



PTA Morningside Elementary School

PTA Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2018

I. Call-to-Order

- a. Secretary Donna Earley called the meeting to order at 8:19 AM

II. Meeting Purpose and Goals

- a. 8:20 AM Co-president Niccole Burton outlined the under-enrollment impact at MES resulting in a ~\$93,000.00 budget cut from the state.
i. PTA has been asked to provide funding support in areas not typically covered.
ii. Security is an area where PTA was asked to provide funding by parents.
iii. Selected security solutions for PTA support and costs will be presented per 09.17.18 General PTA Meeting vote.
iiii. Must decide if security falls within the scope and mission of the PTA.
1. If so, must go through the process to change the scope and mission of the MES PTA.

Special Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Sept 24, 2018



Table with 3 columns: Item, Duration, and Description. Rows include PTA Co-Presidents (5 min), GO Team (10 min), Administration (10 min), PTA Co-Presidents (10 min), BoD Discussion (20 min), and Adjournment.

Recap of General Meeting via DRAFT 09/17 Minutes



I. MES State Funding Gap Requests and Vote

- a. 8:30 AM Angela Howard and Niccole Burton outlined the areas that the PTA is being asked to help fund.

ix. Security (costs vary by solution) – 8:56 AM Currently have 1 full time resource officer that splits between 2

i. MES State Funding Gap Requests and vote

a. 8:30 AM Angela Howard and Niccole Burton outlined the areas that the PTA is being asked to help fund.

- iv. Security (costs vary by solution) – 8:56 AM Currently have 1 full time resource officer that splits between 2 campuses. Cost for additional armed officer \$75,000. Other solutions include ALICE staff training expansion which has been funded by MESF. There is strong feeling among parents, faculty and staff for additional security measures.
1. Executive Committee recommendation is against funding an additional armed officer. We would need to pull from other areas meet this expense.
 2. 8:58 AM Cindy Phelan had recommendation to do a 3rd party professional assessment to describe our security vulnerabilities and make recommendations. This direction was met with many positive comments.
 3. Other ideas: capital campaign to meet security measure costs, reaching out to community and private police to patrol more frequently.
 4. It was determined that more information is needed before we can vote on how funds should be spent towards security.
 5. Motion was made to handle this via a special Board of Directors meeting to be held in 7-10 days by Deanne Malick and seconded by Maria Lyons. Aisha Stith, VP of Operations, will investigate security audit companies and costs for this meeting.

III. PTA Mission Statement Review

a. 8:24 AM Co-President Angela Howard reviewed the scope, mission and values of the MES PTA:

PTA Mission and Values



PTA Mission

- To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

PTA Values

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

b. 8:26 AM Kristen Holtz and Angela Howard clarified that if it is decided by the Board of Directors that security is within the scope of the PTA; a process to change our scope and mission would have to take place before we are able to take any action towards using PTA funds for school security initiatives.

III. GO Team Role and Function

a. 8:27 AM GO Team chair, Cara Frattasi, gave overview of GO Team

- i. GO Team focuses on strategic goal planning and MES budget allocation to meet those goals.
- ii. GO Team goals reflect the needs and wishes of the MES community. More explicitly, as an elected team, the purpose is to reflect the concerns of the parental community.
- iii. To drive sound MES budget decisions, the GO Team relies on data-driven research to support the initiatives they advocate.
- iiii. Fall 2018 GO Team is launching a survey for the MES community aimed at capturing the "State and Pulse of the Community". Through this survey, GO Team goals and initiatives should be aligned with those most important to MES families.
- v. Community Advisory committee is an opportunity to drive the survey and ensure that their voices are heard. Please contact Cara Frattasi if interested in being on advisory committee.
- vi. Security is a topic the survey will address and falls within the scope of the GO Team mission.
- vii. Work is happening on the state and district level to fully address security concerns across the public-school system.

V. Selected Security Measures (costs vary by solution)

a. 8:38 AM Angela Howard presented the security solution scouting information (slide below):

- i. Currently have 1 full time resource officer that splits between 2 campuses. Cost for

VI. Proposed Security Measures (Costs Vary by Solution)

a. 8:38 AM Angela Howard presented the security solution scouting information (slide below):

- i. Currently have 1 full time resource officer that splits between 2 campuses. Cost for additional armed officer \$75,000.
- ii. MES School staff has been ALICE trained and training expansion has been funded by MESF.
- iii. There remains strong feeling among parents for additional security measures.
- iiii. 8:40 AM Kristen Holtz asked if any of the security audit companies contacted specialize in schools. It was unclear if this was the case.
- v. 8:41 AM Brian Conlan asked if it could be posted that the school had undergone a security assessment in Spring of 2018 and concerns had been addressed.
- vi. 8:43 AM Clarifications
 1. PTA cannot hire school staff such as 2nd security officer – must go through official channels.
 2. Current guard paid for by MES school budget not PTA funds.

Security Audit Scouting Report – VP Operations, Aisha Stith



- A alternative option for our school safety would be a **'Threat and Vulnerability Assessment'**
- According to Silva Consultants, costs for this type of assessment starts at \$5,000 goes up to \$50,000
- Two Companies Contacted
 - Chesley Brown International of Marietta – quote pending
 - Sirko and Associates
 - Require walkthrough assessment before quote
 - Willing to come this week
- Note: Most security advisors will require a walkthrough before quote can be generated

VI. Discussion

- a. 8:48 AM Discussion between board members:
- i. Concern about slippery slope of starting to pay for security staff or PTA getting into the “business of hiring” in general
 - ii. As a public school there is a system in place. There are plans at the state, district and school level for security. PTA could be seen as disrupting/overstepping those plans.
 - iii. Catherine Collins asked if we could engage Michelle Olympiadis to have a security-focused meeting.
 - iiii. Concern that a 2nd security guard is the best way to provide security. There are multiple entrances and exits. Access is especially compromised during drop-off and pick-up.
 - v. Concern that hyper-discussion around security suggests that there is an issue when the school is actually secure. Can incite unwarranted concern in parental community.
 - vi. PTA strives to fund things that we can “carry with us”: books, materials, equipment.
 - vii. GO Team is already looking at best practices for school security within their domain.
 - viii. PTA Exec recommendation: To direct parents concerned about security to GO Team and GO Team survey as it aligned with their strategic initiatives.
 - ix. **9:01 AM Jenny Richman motioned to not use any PTA funds for security personnel and/or an independent security assessment. Catherine Collins seconded the motion.**
 - x. **9:02 Unanimous vote by the MES PTA Board of Directors to uphold the motion to not use any PTA funds for security personnel and/or an independent security assessment.**
 1. **Direct concerned parents to GO Team strategic initiatives.**
 2. **Ask for an annual APS security assessment at the next General PTA meeting.**

VII. Adjournment 9:13 AM

