MTLSD one of 47 schools that put in an application for Flex Days. District would make the assignments available online and students would have 5 days to turn them in. November 1 is the date that the District will hear if we are approved from the state.
 - Safety and Security: Safety and Security talk on 10/10 - Raptor system implemented; ALICE training for staff took place with Police Department; School Climate Survey being done to collect information from the students; and more training on mental health.
 - Community Outreach: working on creating a "Parent University" type of training which would include a series of topics of interest to parents and parents can sign up for the classes that interest them.
 - District Performance: Middle States Accreditation for Fine Arts – Visual and System Accreditation to include elem and middle schools.
- PTA Council Meeting – 10/2:
 - PTA Council Treasurer's meeting scheduled for 10/21@ 9:30am in Meeting Room B at the Library. All PTA Presidents and Treasurers are invited.
 - District website up to date now. There is a District Emergency Alert on every school's page now.
 - Snow Policy – 1 snow day scheduled in February; reviewing options for water main break day.
 - Great Alumni Event – always looking for nominations – PTA asked to make nominations.
 - Extra Mile Award – acknowledgment by the School Board that a District staff member went above and beyond in the District. Send nominations to School Board President and Dr. Steinhauer.
 - HS – on Game Days – piloting game day meals for the students. District partnered with the Dept. of Agriculture.

- The Conover Family is continuing to invest in Matt's Makerspaces moving to the Middle Schools.
- Community Reports:
 - MTL Magazine: Community survey coming; traffic issues due to utility projects going on now; Oct. 12 was a pop-up glass recycling event from 10-2. More to come like that in the future.
 - Outreach: Hired a new Program Manager and 2 new counselors. Family Bingo event on 10/27 entitled "Unmasking the stigma of Mental Health." Dr. Michele Borba, author of Unselfie: Raising Caring, successful kids in a plugged-in, trophy-driven world will be at USC high school on Monday, Nov. 11 at 7pm. All are invited to attend.
 - Police: Oct. 26 – MRTSA – Prescription Drug take back day at MRTS.
 - Library: Middle School kids – Meeting Room A opening up soon for them. Learning lab is accessible to Middle School kids. Fright Night is not happening this year due to construction. There are alternative Halloween-type events going on in October.
- Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser: Just a reminder that this is not a PTA fundraiser but rather it raises funds for the Student Activities Fund at Mellon. Primarily the money is used to buy planners for the students, help with field trips, music adjudication and any program you hear about at Mellon that is beyond the MS curriculum. Deadline was last Thursday and orders will be delivered on November 13.
- Please make sure if you are a committee chair that you join the PTA and consider making a \$25 donation to help offset the costs of running various programs at Mellon.

b. First VP's Report
none

Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

c. Second VP's Report
none

Diane Rattay

d. Third VP's Report

Chris Wolfson

None at this time since he is doing President's coffee directly following the PTA meeting

e. Secretary's Report

Kelly Latona

Please sign in

f. Historian's Report

Linda Harrold

none

6. Committee Reports

a. Council Delegate

Natalie Kukla

Addressed in president's report

b. Career Day

Tara Heidenreich

Emailed report read by secretary

(Please see update below from Kara as well as the list of presenters for Career Day in the Google doc.) It is scheduled for the morning of Nov. 8th. The small group presenters have all been confirmed. The Counseling office is still working to confirm the keynote speaker. The 8th graders will be working in the coming the Counseling office to choose the areas which interest them. Light refreshments and water will be supplied by the PTA.

Mellon Career Day - November 8, 2019 Keynote: 8:25 am - 9:00 am -

Room #	Session #1 (9:05 - 9:35)	Session #2 (9:38 - 10:08)	Session #3 (10:11 - 10:41)	Session #4 (10:44 - 11:09)	CD Survey Completion (11:10 - 11:17)
302	Architect Carolyn Sponza (Phil Hessler)				
304	ER Doctor Terri Hepps				
306	Software Engineer Mohinder Dick (*B. Curtis)				
307	Entrepreneur Shannon and Dan Rugh (Lab)				
311	Management Consultant Teresa Woodland (Lori Knox)				

313	Attorney Brian Walters (Francis Raitano)				
315	Auto Body - Parkway West (Jeff Holiday)				
317	Dietician Andrea Chiarchiaro (Maranda Derienzo)				
318	Education Sue Watson				
319	Finance John Riesmeyer (Tim Smith)				
320	Cosmetology - Parkway West				
321	Entertainer Billy Hartung (A. Barone)				
323	Dentist Anu Shree				
325	Military Recruiter - Army Sgt. Soto (A. Brenneman)				

c. Membership

Soncerae Yeager

No report treasurer talked about membership in her report

d. Picture Day

Rosie Pesacreta

Emailed report read by the secretary

Picture Day went well. It was a beautiful day and ran very smoothly. Mrs. Frink and Mr. Canan had everything planned and organized to keep the schedule on track. Wayne from Wayne's World was very professional and efficient. The weather cooperated and we were able to do the pictures outside. I love the outside shots and think it is so nice Wayne is able to do them. It was a fun day to volunteer.

7. Old Business

Reflections update for MMS

Emailed report read by the secretary

- There has been some interest with a few questions, mostly from parents, but unfortunately no submissions as of yet
- The application link in the Sunday newsletter led to a page associated with another story but was fixed this week. The three individuals who reached out to me for the correct link received it directly
- There are still 10 days to go
- I have another email out to the teachers as well. Let's hope there are some last-minute submissions!

8. New Business

a. Book Fair

Kelly Latona

Book fair is scheduled for tomorrow Oct 17 in the library from 8-5. All the students should be able to go to it since they go with their literature/ Language arts class. Any extra volunteers especially in the am are appreciated. Question asked by Jenn Rick if teacher's set up wish lists. Explained that with the fair only being 1 day we do not have wish lists however all the Literature/ Lang arts teachers are given \$20 in scholastic dollars (SD), the librarian \$100 in SD and reading specialist, Mrs. Kirkham was given \$20 in SD.

9. Adjournment

Meeting at 9:25 am with Principal's coffee to follow.

Attendees

1. Allison Carey
2. Kelly Latona
3. Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer
4. Linda Harrold
5. Jenn Rick
6. Moira Aulbach
7. Melissa Bailey
8. Bonnie Dougherty
9. Pei-Jung Lin
10. Leah Haywiser
11. Chris Wolfson
12. Amanda Saxman

13.AJ Dilling