



DRAFT PTA General Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024 8:00am

MES Auditorium

In Attendance : 27

- I. Call-to-Order and Welcome
 - a. Co-President Dawn Rutherford calls the meeting to order at 08:09 am
 - b. Quorum is established (27 members present; quorum is at least 15)
 - c. QR code printout circulated with relevant links:
 1. August 10, 2023 General Meeting Minutes
 2. January 25, 2024 General Meeting Agenda
 3. 2023-24 Proposed Budget Changes
 - d. Co-President Dawn presents the agenda as posted on the MES PTA website and circulated via printed QR code in the meeting
 - i. No additions requested
 - ii. Motion to approve by Camille Richardson
 1. Second from Jackie Townley
 2. Unanimous approval

- II. Co-president Zach Juno presents key PTA events made possible through the efforts of the MES community (accompanied with slide deck photos)
 - a. International Festival - Thanks to Shraddha Strennen and her committee for making this wonderful event, of celebrating our diverse countries and cultural heritages, possible and freely accessible to the MES community, while coming in under budget!
 - b. MES Book Fair and funding of library - Our library was able to purchase \$7,700 worth of books thanks to proceeds from the successful Book Fair, and PTA has funded Mr. Rawls and the library with over 13K this school year (cue Mr. Rawls' appreciation video)
 - c. Dolphin Dash and Boosterthon fundraiser - this successful event provides the bulk of our operating budget, and this year aligned with our theme of belonging: class-wide prizes and optimized prize delivery to promote inclusiveness, MES spiritwear for all, etc
 - d. Teacher/staff appreciation, programs for enrichment and community-building, etc - all these contributions that strengthen our school are made possible through the participation, dedication and funding of our PTA members.



- III. Co-president Dawn Rutherford shares the following:
 - a. Wrapping up our fall events and doing a pulse check on the year has led to some necessary proposed budget changes, which will be shared by the PTA treasurer shortly. With the amended budget, the PTA looks to support facility enhancements such as shade sail installations, Lost & Found solutions, and a renovated back play area. PTA is working with admin and the district to better understand the scope and costs of such projects, which may also receive funding support from our upcoming spring auction event.
 - b. In the meantime PTA investments from last year include the new stage curtains and AV system we are able to enjoy in the auditorium today, as well as the ongoing progress of the MES garden
 - c. Please refer to today's handouts of various MES event dates for the spring, also posted on the MES website calendar and sent out via our weekly newsletter Digital Dolphin and social platforms by our Communications VP, Kristen Cincotta.

- IV. Secretary Jane Park presents the minutes from the General Meeting of August 10, 2023 as posted on the PTA website and circulated via printed QR code in the meeting.
 - a. No corrections noted
 - b. Motion to approve by Shraddha Strennen
 - i. Second from Effie Antonakakis
 - ii. Unanimous approval

- I. Election of the 2023 Nominating Committee - Secretary Jane Park explains the basic function of the Nominating Committee, states the relevant bylaws, and proceeds with the election:
 - a. The following members of the MES PTA have been nominated to serve on our Nominating Committee to propose the slate of officers for the 2024-25 MES PTA, and each nominee has consented to serve if elected to the committee:
 - i. Hallie Blythe
 - ii. Mark Griffith
 - iii. Lorraine Hatch
 - iv. Anita Lynn Haynes-Ball
 - v. Tori Moore
 - vi. Jackie Townley
 - b. All MES PTA members present at the General meeting receive a paper ballot and select five (5) Nominating Committee candidates to serve on the Nominating



Committee. Membership Chair Matt Fox counts and certifies the results while the meeting continues with VP updates (see V below).

- c. (Following the VP updates, treasurer's report and budget amendment proposal) The five members of the Nominating Committee elected by ballot are:
 - i. Hallie Blythe, Mark Griffith, Lorraine Hatch, Anita Lynn Haynes-Ball, Tori Moore
 - ii. The alternate position on the Nominating Committee will be held by Jackie Townley
 - d. Secretary Jane Park appoints as temporary chair Halley Blythe, who will set the first meeting date/time/location for the committee. At the first meeting, the committee will elect a permanent chair.
- V. VP Reports - Each VP highlights past and upcoming key events, including volunteer opportunities for the spring (presented with slide deck)
- a. Enrichment – VP Anne-Marie DeBacker
 - i. Grants program - available for any student/parent/staff to request funding for enrichment opportunities (you may submit on behalf of your classroom/teacher)
 - ii. MES Arts Showcase (Dolphins Got Talent): January 27, 2024 at MES Auditorium - needs more volunteers!
 - iii. Family Science Night: February 13 & 15, 2024
 - iv. Manga Dance (Feb 5), Fox in the Box, and 1 more visiting author
 - b. Fundraising – presented by Fabricio Moraes and Justin Hubbarth (in place of VP Dayna Detro who is traveling for work)
 - i. Spring auction “Bust A Move” : March 16, 2024 - in need of auction items!
 - ii. MES Night at Atlanta United: April 20, 2024 - 300 tickets secured as a block section, scheduled to go on sale Feb 26th, details posted on MES Facebook page.
 - iii. Dine-out: final partner is Casseroles on Feb 9-10 - 25% of proceeds go to MES
 - c. Community - VP Aisha Stith
 - i. Thank you for contributing to our many community partnership initiatives such as Dolphins do Good and No Place for Hate.



