

PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Open and Welcome Remarks

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:11 PM

Mrs. Dano opened the meeting and welcomed Camryn Bonetti, who is working on a special project for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Camryn presented her project to the group:

- Hoping to promote group activities during recess
- She would give the children choice of 4 activities for the playground, of which they will vote on their top 3 picks. The winning games/activities will be painted on the playground by Camryn
- The choices are: Hopscotch, Tic-Tac-Toe, Four Square and an Agility Ladder (Camryn presented samples/storyboards)
- This would be a permanent design on the blacktop
- It would be a Girl Scout project that could be sustained by other Girl Scout troops in the future
- Requesting that the PTA donate funds for paint and supplies

PTA President, Sheila Grauling thanked Camryn for her presentation and let her know that the Board would discuss further, and then vote on funds.

Teachers' Reports

Mrs. Landman (K-3 Report)

- Thanked PTA and volunteers for the Book Fair. It was a wonderful event and the children are excited about the whole journey of reading
- You can see the children's reading blossoming from Kindergarten to older grades
- Mrs. Crimarco also mentioned it is great to see that the children are understanding what their own personal reading levels are and what books are right for them
- Kindergarten
 - 100th day is approaching
 - Arts in Ed program - Slime Time/Mad Science
 - Working on repeating patterns
- 1st Grade - working on Chemistry
- 2nd Grade - working on publishing their own non-fiction books, using Gail Gibbons as author/mentor

Mrs. Crimarco (4-6 Report)

- 4th Grade - Journey into Native America (Arts in Ed Program)
 - The children loved it. It was very well-organized and executed, and the children had so much fun
 - They were hanging on every word
 - Learned that silence is a sign of respect in the Native American culture
 - The children rotated through stations
 - The entire program coincides with the fourth grade curriculum
 - All day event

Principal's Report

Mrs. Dano

- Mrs. Dano mentioned that she has been meeting with every teacher and going student-by-student to review each student's individual progress. This is to help access those who have needed support in the past who

possibly no longer need, those who still need, and those who are not currently getting additional support but may benefit from it. Letters will go home to address those students specifically/individually

- Math NWEA results are used to provide indicators and best information on support
- Math is coming at the children fast and want to make sure students have a foundation of their basic facts

Q: Katie Andreski: Is Compass Learning mandatory?

A: Mrs. Dano: Some teachers assign as HW and should be done by the children at least 2Xs a week. It is tied to their specific level.

Comment: Mrs. Crimarco: Children are going on more frequently. You can see a lot of progress based on NWEA #s. Teachers get the reports on Saturdays and it gives all the details on when child logged on and logged off

Q: Sheila Grauling: Is it geared towards each child's level or grade?

A: Mrs. Dano: Yes

Q: Christina Walsh asked if the difficulty progresses as the child progresses?

A: Mrs. Dano: Yes

Comments:

- Mrs. Crimarco: Compass Learning will repeat info if their NWEA score dropped a level. This may be why some kids say, "I did this already."
- Mrs. Dano: Mrs. Raskin sits with every 6th grader and reviews their scores/levels directly with each student.

Q: Beth Henry: What if child is above grade level?

A: Mrs. Dano: Skills will be reinforced

Mrs. Dano: Compass learning begins in 2nd grade

Q: Sheila Grauling: Are there other apps that you would recommend for Kindergartners and younger grades?

A: Mrs. Dano and Mrs. Landman: Razz Kids, See Song App, ABC Mouse, Star Fall, Google Apps for Education

Q: Gina Speciale: So it is not mandated for 1st Grade?

A: No, but they use Fast Math and a;; can use Fast Math. Kindergartners are exposed in the computer lab

Mrs. Dano pointed out that the wireless capabilities in the building, and all school buildings in MSD, are being "amped" up do the the expanding usage of ChromeBooks.

Treasurer's Report

Tara Tarasi

Opening balance as of 1/1/17: \$14,863.93

Closing as of 1/31/17: \$20,646.08

Updates include money that came in from Box Tops, Class Act Photography commission, membership, Spiritwear, Paint Night, etc.

Expenses include: GI GO Fund and start-up money for the Book Fair, Spiritwear, Parent/Son Event, Sweetheart Dance, etc.

President's Report

Sheila Grauling

- Paint Night - Thanks to Kelly Rowland and Ilene Hellman for all their hard work on a fun and successful event
- Parent/Son Event - Many thanks to Kim Mueller and Nicole Gugliemi for an awesome boy's night out
- Book Fair - Special thanks to Karalynne Esposito and Julia Santiago for a great book fair this year
 - Each child received a \$5 gift certificate from the PTA to buy books only
 - Comment about the Book Fair: Parents/teachers commented that they do not think it is necessary to have toys at the book fair, unless book related. Posters are OK.
- Blood Drive - Our Blood Drive scheduled for Thursday, February 9 will be rescheduled for the spring
- Upcoming Events;
 - 2/10 - Sweetheart Dance
 - For food donations for dessert table - please make sure all ingredients are labeled
 - Please chill drinks
 - 3/30 - Harlem Wizards
 - Assembly rescheduled for 2/17
 - The event on 3/30 will need at least 11 volunteers/staff to play. The goal is 15. The more volunteers the better.
 - Tickets will go on sale Friday, 2/10. Flyers are in the office.
 - Event will take place at MHS Gym
 - At Halftime, the children will be able to get autographs, and they get the kids up to dance
 - Each class parent will be assigned a theme to put together a gift basket for the raffles. Money was contributed at the beginning of the year for this basket, but if parents want to send in items related to their class theme or additional funds, it is welcome.
 - The auction results will not be called out they will post results
 - Cannot sell FF fashions/items at the event. We can sell waters.
 - The event will require a lot of volunteers
 - SEPTA - Selling Autism Awareness t-shirts
 - Stop & Shop- Register online with the Fairfield School code and the FF PTA will receive money back from A+ School Rewards
 - Box Tops - Continue to send in

