



DRAFT

PTA General Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022

6:00 pm via Zoom

- I. Call-to-Order and Welcome: Co-President Susan Mapen calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
 - a. Quorum established (20 members present; quorum is 15)
 - b. Not having all VPs provide a report tonight but wanted to share some shoutouts:
 - i. Boosterthon – thanks to Fabricio and Cutler for most successful Boosterthon ever
 - ii. Thanks to Marla & Justin for the much-needed Monster Bash
 - iii. Thanks to the Teacher Appreciation leaders – Vicky, Denise & Carisa for showing love to the teachers, including the coffee cart this morning, the newly-designed teacher lounge space stocked with snacks and drinks
 - iv. Thanks to Sintra & Heather and their SWAG team for keeping the entrance inviting, outdoor spaces free of trash and revamping the lost and found
 - v. Thanks to Anne-Marie for refreshing the playground space
 - vi. Thanks to Robin & Aisha – for planning the Kindness Graffiti day and our next No Place For Hate activity in February
 - vii. And huge thanks to Gina for keeping us all informed on all things MES
 - c. Zoom rules – chat enabled but not using/monitoring, so please use raise hand function to speak as we would in-person, remember to stay muted

- II. Presentation of Agenda by Susan Mapen
 - a. Agenda posted on website and link shared in chat
 - b. Lisa Olmsted moves to adopt the proposed agenda
 - i. Tony Moore seconds the motion
 - ii. Unanimous approval to adopt the proposed agenda

- III. Approval of Minutes from General PTA Meeting of August 25, 2021
 - a. Minutes posted on website and link shared in chat
 - b. No corrections noted
 - c. Carisa Quinn moves to approve the minutes
 - i. Matt Fox seconds the motion
 - ii. Unanimous approval



IV. Introduction of Executive Team and VP/Committee Reports (6:07pm)

- a. VP Enrichment, Jen Lieb
 - i. Family Science Night – February 28-March 3 – will have virtual tool kits for pickup – thanks to awesome committee for getting great speakers – great turnout last year, hoping for same – registration is open through 2/13 – can attend for several different nights
 - ii. Variety Show: outdoor Dolphins Make Waves in the park – Sunday 4/24 4-6p – excited to bring event back in person in open and inclusive way – weather is the only worry but hoping for sunshine
 - iii. Spring Book Fair – Anne Marie DeBacker – “Book Bazaar” at Virginia Highlands Books (credit to co-chair Elizabeth Fox), March 10-18 – proceeds from March shopping go back to MES – shop and support classroom libraries – kind of like a Dolphin DineOut – either purchase a book directly for a classroom or proceeds will be used towards teacher book requests – need to remember to tell them you’re shopping for MES in order for MES to receive credit
- b. VP Fundraising, Cutler Andrews
 - i. Going full steam ahead for auction after deliberation – thanks to chairs, Ginger Pursley & Cristin Andrews
 - ii. Theme – Morningside Mardi Gras at STAVE Room
 - iii. Paper invites going out next week for backpack distribution
 - iv. Need help – auction items, Mardi Gras themed stuff – volunteers reach out directly to Ginger – also looking for sponsorships for event
 - v. Music and caterer booked
 - vi. Conscious about risk mitigation around covid – ventilation, etc
- c. VP Operations, Carisa Quinn
 - i. Highlight Teacher Appreciation Chairs and Committee – Vicky Clifton and Denise Lippert
 - 1. Working overtime especially now since back in building
 - 2. Fantastic coffee truck this morning
 - 3. Vicky Clifton, Denise Lippert & Sintra Constant - makeover for teacher lounge
 - 4. Plans for Valentines Day coming up
 - ii. March 28-April 1 – Teacher Appreciation Week – theme: How Sweet It Is to be Taught by You – partnering with Room Parents
 - iii. Shout out to Brooke Linefsky for covid kits and books



- V. Election of Nominating Committee – Dawn Rutherford
 - a. Reading of related Georgia PTA Local Unit Bylaws for MES:
 - i. Article VI: Officers and Their Election, Section 8
 - b. Nominations for Nominating Committee members, each has consented to serve if elected to committee (5 members to committee; 1 alternate): Rae Conlan, Javin Foreman, Elizabeth Fox, Marla Johnson, Brooke Linefsky, Fabricio Moraes.
 - c. Request for further nominations; none received from the floor.
 - d. Matt Fox receives votes for alternate member of Nominating Committee.

