

# Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting

March 9, 2022

8:45 a.m.

## Minutes

1. **Call to Order at 8:47 a.m.** **Jen Larence**
  
2. **Approval of the February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes** **Katie Shaw**  
Meeting minutes approved.
  
3. **Treasurer's Report** **Soncerae Yeager**  
We have a \$10,498 balance. Recent expenses include varied expenses for Mr. Mikesell (Escape Room Items), the ABA Classroom (supplies), and Jen Larence (gift cards for each staff member to celebrate Schools to Watch).
  
4. **Faculty Representative** **Amanda Saxman**
  - Ms. Saxman thanked the PTA for the extra tissues and pencils. She will put future supply requests into the Mellon Memo.
  - The staff are enjoying providing their biographies for the weekly Mellon Memo. It's a nice way to introduce the teachers to the parents.
  - The school is currently holding a food drive for SHIM for the month of March. Ms. Saxman will make sure this will be shared on the morning announcements. Flyers will also be sent home with students.
  
5. **Executive Committee Reports**
  - a. **President's Report** **Jen Larence**
    - Jen congratulated Dr. Lorien Moyer who recently defended her dissertation.
    - The PTA executive committee approved a \$25 gift card to Office Depot for e-mission markers.
    - The orchestra teacher, Mr. Cook, requested money from the PTA to help pay for professional musicians to come to the school to work with the students. The PTA will cover half of this request.
    - Jen and the PTA Executive Committee are currently working on a solution for bathroom storage for feminine products in each of the girls' bathrooms.
    - It is budget season for the PTA. Please contact Jen or Soncerae if you have any questions or requests.
    - Jen thanked the Nominating Committee for all their work to nominate next year's PTA executive committee.
    - The Cultural Arts chairs have been contacted and they will work with Dr. Moyer to come up with a cultural event for the last two months of school.
    - The PTA will add a Welcoming Committee next year to help new Mellon students/families that have recently moved to the area.
    - The PTA Secondary Presidents recently met with Dr. Davis:

- o A bathroom storage solution (for feminine products) has been piloted in the high school and is now being worked on for the middle school.
- o Jen meets with Mike Froelich, a technology specialist for the District, to test out our new education platform, Schoology. Some teachers have been using it as a pilot program this year and there has been great feedback. It will be used school-wide starting in the 2022-2023 school year.
- o The schools are looking at programs that will help students learn the skills to be good citizens in school and in the community. The Peacekeepers Programs will be implemented in the middle schools.
- The PTA Presidents also met with the school board:
  - o This is also budget season for the school board.
  - o The PTA Presidents requested new full-time position(s) for curriculum coordinator(s).
  - o Technology – the school working towards one-on-one technology.
  - o PTA Presidents also requested hiring dedicated therapists for the school system to provide mental health assistance for those kids that need help. The school promotes self-care and good mental health and should provide more resources.
    - Parents at the meeting discussed the truancy letter that gets sent home if a student has too many unexcused absences. These letters are harshly worded and can exacerbate mental health issues for the students. The school is required by state law to send these letters. Dr. Moyer is going to check on the wording of the letter to see if it can be softened.
- One of Mellon’s Odyssey of the Mind Teams is going to State. Congratulations to all those who participated.

**b. First VP’s Report**

**Heather Boylan Clark**

Nothing to report.

**c. Second VP’s Report**

**Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer**

Nothing to Report.

**d. Third VP’s Report**

**Lorien Moyer**

- Advisory continues to meet every other Tuesday. Teachers are asking for more professional development help before teaching the symbols and student identity lesson.
- We are into the Spring concert season.
- Mellon’s Spring sports started on Monday, March 7.
- PSSA and Keystone readiness – Mellon has some catching up to do following last year’s scores. The PSSA schedule will be ELA, then Math, then Science (8<sup>th</sup> grade only). Keystone exams for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be at the end of May.

- The group discussed whether it was beneficial to distribute mints to each of the kids. Jen Larence will talk to counselors.

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

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

## 6. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Council Delegate** **Jen Larence for Katie Shaw**
- The PTA Nominating Committee is still looking for the PTA Council President.
  - Dr. Steinhauer continues to be happy with Covid protocol. There has not been an uptick in cases after dropping the masks.
  - The Hoover 5K run/1 mile run will be on June 4.

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

- The PTA is planning for the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade recognition event on June 1 on the Mellon field and in the auditorium. Fundraising will continue and the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade parents will also be asked for donations via the Mellon Memo.
- Staff appreciation will be every Friday during the month of May. Committee chairs will ask all parents for donations through the Mellon Memo. This is a nice way for parents to show appreciation for the teachers.

## 8. **New Business** **Katie Shaw**

- 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).

At the February PTA meeting, the committee nominated 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

There were no nominations from the floor at the February meeting when the slate was presented, and we only have one candidate per office. We can therefore proceed with a voice vote.

The slate was unanimously approved for the 2022-2023 school year.

Since there was no nomination in February for the Historian position, the floor is open for the position of Historian. Katie Shaw would like to nominate Gillian Stohner for this position. No further nominations were presented. This nomination does not need to sit for 30 days, the committee can ask for a voice vote.

Gillian Stohner was approved unanimously for the position of Historian for the 2022-2023 executive slate.

b. **Writing Lab**

**Natalie Kukla**

Parents have asked about having the Writing Lab back up and running. Natalie explained how the Writing Lab handled Covid. In the 2020/2021 school year, the Lab was able to have 8 seasoned volunteers who helped with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Because the school is approaching PSSA testing season, there are very few papers being assigned. Natalie has reached out to the new Writing Lab coordinator to begin working on training volunteers for next year so that they can start right away in September.

c. **McFeeley Strong Website**

There is a website set up for donations to help Mr. McFeeley's family after his death from Pancreatic Cancer last week. Many Mellon teachers will be going to the funeral on Thursday (Mr. McFeeley was the principal at Mellon before moving to the high school).

9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

**Attendees**

Jen Larence  
Katie Shaw  
Amanda Saxman  
Lorien Moyer  
Soncerae Yeager  
Mary Klaber  
Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer  
Natalie Kukla

**Zoom Participants**

Trista Mentz-Johns