Corresponding Secretary

Tara Ferrara

Read a thank you letter from Ms. Meininger

SEPTA and BOE Report

Marie Festa

- **BOE Meeting Report - January 19**
 - Recognition of the Girls Varsity Volleyball team who are Nassau County Champions for 17 years, led by Coach CarolAnn Habeeb-Kiel
 - Recognition of the Girls Varsity Soccer team who are Long Island Champions
 - Chris, the Captain of Boys Track team, spoke about the renovation of the track in March and requested it be moved to May, which is the end of the track season. This is so students will have use of the facilities until then. There are 220 athletes that participate in high school track at MHS and 200 at Berner, who will have no place to practice or have meets if the renovation happens in March.
 - Superintendent Lucille Iconis mentioned that MHS was nominated for Blue School Ribbon Award
 - Mr. Ed Kemnitzer did a MakerSpace presentation. He said it is very STEAM oriented. There are 39 students in the Science Research program at MHS

- A resolution was passed that the BOE adopted a Memorandum of Agreement with the School Nurses Association for 5 years
- The 2017-18 school calendar was adopted. The first day of school is September 6, 2017
- **BOE Meeting Report - February 2**
 - Dr. Gaines recognized music students who received All National Honors, All Eastern and All State Honors
 - Dr. Don Flynn presented security and safety updates. He discussed the highly trained personnel, cutting-edge technology, and that all district personnel have received training, and plans are in place in case of an emergency
 - Mr. Tim O'Donnell, Director of Facilities and Operations, spoke about video surveillance, increased lighting, enhanced infrastructure and unannounced drills
 - They spoke about the confidential guidebook given to every staff member which contains all the same information, aside from evacuation plans (which are specific to school and classroom)
 - Alan Adcock gave an overview of proposed budget re: general support, transportation, community services, employee benefits and debt services
 - Several resolutions were passed, please reference the BOE agenda/notes on the MSD website

Committee Chair Reports

PTA Business Memberships - Christina Walsh

- 9 businesses confirmed
- Business names appear on the FF PTA website in alphabetical order
- Some businesses, if you mention FF PTA, will give you a discount
- Currently a committee of 1, so any help would be appreciated
- We will stick to the FF territory
- Not allowed to go to Vape shops or Liquor stores

Paint Night - Ilene Hellman

- Thanked Kelly Rowland for gathering so many great baskets, all vendors, especially those from the FF family businesses that donated
- Full list of businesses that donated were: Aura Salon, Bagel Wagon, Calda Pizza, Emerge Yoga, GOGO Foot Spa, Gregorio's Pizza, Harmony and Wellness Spa, Just Escape, Kelly Rowland Skin Care (KRSC), La Cole Salon and Spa, Leonardo's Pizzeria, Linda's Fab Fashions, Massapequa Bowl, New Wave Sports Outfitters, NY Burger Bar, Organic Corner, Seaford Cinemas, The Tap Room and Uncle Giuseppe's

Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes from November 16, 2016 - Approved by Sue Foran, motion seconded by Theresa Alini
- Minutes from January 9 Meeting - Approved by Sue Foran, motion seconded by Theresa Alini

New Business

Nominating Committee

- Committee includes: Ilene Hellman, Diana Misita, Kathleen Romano, Dawn Mollica and Laura Lucchi
- Sheets will be sent home so that parents can nominate people to the Board. Sheets will include info on what each role entails
- Please make sure when nominating someone you let them know first
- You can nominate yourself

Meeting Comments

- Katie Andreski thanked PTA for evening meetings

- Sue Foran mentioned that some books were out of stock by the last day of the book fair. Sue asked about ordering books through Scholastic for those children. Mrs. Dano explained that we can place the order with Scholastic and they will send books.
- PTA explained that they charged tax this year, where in the past the PTA would cover the cost.

Upcoming PTA Meeting

Next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13 at 9:45AM

Mrs. Dano reminded everyone school closed on Thursday, February 9 due to snow forecast

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Attendees:

Morissa Lagano, Stephanie O'Hara, Jennifer Klein, Krista Busby, Diana Easteadt, Kim Gonzalez, Tara Tarasi, Traci Lorenz, Sue Foran, Jennifer McGovern, Courtney Mullin Gialella, Theresa Alini, Katie Andreski, Ilene Hellman, Marie Festa, Gina Speciale, Jennifer Lopez, Dawn Mollica, Tatum Salembier, Tara Ferrara, Sheila Grauling, Christina Walsh, Mrs. Crimarco, Mrs. Landman and Mrs. Dano