- VI. Financial Review – Treasurer, Jim Pursley
 - a. On track – haven't had to go into any contingencies
 - b. Current cash – \$376,549.03
 - c. Expenditures – actual vs budgeted (actual expenditures will be less):
 - i. Remaining budgeted expenditures: \$143,489.47
 - ii. Conservative estimate of realistic expenditures: \$120,000
 - d. Remaining cash before auction revenue: \$233,059.56 (or \$256k after conservative/realistic expenditures)
 - i. Cash needed for to start next PTA year: \$40,000
 - ii. Cash earmarked for new PTA (Inman school): \$20,000
 - e. Cash Range following anticipated revenue from auction (if budgeted auction revenue of \$75k is met) of \$248-271k to spend towards MES renovations

- VII. Presentation and Discussion of MES Renovation Tour and Projects to Fund – Tony Moore
 - a. Thank you for being here
 - b. Why are we talking about MES renovation
 - i. Opportunity to make mark on school before construction equipment leaves
 - ii. Not proposing budget re-allocations for tonight (will do after auction, at 3/10 meeting)
 - iii. Tonight: discuss ideas for spending
 - iv. Do not have finals costs for proposed projects
 - v. Not committed to anything until have final numbers from auction and costs from APS/construction team
 - vi. Some guiding questions/thoughts: 1) does the project have long term vs. short term value-add? (2) are there clear benefits to students & teachers? (3) are there benefits to the community? (4) how meaningful/impactful is the project?



- c. Renderings from APS - earlier in project design
 - i. Going to be beautiful when done
 - ii. Had opportunity to walk through and see progress – looking at projects for PTA funding –
 1. Opportunities for PTA to enhance/fund: turf at Field of Dreams; create outdoor amphitheatre outside new cafeteria space; murals inside building; legacy portable area improvements
 2. Saw classrooms, library, art rooms, steam room
 3. On track for July completion
 4. Technology and furniture covered by APS
 - iii. Legacy Garden area – splintered picnic tables will be removed, plants/bushes cleared by APS
 - iv. Outside – large field and basketball court – re-position climbing sphere that used to be near East Rock Springs Road at drive way
 - v. Walking through site – looked at opportunities for enhancing and reviewed budget impacts from cuts due to increased costs during pandemic construction
 1. Turf – anticipated cost of \$190k for turfing the large play field
 2. Area outside cafeteria – create terraced seating for amphitheatre – use for enrichment, portraits, class outside, eat outside – maybe turf amphitheater with sufficient funding
 3. Murals opportunity – spend option for certain areas in building (entry hall/lobby area and in new gym)
 4. SWAG garden – transform area that formerly hosted garden
 5. Legacy portable area (near walker pad on Haygood side of MES) – can't cement it – but maybe pergolas or shady space for outdoor use, outdoor learning space, less-crowded walker pad, class parties – many different ways to use space
- d. What's next? Looking for final costs from APS, have an auction (raise funds), meet March 10 for budget reallocation – plan to come to auction
- e. Question – Lauren Parkerson – how tall is the wall by cafeteria?
 - i. Only a few feet on the wall outside at amphitheater space; glass wall will be inside cafeteria to view outside space of possible amphitheatre with legacy playground above
- f. Susan Mapen – MES Foundation is also interested in amphitheatre project so they may contribute making it a joint project ,or cover the entire project cost
- g. Tony Moore – it has been suggested that we can use space at MES possibly next year for events – could use turf field next year; Susan Mapen – another benefit to the turf is that the community can use it



