

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

**PTA General Meeting
Montgomery Knolls-Pine Crest PTA February 6, 2018 6:30-8:00pm
Pine Crest Elementary School**

Call to order 7:04pm

In Attendance:

Natesia Johnson-Samuel, PTA President

Katie West, MKES Assistant Principal

Andrea Hickman, PTA Vice President

Rebecca Wilson, PTA Recording Secretary

Cheryl Booker, PCES Principal

Maurice Young, PCES Assistant Principal

Elise Lee, PTA Treasurer

In addition, 22 parents attended the meeting - see sign-in sheets.

Rachael Sondak, PTA Corresponding Secretary

Handouts Distributed/Posted:

- PTA General Meeting Agenda
- Minutes from Dec 5, 2017 PTA General Meeting
- Budget Update
- myMCPS Portal brochure

President's Opening Announcements

- Minutes from December PTA Meeting - motion to approve; approved.

Treasurer Report

- In the updated Budget, the important information is that we currently have 184 members, lower than last year. We will take membership at any time.
- Kickstarter campaign raised over \$10,000, less than what we hoped for (original goal was \$40,000). We will proceed with additional fundraisers because PTA needs the money.
- We have brought in \$15,000, but we have already spent over \$15,000 this year, so we are now dipping into PTA savings.
- May Fair will become a larger fundraising activity. A team of volunteers will begin soliciting corporate sponsorships.
 - Does anyone want to help solicit sponsorships? See Elise Lee (ecolella@gmail.com) or Nicole Rovner (nmn1248@gmail.com).
- Expenses: nothing huge to report, mostly cultural programming, assemblies, field trip transportation, etc.
- Many of the direct donations the PTA is receiving now are not new but are second donations from the same families. Therefore, PTA is changing gears to schedule more, different fundraisers - more than just the Direct Donation Campaign, and asking for parents to help solicit local business community to sponsor PTA.

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- PTA has communicated a lot about the Direct Donation campaign, but the community seems saturated at the moment, because we are not receiving additional funds. Future fundraisers will be Dine Outs, the Plant Sale, and May Fair will become a fundraising event. It is up to May Fair Committee to decide what to do at the event and how to raise funds.
- May Fair is currently scheduled for May 19, but that date is up for debate. The date could be changed to May 12.
- Fun Run status: the event was originally postponed because of the field renovations that were scheduled and then cancelled by Montgomery County. Originally, the PTA was planning to do the Fun Run in the spring, but then decided to do May Fair as a major weekend event and keep Fun Run as a daytime event for the entire community to participate in. So Fun Run will happen in the fall.
- Fun Run in the spring would not bring in the same money it would in the fall this year, because PTA already did the Direct Donation campaign. Better to have Fun Run as the major fundraiser in the fall.
 - Parent comment: Pizza Bingo was a hit and a lot of fun; maybe focus more on a successful event such as Pizza Bingo to raise money and have fun. Maybe have it more often, once a month?
 - Elise: We run Pizza Bingo as a community event and we charge enough to cover cost of event, only raise about \$400 on that event. To have Pizza Bingo more often would require many more volunteers.
- What works at other schools? Auctions, Fun Runs. But we have to also look at demographics of their community; some bring in more money than others. Some raise \$35,000 and others \$10,000; some PTAs' operating budgets are under \$7,000. There is a wide variation across Montgomery County. Our PTA needs to do things that engage a wide variety of people from our entire community. We cannot replicate another school's results.
- Can educational events such as Science Fair also be fundraisers?
 - Science Fair, for example, sells concessions to help pay for costs. Sales cover about half the cost of running that event.
 - Corporate sponsors have the option to fund certain events.
- There is a list of businesses that the PTA volunteers are contacting so we don't duplicate efforts; we just need to know who is contacting whom so we don't bother local businesses.
- Corporate donations are for the calendar year, not the school year, so we can collect money now through December. The sponsors we secure now can place ads in a fall Student Directory.
- A Student Directory for this school year is planned, but the PTA is waiting for MKES information.
- Does anyone have creative ideas for fun events, anything you can think of to fundraise? Please let us know: mkpcpta@gmail.com
- Can you serve as PTA President or Vice President? Can you serve on the Nominating Committee? Let Natesia know: natesiajs@yahoo.com.
- Nicole Rovner also needs a May Fair Committee co-chair and volunteers.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:00-8:00pm is the Maryland PTA Night in Annapolis, where legislators listen to PTA parents. See notice on the listserv and click the link to register.
- Capital Improvement Testimony at County Council is happening tonight, February 6. The suggested budget proposed by the Board of Education was 80 million lower than the previous year; especially the Down County Consortium has many renovations waiting that need to be funded. MCCPTA is getting the details now from County Council. We will pass that info along.
- Saturday, Feb. 10, 1-3pm is the Science Fair Workshop at MKES. Get ideas for science projects, talk to local parent scientists, see previous year's projects, and buy a tri-fold poster board for only \$3.00.
- Feb. 21, 6:30-8:00pm at MKES is the Black History Month Program; a play will be performed by the Bright Star Theater Company.
- Feb 27, 4:00-8:00pm is a Dine Out at Chipotle, Woodmoor Shopping Center.
- March 3, 1:00-3:00pm at Eastern Middle School is the PTA Science Fair.
- April 4, 7:00-8:00pm at PCES is the next PTA Meeting and Elections.
- April 7, 9:00am-12:00pm at MKES is the garden cleanup and pond maintenance day, hosted by the PTA Beautification Committee (Karen Durland).

