



Garrett Park Elementary School PTA, Inc.

PTA General Meeting
October 3rd, 2017
6:31 pm (start)
GPES Media Center

Minutes

1. **Welcome & introductions (6:30)- *Sherri Stevens, VP of Diversity & Inclusion***
 - a. Who we are, roles- Board members welcomed meeting attendees and introduced themselves and their roles
2. **Motion to approve June minutes- *Sherri Stevens, VP of Diversity & Inclusion***
 - a. *Motion to approve, and seconded*
3. **Election of Board positions- *Sherri Stevens, VP of Diversity & Inclusion***
 - a. Mary Jo Houton – VP of Membership
 - b. Motion to elect, and seconded
4. **Treasurer Report- *Christina Bradley, Treasurer (6:35 pm - 6:45pm)***
 - a. Amendments to Budget - Budget presented at PTA meeting, summarized budget and forthcoming events and expenditures. (Please see the linked PDF document)
 - i. Budget amendments presented to group for approval
 - ii. Motion to approve and seconded- all in favor
 - iii. 60% budget to support school (supplies for educators, etc)
 - b. Audit Report - Heather Down (6:45)
 - i. Audit Report presented to attendees for approval to be sent to MDPTA
 - ii. Motion to accept and seconded
5. **Membership & Rocky Fund Update- *Mary Jo Houton, VP of Membership (6:46pm)***
 - a. VP of Membership spoke to how to join the PTA (Rocky Fund), why membership is important, where money is allocated, and the reason great numbers for advocacy are so important
 - b. PTA spends on average \$50 / student, all donations welcome
 - c. 298 members of PTA, 279 are parents, 19 staff
 - d. Goal of 500 members by October 31st- want to have the membership number and income to support everything mentioned in Treasurer report
 - e. Currently at \$9500 but need \$20,000 to support our budget

6. **Cluster Update- *Katie Mason & Kate Fritz, WJ Cluster Reps for GPES (6:52)***
 - a. Introductions including past members and Cluster Coordinator (Jim Bradley)
 - b. Cluster includes 6 elementary, Rock Terrace, Tilden, WJ
 - c. Spoke to role of WJ Cluster Reps, work with other school's reps on a unified message as a cluster, open to feedback from the community from GPES
 - d. Focused on long term planning for the cluster by looking at the capital improvement plan, this year is a big year 10/23 the next capital plan is released for next 6 years, Reps will ask for emails, testimony regarding our needs, waiting to hear back about high school and Walter Johnson
 - e. During Back to School night same as council testimony (White Flint II Plan next phase). Reps testified about space and overcrowding, WTOP covered the meeting, 2 Garrett Park parents/residents with young children (not in GPES) testified.
 - f. Briefly mentioned Woodward HS potential plans (2022)
 - g. Section in the PTA Newsletter covering WJ Cluster as it affects GPES families

7. **Diversity & Inclusion Updates- *Sherri Stevens, VP of Diversity & Inclusion (6:55)***
 - a. Next ALLIES Playdate: Sunday Nov 12 3pm in APR- "India" is the topic by Ajay
 - b. Covered what ALLIES is/does. Mission focused on working together/understanding each other. Playdates designed to get to know each other
 - c. Oct 25th, planning meeting, reach out to Sherri Stevens
 - d. Feedback from Back to School Nights, working to make sure programs are appealing to moms *and* dads