VIII. Updates & Announcements from GO Team – Lisa Olmsted

- a. Refer to docs on GO Team webpage (Strategic Plan and Budget in development)
 - i. Updating school's strategic plan
 1. 10 strategic priorities for MES that align with district's strategic priorities (APS 5)
 2. Ranked 2-5 priorities – with input from Ms. Sofianos and teachers as follows – to inform budget process:
 - a. (1) Focus on eliminating academic achievement gaps among student groups, including African-American, Hispanic and Special Education student groups; (2) Provide resources to enhance teaching and learning; (3) Ensure that parents engaging in school family activities reflect the diversity of our school; (4) Focus on individual student needs; (5) Create a welcoming, inclusive and responsive school culture that embraces all of our Morningside students and families.
 - ii. Received school's funding allocation for 22-23 school year:
 1. 822 projected students for funding for 2023 (decrease of 83 students from FY 22)
 2. \$7,584,627 budget (based on Student Success Formula and allocated funds)
 3. Additional \$195,125 CARES funding for covid impacts
 - iii. Next meetings/steps:
 1. 2/7 at 5p: virtual work session – deeper discussion on funding scenarios
 2. 2/9 at 5p: next regularly scheduled meeting to review first draft of budget

IX. Principal's Update – Audrey Sofianos (6:53pm)

- a. Field trip updates: planning – still working on 5th grade – STEM truck to campus for all grades 3/25 to 4/1
 - i. K – 4/21 to Atlanta Botanical Garden
 - ii. 1st – 3/23 to Chattahoochee Nature Center
 - iii. 2nd – 2/4 to Ballet at Cobb Energy; 4/12 & 4/14 to Zoo Atlanta; 2/23 & 2/24 High Touch High Tech
 - iv. 3rd – 2/24, Diamond Dell
 - v. 4th – 2/23 & 2/24, 3/31 & 4/1 High Touch High Tech
- b. Event updates



PTA Morningside
Elementary
School

- i. Parents can come to lunch starting 2/7
 - ii. Just learned about global day of play – unstructured play day – excited for socialization and kid-interaction and play – scheduled at MES for Friday 2/11
 - iii. Current parent tours rescheduled – 2/22 (Tuesday) and 2/24 (Thursday) – 45 minute walk through Inman at two times each day
 - 1. Will schedule more based on demand
 - 2. Prospective parent tours to be rescheduled soon
 - iv. Principal talk at 5p on 2/22 in-person in Media Center
- c. Quote from staff: “We thought last year was the most difficult year of our careers. It wasn’t. This year is physically and emotionally exhausting. We are so very tired. We are teaching kids who are not only academically behind, but kids who act younger than their age. When parents are supportive, it makes our job less stressful. Send teachers messages of appreciation! No matter what, we love our babies.”
- i. Rebuilding connections with teachers – send notes of gratitude
 - ii. Bright spots at MES –
 - 1. This week able to have more substitutes in building – parents helping as building substitutes
 - 2. Encouraging results in surveillance testing
 - 3. Positive, community feeling on FB page – more positive vibe noted by teachers who are also on the page
 - 4. Only 77 days left - fun activities ahead
 - 5. Committees led by teachers – lunar new year, black history month
 - 6. STEM programming – on weeks kids don’t have media center, they alternate to STEM those weeks
 - iii. Principal’s focus-love & support, being realistic about where we are – focus on the kids – looking for the positive and positive intent
 - 1. Looking at recent decision to stay at Inman – Positive – stability for the kids – teachers not having to pack and can focus on the kids
 - iv. Question – Jim Pursley – how does budget compare this year to last year?
 - 1. Gone down by few \$100k every year for the past few years
 - a. Based on number of kids
 - b. Budget plan on 822 students – but planning homeroom classes for more (maybe 830)
 - 2. Going to have to right size a little bit this year (CARES money has helped, and not having to give back to APS after fall enrollment count)
 - 3. 42 homerooms at East Rock Springs; now have 40 homerooms today; tried to keep class sizes small



- a. Eliminated other positions (used to have two clerks, now only have one)
 - v. Feedback that community is enjoying the principal's blog – tomorrow's topic preview: trophy tour for spelling bee winner – MES student won APS district-wide bee

- X. Results of the Nominating Committee Vote – Dawn Rutherford
 - a. Matt Fox reports on vote: Rae Conlan will be our alternate
 - b. The members of the Nominating Committee for our 2022-23 MES PTA Executive Board slate are: Javin Foreman, Elizabeth Fox, Marla Johnson, Brooke Linefsky, and Fabricio Moraes, with Rae Conlan serving as alternate
 - c. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the PTA and MES

- XI. Adjournment
 - a. Tony Moore moves to adjourn
 - b. Lisa Olmsted seconds the motion
 - c. Unanimous approval – meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm