

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

**PTA General Meeting
Montgomery Knolls-Pine Crest PTA October 4, 2017 6:30-8:00pm
Montgomery Knolls Elementary School**

Call to order 6:35pm

In Attendance:

Natesia Johnson-Samuel, PTA President

Rachael Sondak, PTA Corresponding Secretary

Cheryl Booker, PCES Principal

Katie West, MKES Assistant Principal

Arienne Clark-Harrison, MKES Principal

Rebecca Wilson, PTA Recording Secretary

Andrea Hickman, PTA Vice-President

Maurice Young, PCES Assistant Principal

Elise Lee, PTA Treasurer

In addition, 46 parents attended the meeting - see sign-in sheets.

Handouts Distributed/Posted:

- Minutes from June 1, 2017 PTA General Meeting
- Amended Budget FY 2017-18
- Sign up sheets for MKES and PCES Teacher Appreciation
- Volunteering sign up sheets
- Membership forms
- Direct Campaign flyer

President's Opening Announcements

- If you join the PTA, you are automatically added to communications lists, except for the Yahoo listserv. Every Sunday evening there is a ConnectED phone call announcement for all MKES, PCES, and PTA activities.
- Volunteering: like last year, the Child Abuse and Neglect training from MCPS is mandatory and good for 3 years. If you did the training last year, you don't need to again this year. In addition, there are 2 field trips where parents will have to do an additional background check (4th grade St. Mary's trip, 5th grade Philadelphia trip). There is financial assistance available for the cost of background check and fingerprinting.
- If you've been background checked for Federal or County, you may be covered for the field trips, but check the MCPS website or call the MCPS main office.
- Motion to pass the minutes from the June 1, 2017 General PTA Meeting. Minutes passed.
- Fundraising
 - Make the Montgomery Knolls Pine Crest PTA the organization you support on AmazonSmile. Other shopping for schools information, such as collecting Box Tops, is on the PTA website. www.mkpcpta.org

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- New Kickstarter Campaign (Andrea Hickman): our goal is to raise \$45,000 at the start of the school year to alleviate asking parents to give money for individual events. \$45K funds the entire PTA year. As of today, we have \$5,000. Give what you can at beginning of the year.
- The PTA will still organize a Fun Run in the spring but as a family event only, unless we need to raise more money. We will do the “fun” fundraisers throughout the year, such as selling Papa John’s pizza cards and the Plant Sale. May Fair would be free and no wristbands - if we raise enough funds from the Kickstarter Campaign.
- PTA funds many things at the schools, such as recess supplies, musical instruments, art supplies, etc.

Budget Amendment (Treasurer)

- The amended budget shows refined categories so one can see better where money is going. Shows an increase for the direct donation campaign, as well as changes to traditional fundraisers.
- Expenses: added scholarships for field trips; money to cover cost of new policy for background checks [contact the school if background check is a financial hardship]; after school club scholarships and Saturday School; classroom and special support; PE equipment at PCES; MKES Media Center and Music; student and family support; added expenses for Student Directory, which pays for itself with advertising; community events (added Movie Night); fundraiser expense shifted to almost \$0., added cost of Fun Run T-shirts (hope for corporate sponsorships to cover costs); removed Fall Festival and May Fair cost. Organizational and administrative expenses show a small shift (~\$5K-~\$4K); this line item was combined to reflect better the monies going to administrative expenses for PTA and monies going to both schools.
- Amended budget outlines the \$14,000 difference from the approved June budget.
- An official letter asking for corporate sponsorships and advertising, on PTA letterhead, is available for any volunteer to use.
- Kickstarter Campaign needs to be more widely communicated after the amended budget is approved.
- Motion to approved the Amended Budget. Budget approved.

Upcoming Events and News (President)

- Next PTA Meeting: December 5, 6:30-8pm at PCES.
- Parent feedback from last year: PTA should alternate locations between schools, make it more equitable between the two buildings. The December PTA Meeting will be held at Pine Crest.
- Fall Harvest Dance is maximum 200 kids, so only Pine Crest students please.
- PTA is sponsoring ARTS Day at PCES in December. If you know an artist who can teach the kids, please invite them. See the Thursday student folder for information.
- Moms’ and Dads’ Days - a County-wide initiative to get parents in the school building more. Parents and guardians are welcome to join their student for recess and/or lunch, and to walk their student to/from school.

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- The time for the ESOL Night at Pine Crest has changed to 6:00-7:30pm.
- Mr. Gregory, PCES Music Teacher, is out on extended leave and there is a long term substitute now.

Technology Resources (Jessica Zeiler, MKES Media Specialist)

- The Media Specialist at PCES left her job, so Ms. Zeiler will speak to how technology is handed at Montgomery Knolls only.
- Parents can come in to the Media Center anytime, create account, and check out books for their children.
- There are many online resources parents can use at home. The school uses tech resources that are appropriate, designed for children, and vetted by experts. The resources are purchased by your tax dollars. Technology is a tool for learning as well as entertainment.
- See school websites for links to specific resources for each grade level, including ESOL. Click on the Media Center link to access the library catalog, which searches databases purchased by MCPS.
- Tumble Books online (through MKES website) is great for reading in multiple languages.
- The Capstone log-in is different between MKES and PCES. Email the Media Specialists for the passwords.
- At PCES, teachers use Google Classroom more and share links between classes.
- Students are exposed to all these resources and they use them during instruction in the classroom.

Google Classroom and Chrome Book Parent Orientation (Maurice Young, PCES Assistant Principal)

- The County is switching to myMCPS to communicate with parents at the elementary school level, as they already do in middle school and high school. Half way through year, elementary parents will start to see more usage on myMCPS.
- Every student uses a Chrome Book in the classroom and to take assessments. Students and parents can log into the Chrome Book and Google Classroom (or any apps) using their student ID/email and password given to them by the teacher. Email the teacher for log in information.
- Front Row is online software dealing with math and acceleration; students are given need-based assignments, tailored for individual student. Questions are similar to the PARCC test.
- Skills to support at home: keyboarding (TypingClub).
- Students cannot email outside MCPS and students should only email their teacher, not other students. They cannot share documents outside of the classroom group or MCPS.
- Students often hand-write their work before the final product is typed in a Chrome Book.
- Past work stays in the student's account for their MCPS school career.
- Part time IT support from MCPS visits both schools.

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Saturday School Presentation (Dirk Cauley, Montgomery Blair HS Assistant Principal and Coordinator of Saturday School)

- Saturday School helps get students who are not at proficiency up to speed. Financial support is available; transportation and breakfast is provided. The local school is held at Blair High School 8:30-11:00am on Saturdays.
- Over 3,000 students attend at 12 different centers, serving clusters of those particular high schools. Students are from grades 1-12; there are some Kindergarten programs at other locations.
- The FARMS fee is \$40 per year, regular fee is \$70 for the year. However, money should not be a barrier for students to attend.
- There is a rolling registration, no deadline; students can come in to register or register online. There is no test for placement in Saturday School; there is an end of year assessment to show progress.
- Lead tutors are certified MCPS teachers; there are also student and grandparent/parent volunteers, university student volunteers.
- Students do SAT prep, AP prep, acceleration for all grade levels, and adult literacy. They are creating a robotics program. The Young Scholars Program is formed from a lottery selection of students in magnet programs.

Meeting adjourned 8:02pm

Minutes by Rebecca Wilson, Recording Secretary