

McKinley Middle School PTO January Meeting Notes - 1/25/21

Via Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present:

Colette Edson - Chair
Jocelyn Hawthorne - Parliamentarian
Jennifer Anania - Treasurer
Eleanor White - Secretary

Other parents present: Not recorded, but approximately 20

School officials present: Assistant Principal Lischwe

Notes: Eleanor

1. Call to order at 6:35 - Jocelyn Hawthorne
2. Welcome - Colette
3. 2021-22 PTO - call for volunteers for executive board
 - a. Nominate yourself over next 2 months
4. Administrative update - Mr. Lischwe
 - a. Pleased w/ reopening
 - b. 130 students signed up to be in building for 3rd quarter - about 115 per day actually attending
 - c. Workload for kids - too much/too little?
 - i. What should kids who finish early during asynchronous time?
 1. Should be offered enrichment activities
 - d. Budget request - more air purifiers for 3 classrooms in the basement which are not getting as much ventilation - currently researching options
 - e. Middle school sports/activities?
 - i. No update from district, but have time before spring season
 - f. Breakfast and lunch are free of charge - please encourage kids to grab breakfast!
 - g. Friday structure
 - i. Not calling it "asynchronous Fridays" anymore, but are continuing to focus on interventions. Students should still be logging in to classes for interventions or enrichment - not new content.
 - h. Time between classes
 - i. Should be 10 minutes between classes, though in-person kids have been transitioning a little faster than planned, so may start a little early. Should not be marked tardy if arrive (in person or online) according to schedule.
 - i. Thanks to PTO for snacks for staff
 - j. Parents shared positives about staff (see below)
5. Fundraising update - Colette on behalf of Sarah Custis
 - a. Fundraiser in fall went great

- b. PTO accepts donations year-round via SLPS Foundation (use code McKinley 860)
- 6. Treasurer's Report - Jennifer
 - a. \$950 on teacher appreciation year-to-date
 - b. \$90 on virtual Springboard afterschool program
 - c. \$140 teacher grant requests
 - d. Do have budget for grade level social events
 - i. 6th grade is doing virtual event
 - ii. 7th and 8th encouraged to organize events
 - 1. Lisa - 8th grade planning to rent drive-in movie theater for night
- 7. Budget requests/designated funds for reopening
 - a. Still have \$2700 in funds from last year earmarked for reopening
 - i. Can definitely spend on air purifiers
 - ii. Still have funds available for needy families, teacher classroom requests, etc.
- 8. Other ideas for student togetherness safely (outside or virtual)?
 - a. Circle of kids in park
 - b. Soccer/kickball games
 - c. Virtual trivia night for students - can hire a company to run it
- 9. What about graduation?
 - a. To be determined - district will set guidelines
 - b. 7th grade reps usually help plan 8th grade graduation
 - c. High school grad ceremonies will be in Busch Stadium
- 10. Yearbook
 - a. Nahfisa coordinating yearbook - will make it happen! - nmj718@yahoo.com
 - b. Working on determining how to do school pictures
- 11. Extracurricular activities
 - a. Looking to do another round of Springboard
- 12. Spiritwear
 - a. 40 families purchased items - will be distributed by school if not picked up already
 - b. Suggested for next time offer a little more traditional, but athletic department usually handles that
 - c. Could do another round with different options if wanted
- 13. Adjournment - 7:17 - Jocelyn

Staff positives shared by parents in chat:

From Eleanor White to Everyone: 06:50 PM

I appreciate Mr. Hamilton, the security guard, for his help in putting up with our family's weird schedule of early pick ups!

From Jennifer Anania to Everyone: 06:50 PM

My daughter really like Mr. Miller's room setup! Even though she's home, she's able to see the kids in class.

From Sara Swain to Everyone: 06:51 PM

Thank you! You guys are doing great! My daughter is so happy to be back with friends and seeing her teachers in person.

From Me to Everyone: 06:51 PM

My daughter loves getting to know teachers in person and meet some new friends.

From Jocelyn Hawthorne to Everyone: 06:51 PM

Appreciate the seamless, safe transition! Thank you doesn't seem like enough!

From Nathaniel Lischwe to Everyone: 06:53 PM

Thank you for the feedback! The great work is a result of the teamwork on the part of the staff team under Ms. King's direction.

From Jill Perry to Everyone: 06:53 PM

big shout out to Licklider (Spanish) for showing such care and attention toward our daughter and her chilly shoulder ways - love how she took time to call and talk to me (mom) in order to learn best approach to garner engagement

From Nathaniel Lischwe to Everyone: 06:54 PM

We have been pushing it too. There are more staff members in process, I think!

From Sara Steindorf to Everyone: 06:55 PM

Shout out to Ms. Stortzum (Science) for making science really fun for my son!