Maurice Young, Assistant Principal, presenting the myMCPS Classroom Parent Portal

- This is not the same as Google Classroom, which is still being used. The MCPS Parent Portal is new and being used county-wide. Beginning at marking period 3, MK-PC will use this portal.
- Parents must have email address to create an account online. Look for Access ID and Password in a letter that went home with every student in the Thursday folder. You need the ID and Password to log in, then you can change it to something else.
- Link all of your students during initial setup.
- What can you do in the portal?
 - Look at a student's report cards, grade history, daily attendance report, sources/subjects and teachers, link to Google Classroom, school contact information, curriculum.
 - You can also access external applications, such as Library Management System, School Lunch Menus, My School Bucks (put money on student's account), etc.
- For elementary schools, you will only see the interim grade and end of marking period grade.
- It's important for parents to know the standards and what the students are working on at school. On myMCPS parents can see an overview of the marking period and the entire MCPS Curriculum 2.0.

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- To see specific homework assignments, email the teacher directly and ask to see the work. It may also be on Google Classroom, but always ask the teacher.
- The only thing teachers have to do in the myMCPS Portal is post announcements about field trip permission slips, etc.
- Attendance is ONLY marked if a student was ABSENT. If they were present, there is no mark on the calendar.
- Teachers interact with the Portal in the following ways: share announcements, calendars, homework and assignments, resources. Parents have “Observer” access to myMCPS Classroom.
- Parents will see announcements, assignments, calendar, teacher webspace as “observer” only. Parents see information for their child only; their student ID is linked to the parent’s account.
- More than one parent can have an account linked to the same student. Each parent should log in using the specific Access ID and Password for that specific student.
- Download the myMCPS app on your smart phone.
- Online support guide for myMCPS is in several languages: including Spanish
- MK-PC schools are planning to host Open Houses for parents to come to school and create accounts. Details coming soon.
- Parent question: What about parents who are not familiar with computers and rely on paper notifications, who don’t have computers at home and/or no email account?
 - Schools try to meet the needs of all families and provide access to information for everyone. myMCPS won’t do away with paper completely, but it is important to house information in one place.
 - There are also ConnectEd phone calls that reach everyone weekly.

Meeting adjourned 8:03pm

Minutes by Rebecca Wilson, Recording Secretary