

Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting
February 9, 2022
8:45 a.m.
Minutes

1. **Call to Order at 8:46 a.m.** **Jen Larence**

2. **Approval of the January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes** **Katie Shaw**
Meeting minutes approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report** **Soncerae Yeager**
 - The current balance is \$11,147. There was one expenditure in February for heating pads for the health office. The Executive board also approved a subscription for Mr. Mikesell's Escape Room subscription.
 - Jen Larence mentioned that the PTA Executive board plans to distribute \$5 gift cards to all Mellon staff in the next two weeks (for mid-year appreciation).

4. **Faculty Representative** **Amanda Saxman**

Ms. Saxman met with the staff regarding long-standing budget line items.

 - 6th grade challenger trip – The sixth graders know longer attend the trip in West Virginia but would like to rename the item for the E-Mission to use next year.
 - 7th grade Greek gala – This was used for food expenses pre-Covid. No longer having the gala but would like to keep the money for another use next year.
 - 8th grade – Normally does a Space Launch and would like to keep the money for next year.
 - Instrument fund – Ms. Marino would love to use this money for valve oil, reeds, and other items to have on hand. Jen will follow up with Bonnie Dougherty to determine what should be bought with that money.
 - Music adjudication – The 8th grade will be using that money to help offset costs for the 8th grade adjudication trip on May 27. The Choir, Band, and Orchestra will all go to Duquesne University for adjudication and then will spend the rest of the day at Kennywood.

Jen Larence also mentioned that the Mellon Memo will begin to introduce the teachers each week as part of the ongoing mission to help show appreciation for the teachers.

5. **Executive Committee Reports**
 - a. **President's Report** **Jen Larence**
 - Jen and the secondary PTA Presidents met with Dr. Davis earlier this month. Nothing new to report from that meeting.
 - PTA Presidents met last night with teachers' union to formulate questions for PTA presidents and school board meeting in March. Please let Jen know if there are any questions you would like her to address at this meeting.

b. **First VP's Report** **Heather Boylan Clark**
Nothing to report.

c. **Second VP's Report** **Jen Larence for Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer**
Nothing to Report.

d. **Third VP's Report** **Lorien Moyer**

- Ms. Moyer described the school-wide Advisory Council activities – Mellon Student Council organized the most recent activity to celebrate World Kindness Day on **February 17, 2022**. Students watched a video from amillionthanks.org, which provides support and appreciation to our active and veteran military men and women. The students then created thank you cards that will be sent to the organization for distribution directly to active, reserve, and veteran military. Students can also donate up to \$1 to help with postage for mailing the cards. The next Advisory project will be a multi-phase activity regarding symbols how they are meaningful.
- The 6th grade E-mission happened in January and it went well.
- Course selection for the 2022-2023 school year is completed.
- Daffodil sales are ongoing. Orders need to be in by February 22 with delivery taking place the week of March 21.

e. **Secretary's Report** **Katie Shaw**
Nothing to Report.

f. **Historian's Report** **Natalie Kukla**
Nothing to Report.

6. **Committee Reports**

a. **Council Delegate** **Katie Shaw**

- The Technology Department is currently working on the Schoology platform for full implementation next year.
- State Representative Dan Miller is hosting a cyber security program about parenting in the digital world on February 16 and it will be livestreamed.
- Dr. Steinhauer encouraged families to take advantage of the pool testing offered by each of the schools. Currently, only 16% of students are signed up for testing and approximately 6% actually participate.

7. **Old Business** **Jen Larence**

- The PTA is beginning to plan for the 8th grade recognition event at the end of the school year. This event is typically the last Friday of the school year, but 8th grade adjudication is scheduled for that day. The committee chairs are working to move it to another date (currently looking at June 1).
 - The event will be held either at the Main Park or at the school. Last year's event at the school was successful with the movie in the auditorium and DJ near the activities and games (organized by the PE teachers).

Fundraising will continue and the 8th grade parents will also be asked for donations.

- Staff appreciation – will be the first week of May. Committee chairs will ask all parents for donations for this end of year gift. This week is a nice way for parents to show appreciation for the teachers.

8. New Business

Jen Larence

a. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee this year consisted of Katie Shaw (Markham Elementary), Natalie Kukla (Washington Elementary), Heather Boylan Clark (alternate from Howe Elementary), Sarah Everhart (Foster Elementary), Mary Klaber (Washington Elementary), Lorien Moyer (for Chris Wolfson who is on sabbatical).

The committee met by email during the month of January and is proposing the following slate for the 2022-2023 PTA Executive Board:

President - Jen Larence
1st Vice President- Heather Boylan Clarke
2nd Vice President - Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer
3rd Vice President - Chris Wolfson (appointed)
Secretary - Natalie Kukla
Treasurer - Carrie Reighart
Historian - Open Position

The election will take place on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The PTA thanks the members of the Nominating Committee for their work in brainstorming and reaching out to possible candidates.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Attendees

Jen Larence
Katie Shaw
Sarah Beaudoin
Amanda Saxman
Lorien Moyer
Soncerae Yeager

Zoom Participants

Heather Boylan Clark
Natalie Kukla
Liz Kanche