

Mellon Middle School VIRTUAL PTA Meeting
February 10, 2021
8:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order Moira Aulbach
Meeting called to order at 8:47 am
2. Approval of the January 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes Kelly Latona
Approved as written
3. Treasurer's Report Soncerae Yeager
Given by Moira - No money was moved in or out this month balance remains \$8731
4. Faculty Representative Amanda Saxman
Mr. Fronk and Mr. Mikesell, 6th grade World and Its People teachers, delivered and picked up their FANschool championship belts every day last week at the "champions" homes. They visited a total of eleven homes. The response was so uplifting and exciting for the students, the parents, and the teachers. When they arrived at their front doors, they were playing either "The Champion" by Carrie Underwood or "We are the Champions" by Queen.

Mr. Fronk and Mr. Mikesell both agreed that this will be the tradition from now on. They will surely be delivering this belt to all champions. Pictures included in addendum at the end of the report.
5. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. President's Report Moira Aulbach
 - Quorum: 7 members needed for quorum. We have 13 members in attendance via Zoom today.
 - 8th Grade Recognition: We are continuing to consider various options for our outgoing 8th graders to commemorate their time at Mellon. Park pavilion and pool registrations aren't being accepted until mid-March.
 - Cultural Arts Assemblies – we may look into hosting a virtual assembly for the students this spring.

- Staff Appreciation – Kiersten Lane is looking into gift cards to a local restaurant to give to our teachers if we are not back in the building in May.
- REPORT FROM 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES: Mr. Fronk and Mr. Mikesell, 6th grade World and Its People teachers, delivered and picked up their FANschool championship belts every day last week at the "champions" homes. They visited a total of eleven homes. The response was so uplifting and exciting for the students, the parents, and the teachers. When they arrived at their front doors, they were playing either "The Champion" by Carrie Underwood or "We are the Champions" by Queen. Mr. Fronk and Mr. Mikesell both agreed that this will be the tradition from now on. They will surely be delivering this belt to all champions.
- Meeting with Dr. Davis and the Secondary PTA Presidents took place on January 22. Notes from that meeting:
 - Cyber Learning Academy (CLA): Administration is currently forming a committee of people to discuss CLA and to formulate a plan for next year. There are 4-5 administrators in this group.
 - Instructional Needs for next year for students – summer school offerings:
 - SAT/ACT clinics
 - Science and Skills labs
 - Fine Arts
 - Skills Refreshers on various courses including math. Possibly a week or two weeks during the summer.
- Pilot Day – used as a clean-up day for teachers. Perhaps thinking of offering it once a quarter or once a month.
- Back to school: Lunch will always be 6 ft. apart regardless of how many kids are in the room. Board has to approve a change in the Education Plan before anything can happen.
- **Next PTA Meeting: Wednesday, March 10 at 8:45am**

b. First VP's Report

Kiersten Lane

Teacher appreciation is in May right around Cinco de Mayo so I was planning a Mexican theme. We can't do our typical luncheon I was thinking of gift cards to Totopo for the teachers so they can order however they feel comfortable. We are going to set up a link to our MMS paypal account so people can donate. I have called them and

the owner is very appreciative and said he will pitch in money (\$5) for each card ordered.

c. Second VP's Report

Diane Rattay

Bylaws are due at the end of the calendar year. I hope to present the changes at next month's meeting then they need to sit for 30 days. I think the only changes are the ones sent from the state.

d. Third VP's Report

Chris Wolfson

Covid-19 and return to school

As many of you know the School Board met this past Monday and Dr Steinhauer presented his plan to progress toward more in person as the county moves into the moderate phase. Monday Jan 15 the School Board will vote on the plan to allow a move toward 4 in person days v 2 days so combining the A and B cohorts after 2 weeks in moderate range. Families can choose to stay either in 2 days, 4 days or stay in Cyber learning which is fully remote.

Mellon's Response to return to School

So what does this mean going forward? We have a group of approx. 20 teachers who volunteered to be on a COVID recovery team that have been in place since the summer. They have worked to establish the action plan we currently have in place. They met in January to revisit the plan and review what was working and what needed to be modified if /when more students are returned to this building. We are in good shape. Mr. Mikesell and I took some measurements in his room to go center of desk to center of desk and were able to easily fit 14 kids at 6". We have the barrier boards in all classes that can be employed if we have to decrease from 6" or if the teacher requests them or even if a student wants one around him/herself. With the addition of the barrier boards seeing to the front of the room does get a little tough so this is one of the reasons that we are having kids still log in to their classes even if in the classroom. It assists in being able to see what is presented at front of the room and allows easier communication between peers that are remote especially for breakout sessions. Masks are worn by all teachers and students in class and hallways are not crowded, lunch is

not crowded with no issues except the occasional reminder to re-mask when finished eating. Mask breaks may be given typically it occurs at back of a classroom behind a barrier board and the rest of class remains masked. Any questions feel free to ask.