8. **Principal Update (7:00-7:15)- *Daniel Tucci, GPES Principal (7:02pm)***
 - a. Started with a Thank You to everyone in the community
 - b. Provided updates on numbers (preliminary numbers) as of date 815 official students, 126 Kindergarten with 5 teachers, 122 5th grade, 167 kids 2nd grade, others classes in between. Growth stagnating
 - c. Brand new portable for 4th grade Mr. Vogel. Requested a canopy for the entrance, in process, fixed wi-fi/internet, on playground,
 - d. Lunch and recess single grade level with short transition time, good number of adults to monitor recess. Begins at 11:10am ends at 2:20pm
 - i. Question: is there coordinated schoolwide effort for daily snack? - snacks in Kindergarten and 1st grade all classes available (in class and individually)
 - e. Oct 9th is Open House- welcome parents to join, during the day, reminded attendees to legally park and not in Parkside
 - f. Book Fair next week, PJ Read-A-Loud Night on 11th at 6:30pm
 - g. Halloween Tuesday 10/31, 2:30 pm parade with parties to follow, decorations up on Monday
 - h. Walk bikes before/after school day. Watch out for pedestrians on Kenilworth
 - i. New bus started Monday 10/2 (striped bus), 11th bus added to the bus routes. Took overload from Green Bus.

- i. Q: Can you send new bus routes out to parents again? - Was sent in summer letter, but will talk to supervisor about bus schedules that have changed.
 - j. Gathering for OSET Team to put in place shelter and lockdown drill with students and staff Wednesday (10/4) morning. Will be a simulated lockdown practice drill.
 - i. Q: How do you explain to Kindergarten? -just in case (x, y, z) we are practicing. We do not go into specific scenarios with smaller kids. Go through specifics with staff and OSET team and supervisor
 - k. Reminder to join the PTA, pleased with participants and engagement of community and committees.
 - l. Opened the floor for questions: no questions asked
- 9. Use of Chromebooks in Classrooms (7:15-7:46)- Noah Drill, GPES 5th Grade Teacher**
- a. PPT Presentation “Using Chromebooks Garrett Park Elementary School”
 - b. Similar to last year’s presentation
 - c. Discussing how teachers and students use Chromebooks
 - d. 2-5 use Chromebooks
 - e. Every student signs a Chromebook contract
 - f. Covered the basics of Google Classroom, Google Drive, Username and Password, (all school issued usernames, hardware, etc. is property of MCPS), Google Translate, Text-to-Speech, Educational Resources, Educational Games (*media specialists can speak to which resources are available at what times*), Research, Writing Assignments/Resources, Google Docs,
 - g. Talk about good places to go online and online literacy, news literacy, media literacy
 - h. Students can go back and work on old writing assignments over time

General Questions:

- Are Students are Assigned Chromebooks? - yes
- What is a Chromebook? - image shared
- Can students share documents with each other? - yes, that’s why the Chromebook Contract is so important to prevent bullying but encourage collaboration. Students can’t share outside MCPSMD login (kids can only share with other students and staff).
- Can we get the sheet of passwords again? - go to Ms. Moyer
- Can parents see student documents, projects? - yes, you can from home computer, go through Google.com, put (student ID)@MCPSMD.net. If students can’t remember ask teacher for password.
- Is there a link from the school’s homepage with all of this information? - can follow up with Ms. Moyer about links, some passwords can’t be shared in a public forum. Free will be shared, but subscriptions cannot be shared. Possibility of all links put into the kid’s Google Drive. Curriculum links are available on the GPES website under Curriculum links.
- Parent access to MCPS Portal? will take a while for it to be rolled out, will be fully available for elementary school parents next year

- Research or thought on handwriting vs typing? - pros/cons to moving to typing, there are also pushes to teach cursive and penmanship. 3rd grade teaches cursive. 1st grade focuses a lot on handwriting.
- What about limiting screen time. How much do they get at school before using Chromebooks? K-1 there are no chromebooks, go to computer lab once a week for 45mins, there are daily 5 or daily 3 centers. It's not a long period of time. Promethium board is a screen, so if you count that, lessons are on there, but are interactive. Indoor resource for kindergarten they watch a movie/video. Watch educational videos in class as well to supplement the lesson. 5th grade spend time on Chromebooks for writing, for MAP-M. 5th grade kids don't use Chromebooks during indoor recess. Average 30-45 mins for entire school's usage.

10. Adjourned (7:47)- *Sherri Stevens, VP of Diversity & Inclusion*, A headcount noted 47 people present, 37 on the sign up sheet

Respectfully submitted, Amber Coleman-Mortley, Recording Secretary