

Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting  
September 13, 2023  
8:45 a.m.  
**DRAFT Minutes**

**Call to Order at 8:45**

**Kristan Weir**

Welcome everyone to the 2023-24 school year. We are all looking forward to making this a great place for students, teachers and staff!

**Approval of the May 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Motion made Kristan W. to approve Minutes as written

**Treasurer's Report**

**Gillian Stohner**

- Income: \$5,575 dollars from membership dues. \$1,979.00 from donations.
- Expenses: Donation to library; faculty breakfast; Instrument Fund
- Budget presented last May. We discussed the approved decision on moving \$450.00 from Cultural Arts to Membership Toolkit. We explained that because Screenagers had to be purchased last year for this upcoming school year. The Cultural Arts Committee should not be affected by this decision.

**Approval of 2023-2024 Proposed Budget** - motion by Danika L., 2nd by Lindy Becker

**Faculty Representative**

Thank you to PTA for a beautifully stocked cabinet. Everyone is looking forward to a wonderful new year.

**Executive Committee Reports**

**President**

**Kristan Weir**

- Mellon Middle School will continue to utilize the Membership toolkit this year. There was a district wide discussion of switching to the PA PTA membership app, but unfortunately there were too many bugs and glitches for the Mellon's PTA's utilization this year.
- Open House reminder - walk schedule 6:30-8:30 Thursday Sept 15th
- Our membership drive continues. There will be a table at the open house with directions on how to join. That said the numbers are looking strong this early into the year.
- The gym teachers have requested sticks of deodorant for the gym locker rooms. Once the budget is confirmed this purchase will be made.

**1st VP**

**Katie Graybill**

The calendar shows the incorrect time for the November 8th meeting which is an evening meeting. Please note that the correct time is 6:30pm

**2nd VP**

**Tess Carter**

Nothing to report.

### 3rd VP

**Chris Wolfson**

- Schoology will be utilized as the primary communication tool for Mellon. The interface runs very similar to Facebook. Dr. Wolfson will also continue to utilize Eblast. Emails will be sent for grade specific information as well as any emergencies that may occur at the school. Please note that Eblasts are a no-reply email. If you have any questions or concerns about an eblast, please contact Dr. Wolfson by his email or phone. Also please make sure that the school has up to date contact information-including a working email address.
- ANY Schoology questions there is an email directly for issues: [SchoologySupport@mtlsd.net](mailto:SchoologySupport@mtlsd.net)
- Mike Hladio will be at Mellon during Open House to answer Schoology questions as well if parents want to seek him out between classes
- The 23-24 school year will experience a new positive behavior program. It is a “caught doing good” program. Children will be rewarded with poker chips (or Lebo Loot) for behaviors laid out by the PBIS. If you find a bunch of poker chips in your child's pockets- don't be alarmed- congratulate them for good behavior and encourage them to turn the poker chips back into the school. Each child is working towards rewards for the classes, grades and ultimately the entire school.

#### ● Principal's Notes

Schoology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schoology Mobile App provides easier access to messages.</li> <li>● Continue to use Smore Newsletter with Schoology supplementing.</li> <li>● <a href="mailto:SchoologySupport@mtlsd.net">SchoologySupport@mtlsd.net</a></li> </ul>
Open House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● September 15, 2023 6:30-8:30</li> <li>● Information is available on Schoology.</li> </ul>
E-blasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reminder – make sure we have a valid e-mail address!</li> <li>● Make sure you check your e-mails from "Mellon Middle School"</li> <li>● <a href="mailto:noreply@mtlsd.net">noreply@mtlsd.net</a></li> </ul>
Important Upcoming Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="https://www.mtlsd.org/district/district-calendar">https://www.mtlsd.org/district/district-calendar</a></li> <li>● District &gt; About Us &gt; <a href="#">District Calendar</a></li> <li>● 9/16 - Picture Day</li> <li>● 9/15 - Open House (6:30-8:30pm)</li> <li>● 9/22 - Writing Lab Volunteer Training</li> </ul>

#### **Secretary**

Nothing to Report.

