

**Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting  
September 8, 2021  
8:45 a.m.  
Meeting Minutes**

- 1) **Call to Order** **Jen Larence**  
The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m.
  
- 2) **Approval of the May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes** **Katie Shaw**  
Minutes were approved as written.
  
- 3) **Treasurer's Report** **Soncerae Yeager**  
Jen Larence gave the Treasurer's report. We have a carryover balance of \$8028 from the 2020/2021 school year. We are still reconciling expenses from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade party and are still waiting on a bill from the Mt. Lebanon Food Service Department for the Faculty Breakfast in August.
  
- 4) **Faculty Representative** **Amanda Saxman**  
Ms. Saxman had nothing to report other than a request to put the Mellotone auditions notice in the Mellon Memo. She has asked more staff to join the PTA.
  
- 5) **Executive Committee Reports**
  - a) **President's Report** **Jen Larence**
    - i) Jen thanked the new committee members for their hard work over the summer.
    - ii) There are still two PTA committees that need chairs – the Technology Committee and the Corporate Rewards Committee. Please see Jen if you have any interest in running these committees.
  
  - b) **First VP's Report** **Heather Boylan Clark**  
None
  
  - c) **Second VP's Report** **Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer**  
None
  
  - d) **Third VP's Report** **Chris Wolfson**
    - i) There are new faculty and staff at Mellon:
      - (1) Mr. Jacob Kennedy - French
      - (2) Mrs. Roilyn Worst-McGregor - Writing Lab
      - (3) Mr. Kaye Laus - ABA Aide
      - (4) Ms. Stephanie De La Paz - (JMS) Spanish
      - (5) Ms. Riley Young - (HS) Spanish

- ii) The change in assignments this year are:
  - (1) Mrs. Samantha DeFurio - School Nurse
  - (2) Mrs. Emily Kirkham - Reading Specialist JMS/MMS
  - (3) Mrs. Eve Kollar - Literature 6 Locomotion
  - (4) Mr. Dan Ridge - World History 7 Rockets
  - (5) Mr. Bruce Fronk - World and its People 6 Racers
  
- iii) Mr. Wolfson reminded everyone to make sure the school has a valid email for each family. Email is always the quickest way to reach Mr. Wolfson. He is updating his newsletter each week and it can be found at [www.mtlsd.org/mellonmoments](http://www.mtlsd.org/mellonmoments). The daily bell schedule has been added to the top.
  
- iv) Any technology concerns with the Chromebooks should be sent to [RemoteSupport@mtlsd.net](mailto:RemoteSupport@mtlsd.net). Mt. Lebanon is piloting a one-to-one technology program this year (every student will have a device). A new learning management system is scheduled to be implemented next year and it will replace both Dashboard and Google Classroom.
  
- v) Picture day is September 9, 2021. Forms will be sent home on September 8.
  
- vi) Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. MMS students should not attend the open house and the school is encouraging families to limit attendance to ensure social distancing. Masks will be worn.
  
- vii) The district calendar is no longer being printed but can be found online <https://www.mtlsd.org/about-us/district-calendar>. Important dates coming up include:
  - (a) 9/9 - Picture Day
  - (b) 9/9 - Open House
  - (c) 9/16 - Yom Kippur / Schools Closed
  - (d) 10/11 - Teacher In-Service / Schools Closed
  - (e) 10/13 - MMS PTA Meeting / Principal's Coffee
  - (f) 10/29 - End of 1st Quarter
  - (g) 11/2 - Teacher In-Service / Schools Closed
  - (h) 11/3 - MMS Book Fair
  - (i) 11/10 - MMS PTA Meeting
  - (j) 11/11 - Veteran's Day Recognition @ 7:40am
  - (k) 11/24 - Noon Dismissal for Students
  - (l) 11/25 - 11/26 - Thanksgiving Recess / Schools Closed

e) Secretary's Report  
None

**Katie Shaw**

f) Historian's Report  
Natalie is working on updating and organizing the PTA's Google Drive.

**Natalie Kukla**

## 6) **Committee Reports**

### a) **Council Delegate**

**Katie Shaw**

- i) Chair Bonnie Dougherty reminded each PTA to submit a portion of their dues by September 30 for the schools to be eligible for the Reflections Contest.
- ii) Dr. Steinhauer is pleased with the start of the school year. Unfortunately, the high school was closed due to a power outage during the heavy rain storm. The school will not have to make up that day.
- iii) Dr. Steinhauer reminded people to check Dashboard for any active Covid cases in the schools. Mt. Lebanon has more than 80% of its eligible residents vaccinated.
- iv) The District hired Kristen James as its new Communications Director.
- v) Mt. Lebanon Percussion is collecting gently used shoes to donate to Haiti and Ghana through the end of September. Bins are located throughout the community.

### b) **Membership**

**Kara Monocello**

- i) We currently have 266 PTA members which is more than last year. 42 of those members are Mellon faculty. Our donations totaled \$2640.
- ii) We will have a table set up at the open house with Chromebooks for people to join.
- iii) The PTA is raffling off Badamo's gift cards to faculty to encourage them to join. The first winner was Aimee Nordmann who emailed a thank you to the PTA for the card.

### c) **Odyssey of the Mind**

**Leah Haywiser**

Jen reported for Leah. OoTM is back this year with some parts of it still virtual. Information can be found in the Mellon Memo.

### d) **Reflections**

**Megan Bigham**

Jen also reported that the theme for this year's Reflections contest is "I Will Change the World By..." October 16 is the deadline, and more details are in the Mellon Memo.

### e) **Writing Lab**

**Natalie Kukla**

Writing Lab met virtually last year with 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They are hoping to have a more comprehensive program this year to reach more kids. There will be a training session this fall, and volunteers are still needed.

## 7) **Old Business**

None

## 8) **New Business**

**Jen Larence**

### a) **Approval of 2021-2022 Budget**

The budget has been distributed. We have a carryover of more than \$8000 due to less spending during a Covid school year. Heather Boylan Clark made a motion to approve the budget and Kara Monocello seconded. The budget was approved for the 2021-2022 school year.

### b) **Audit committee Report**

Tara Heidenreich conducted the audit over the summer and all financial records were categorized properly. There were one or two items that needed additional paperwork. Jen reminded members to get the new tax ID from Soncerae so as not to pay sales tax. Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer motioned to approve the audit and Kara Monocello seconded it. The Audit for the 2020-2021 school year was approved.

9) **Adjourned at 9:35 a.m.**

**In Person Meeting Attendants**

Amanda Saxman  
Chris Wolfson  
Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer  
Heather Boylan Clark  
Jen Larence  
Katie Shaw  
Natalie Kukla  
Mary Klaber  
Kara Monocello

*Zoom Participants*

Trista Mentz-Johns  
Beth White  
Fiona F.  
Lu Zhou