Black History Month Displays

We are running a number of vignettes for Black History Month there are some set up outside library showcasing important people along with what our classroom teachers are focusing on as well.

a. Secretary's Report	Kelly Latona
None	

b. Historian's Report	Linda Harrold
None	

j. Committee Reports

a. Council Delegate	Katie Shaw
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PTA Council Minutes

February 3, 2021

- Council is encouraging each PTA to run another PTA membership drive. In order for someone to be nominated on the board or committees, they must be a member of the PTA. Please let Alison (Treasurer) know if you get more members.
- The Council will be meeting with both the MLEA (date TBD) and the School Board on 3/22. Questions will be submitted beforehand so if anyone has questions for these two groups, please let Katie or Moira know.
- All the PTA newsletters can be found on the District's website. There are also instructions to convert the newsletters into different languages.
- They are asking for lunch time volunteers to help the lunch laddies distribute lunches. Please continue to include the sign-up in the next few newsletters.
- Dr. Steinhauer introduced the School Board's new Vice President, Valerie

Fleisher. She reviewed the agenda items for the next meeting on February 8. The Facilities Director is scheduled to present the Capitol Projects for the next year and his proposed 5 year plan.

- Dr. Steinhauer discussed the proposed vaccine rollout for teachers and school staff. The school has agreements with 6 or 7 providers to distribute vaccines to the teachers at a clinic. The school is ready to go as soon as one of the providers comes through with enough vaccines. Some 1A personnel (~100) were vaccinated on Friday, February 5. The problem continues to be lack of vaccines. No decision has been made at this time to change the mode of instruction.
- The Parent University will be offered virtually in the spring.
- February is Black History Month. Markham Principal, Jocelyn Artinger, is interviewed in this month's Lebo Magazine. She is the social studies coordinator for the district and she is encouraging teachers to "celebrate and teach history in a way that affirms the Black community."
- The Council is trying to figure out how to do its annual service project with SHIM this year and how people can donate safely.
- The Nominating Committee presented its slate of nominees for the 2021-2022 school year. The President and First Vice President position were left open and will be filled by the current officers for one year or until a replacement can be found.

b. Writing Lab

Conferences were held this quarter for Mrs. Kollar's 6th grade academic lab class in the same fashion as before. This is the only class of students that are able to do conferences at this point. In the past Mrs. Kollar has taken her Academic lab to the library to pick a piece of artwork to write a poem about. This year one of our alumnus have lent her a few pieces of art that the students write their poems about. We will do it again 4th quarter but hopefully changing up the artwork.

k. Old Business

None

l. New Business

a. Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee this year consisted of Diane Rattay (Foster), Natalie Kukla (Washington), Katie Shaw (Markham) and Kiersten Lane (Howe). The nominating committee puts forward the following slate

President: No candidate

1st VP: Heather Boylan Clark

2nd VP: Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

Treasurer: Soncerae Yeager

Historian: Natalie Kukla

Secretary: Katie Shaw

Since no new candidate for President has been found Moira Aulbach will continue to serve for up to one year until a replacement has been found at which time they will be appointed to the board. Our election will take place on March 10, 2021.

m. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:49am

Attendance

1. Kelly Latona
2. Chris Wolfson
3. Moira Aulbach
4. Amanda Saxman
5. Bob Batz, Jr
6. Diane Rattay
7. Jen Query
8. Katie Shaw
9. Linda Harrold
10. Jen Larence
11. Kiersten Lane

12. Stephanie Fedro-Byrom
13. Jessica Kubilius
14. Natalie Kukla

Addendum:

Pictures from Mr. Mikesell and Mr. Fronk

Mr. Fronk and Mr. Mikesell, 6th grade World and Its People teachers, delivered and picked up their FANschool championship belts every day last week at the "champions" homes. They visited a total of eleven homes. The response was so uplifting and exciting for the students, the parents, and the teachers. When they arrived at their front doors, they were playing either "The Champion" by Carrie Underwood or "We are the Champions" by Queen.

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