**Danika Lagorio**

#### **Historian**

Nothing to Report.

**Lindy Becker**

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Council Delegate, Amy Grella**

PTA Council Meeting updates

- Dr. Friez asked us to encourage attendance to meet-and-greets 10/3 virtual, 10/12, 10/18 in person. Working on providing childcare for these meetings. She's using these meetings and feedback from superintendent search to understand needs and what's important to families.
- Dr. Davis reported district is seeking middle states accreditation for the system (all 10 schools), not just the HS. Validation study Sept. 25-28; results next spring. There's only 4 system accredited schools in PA – 3 private (catholic), 1 public.

- PTA Council Sustainability chair Shayna Bodi is working to get one person from each PTA to engage.
- Howe's SFF is Sat, Sept 23 rd – MS students can volunteer to help. Here's the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA8AD2BA7F8C52-sunny#/>
- Outreach Teen & Family Services is starting group sessions for 12-15 y.o.'s 6-week programs for 1 hr/week on learning positive coping skills for anxiety, lacking social skills.
- Sept is suicide prevention month. They are offering QPR training again this year – would love to schedule with PTA's.

#### **Membership**, Kara M. presented by Kristan Weir

- Currently at 34 faculty, 71 1-parent, 62 2-parent for a total of 223 members.
- At Open House there will be a table with a computer and flier hoping to attract more members.

#### **Picture Day**, Meredith Warhola

- The committee is all set for Picture Day on Friday, 9/15! Pictures will be taken again by Wayne's World of Photography. Wayne will bring a table and an assistant with him and I will meet them at school at 7:45. Wayne said they'll be ready to go by the time the bell rings.

#### **Book Fair**, Kara Monocello and Corinne Vanderzee

- The Book Fair is set for November 2nd.
- Committee is in discussion on if they want to have the fair go until 5pm on that day.

#### **Reflections**, Megan Bigham

- The theme for this year's Reflections program is "I Am Hopeful Because..." Students can submit work that expresses their interpretation of the theme in a variety of categories like art, photography, literature, music, dance and video. The due date for submissions is October 30. All entries will be submitted digitally this year and I am still working on reading through the changes to that process. Eventually I'll have more information on rules for this year and a link to the google entry form to send out.

#### **Writing Lab**, Shana Slaybaugh

- The writing lab is excited to start again! Training session for new volunteers will be held September 21, 2023 at 9:30am.
- The lab is welcoming back 18 old volunteers and has 13 new members.
- The writing lab is still looking for NEW volunteers for this school year. If interested please fill out the interest form and plan to attend our Writing Lab Training session this **Thursday, September 21, 2023** at **9:30 am** in the Mellon Middle School library. Remember to bring your ID and allow time for check in at the office.

#### **Faculty Breakfast**, Kelly Koslow

- Everything went well, we used Food Services again. We had breakfast sandwiches, fruit, coffee. John Saban was a huge help!

## **Old Business**

Audit - Report delivered by Carrie Reighard (Audit Committee/CPA)

No gross negligence, no errors. Internal control structure is sound, no missing money, Adocumentation overall is good.

## **New Business**

- Budget - approved during Treasurer's report
- Spirit Wear: Please discuss and potentially vote on having spirit wear yearly instead of bi-yearly.

Adjourned at 9:47 am

MINUTES prepared by Danika Lagorio

### **Attendees** (16 in attendance)

Gillian Stohner, Ann Bozick, Katie Graybill, Amy Grella, Stacie Carlson, Shana Slaubaugh, Amanda Saxman, Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer, Mary Klaber, Corinne Vanderzee, Tess Carter, Lindy Becker, Danille Walker, Danika Lagorio, Kristan Weir, Chris Wolfson