

Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting
November 9, 2022
8:47am
Approved Minutes

Call to Order 8:45am

Jen Larence

Approval of the October 2022 Minutes

Motion made by Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer, seconded by Kristan Weir to approve minutes as written

Treasurer's Report

J.L. for Carrie Reighard

- Balance \$11,577.47
- Expenses - Odyssey of the Mind now has 4 teams, only budgeted for 2. Will budget for more teams moving forward.
- No written checks this month
- Still have membership money coming in, most likely from volunteers realizing they haven't joined the PTA yet

Faculty Representative

JL for Amanda Saxman

Teacher requested "filler paper" - JL filled request

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report

Jen Larence

- Recent meeting with Dr. Davis: School day procedure email recently went out, students do have to check in for each class on a snow day.
- Kicked off Thankful Campaign - positive response
- Writing lab - great to see parent volunteers. October was slow, November is busy
- Schoology - telling the community to be patient, advocating for more training
- Nominating Committee - start thinking about it
- Staff appreciation
- 8th grade picnic - fundraiser w/Kona Ice for Thursday 11/11 - trying to get advertising out quickly

1st VP

Heather Boylan Clark

Nothing to report

2nd VP

Elizabeth Schwertführer

Nothing to report

3rd VP

Chris Wolfson

Schoology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schoology Mobile App provides easier access to messages.● Schoology will handle the bulk of communications.● SchoolologySupport@mtlsd.net
Veterans Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Friday, November 11, 2022 - 7:45am● At the flag pole - all are welcome
Cookie Dough Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cookie dough pick up will be on 11/15 from 2:30 - 6pm.● Student Activities budget is healthy.

Thanksgiving Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon dismissal on 11/23 • Off 11/24 and 11/25
Washington Gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gate between the Washington Parking Lot and the playground will be locked from 8:30am - 3:30pm for safety and security reasons. • Kids need to find an alternate walking route if they normally cut through this gate.
Concerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/8 - Band • 12/14 - Orchestra • 12/21 - Chorus • All concerts are 7:30pm in the Auditorium
E-blasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning to using Schoology whenever possible** • Reminder – make sure we have a valid e-mail address! • Make sure you check your e-mails from “Mellon Middle School” • noreply@mtlsd.net
Mellon Middle School Moments newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.mtlsd.org/mellonmoments • https://www.smores.com/ijduy-mellon-middle-school-moments • Make sure you bookmark it and check back often!
Important Upcoming Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.mtlsd.org/district/district-calendar • District > About Us > District Calendar • 11/9 - PTA Meeting • 11/11 - Veteran's Day Flag Raising Ceremony (7:30am) • 11/11 - 8th Grade Career Day • 11/15 - Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pickup (2:30-6:00pm) • 11/23 - Noon Dismissal for Students • 11/24-11/25 - Thanksgiving Recess / No School • 12/8 - Band Concert (7:30pm) • 12/9 - Daytime Band Concert for students (8:15am) • 12/14 - Orchestra Concert (7:30pm) • 12/21 - Chorus Concert (7:30pm) • 12/23 - Noon Dismissal for Students • 12/26-12/30 - Winter Recess / No School • 1/11 - PTA Meeting • 1/11 - 8th Grade Parent Transition Meeting (9:15am following PTA meeting) • 1/12 - 5th Grade Parent Transition Meeting @ Foster (1:30pm) • 1/12 - 5th Grade Parent Transition Meeting @ Mellon (6:00pm) • 1/13 - 5th Grade Parent Transition Meeting @ Washington (9:30am) • 1/13 - 5th Grade Parent Transition Meeting @ Howe (1:30pm) • 1/16 - In-Service Day (no school for students) • 1/20 - End of 2nd Quarter

Secretary

Sent a congratulations card to M/M Raitano for the birth of their baby boy

Natalie Kukla

Historian

Nothing to report

Gillian Stohner

Committee Reports

Council Delegate, Kristan Weir

- District Wide Updates
 - Covid cases have been low but Flu and RSV are rising across the district, including RSV cases in the HS - the remote learning/live streaming plan for Covid cases will remain in effect for the middle and high school for now on a watch and see basis
 - The recent vaccine clinic had 450 individuals and there is a second clinic for ages 5-11 occurring soon
- Dr. Steinhauer

- Sustainability initiatives are moving forward throughout the district with the most noticeable change being the elimination of styrofoam in the cafeterias; a dashboard with these initiatives will be up shortly on the district website
- Cold weather emails have gone out district wide with procedures for inclement weather and snow days as well as synchronous learning for middle and high school students
- ALICE drills are currently scheduled or are happening and are serving as a refresh for all agencies and faculty and students involved
- The search for a Superintendent search firm is still ongoing (the school board is still targeting January for this position to be filled)
- DEI Initiatives are also moving forward across the district
 - There are 100 faculty currently participating in a DEI based course with a second round to be offered in January
 - The School Board also reported they are currently working on reviewing/adding inclusive language for all district communications
- There is an effort to restart the boy's volleyball program; clubs will be used to gain interest at the high school level first
- Dr. Davis
 - On 11/14 the Student Outcome Report will be presented at the School Board
 - Mt. Lebanon students have fared well (more detailed info will be presented at that time)
- Schoology Updates
 - Most schools are embedding their Smores newsletters into the Schoology and are seeing increased views indicating parents are beginning to use it more frequently
 - Mike Hladio (rep) has been meeting with all district principals to answer questions and offer assistance
 - He is planning a few learning opportunities for Schoology across all levels
 - Remote help desk days during elementary parent/teacher conferences; recorded webinars in the evenings for parents; and student tips of the week via morning announcements for students
- Community News
 - Firefighters are starting their Toys for Tots drive and their shared winter coat drive for the Salvation Army with the police and MRTSA - bins will be up in the library, rec center and municipal building and there will also be an Amazon option
 - Library has several programs targeting teens (Mental Health Mondays, sound bath meditation and tech girls coding program)
 - Outreach reported the Mental Health Mondays program is going very well and they will be training coaches in the district on a suicide prevention program (which will also be made available to parents)

The next Council meeting is in January.

Reflections, Meghan B. entries were judged on Monday, 8 students are advancing

Scholastic Book Fair, Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

Fair was successful. Still wrapping up online sales. Will report figures at January meeting.

Odyssey via Jen Larence

4 teams registered, 3 teams doing the vehicle problem, one team doing the humorous skit. Tournament is in March.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourned at 9:31am

Attendees: Kristan Weir, Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer, Sarah Beaudoin, Chris Wolfson, Jen Larence and Heather Boylan-Clark via Zoom

DRAFT Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer and Natalie Kukla