- ii. Please reach out if interested in filling the role of chairing Monster Bash and continuing this wonderful fun tradition for our community!

- d. Operations – VP Camille Richardson
 - i. Thanks to committee chairs (staff appreciation, coordinators, procurement) for all their hard work, need new volunteers for the next year for committees with chairs rolling off
 - ii. Parent University : educational sessions for parents in the morning on various topics of interest.
 - iii. Important event in Mid-March on “Anti-Bullying!”, share with parents who may have students in the target age, thanks to Halley Blythe and Robin Edwards for organizing
 - iv. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: Week of March 25, 2024 - Volunteers needed for execution this year, and on planning committee as we develop new ideas for next year
 - v. Dolphin Splash - acclimating incoming Kindergarten in an engaging fun way, which helps to meet other parents and teachers in April. More details to be shared soon!

- e. SWAG – VP Jackie Townley
 - i. Seeking candidate to fill VP position for SWAG (Sustainability, Wellness And Garden, not promotional merchandise!)
 - ii. Field Day: April 19, 2024, please volunteer for this fun and memorable annual event!
 - iii. Volunteers needed for Earth week (April 21-27) and Lost & Found maintenance - please consider donating your time!
 - iv. Garden : thanks to Allison Bell, Dawn Rutherford and other garden volunteers for their commitment and hard work that has transformed our garden, more activities to come

- VI. Treasurer’s Report / Budget Amendment proposal - Effie Antonakakis
 - a. Treasurer Effie Antonakakis presents proposed amendment to the 2023-24 PTA Budget Amendment as posted on the PTA website and circulated via printed QR code in the meeting



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- b. The initial budget was developed at the start of the year; adjustments have been made based on actual amounts spent or raised halfway through year, as well as new expenses not anticipated in August
 - c. Projections and expenses of our remaining big fundraiser, the spring auction, remain unchanged.
 - d. Adjusted projected revenue is showing to be higher than our August budget
 - e. Full disclosure that we had a surplus carried over from previous years (for facilities improvement etc) which are not yet allocated, as we are working with MES administration and the APS district to decide scope and cost of such projects. We will have a detailed amended proposal regarding these surplus funds in April.
 - f. Current cash position is \$227K, so we are in good shape thanks to our conservative budget
 - g. Motion to approve the 2023-24 PTA Budget Amendment as presented, by Kristen Weinstein
 - i. Second from Camille Richardson
 - ii. Unanimously approved
- VII. Principal's Update – Brian Baron & Dr.Nakiesha Sinclair (Principal Sofianos away for a conference)
- a. Dr.Sinclair shares:
 - i. MES score for CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index) : basically our school report card. Last year was the first year after the pandemic to receive our score (rated on content mastery, progress, closing the gaps, readiness, etc.). Dr.Sinclair explains with slide data how our student groups (by ethnicity) are meeting improvement targets, and how MES is working to reach students who fall short
 - ii. Teacher Lunch/Brunch Out volunteers needed!
 - b. Brian Baron shares:
 - i. Georgia Parent “Culture & Climate” survey to be given to students, parents and staff of grades 3-5
 - ii. School tours : 4 different dates (1/26, 2/16, 3/18, 4/10) at 8:30am, sign-up form available on website
 - iii. NAEP assessment March 5th (4th graders only)
 - iv. Spring MAP (March 11,18): last administration of MAP for 2023-24
 - v. Georgia Milestones (3-5): GMAS EOG (end of grade) - one section test per day (less taxing on students)



VIII. Adjournment - Co-President Dawn Rutherford

- a. Final reminder of different ways to be involved in PTA - e.g., resource director to rising Ks (new FB group to connect) and PTA events (rising K play date, must be fully registered to attend Dolphin Splash), how special it is to contribute to our community
- b. Don't forget to purchase tickets to attend the spring auction (March 16)
- c. Next General Meeting will April 11th at 8:00am. PTA members will elect new officers for the 2024-25 school year and propose final budget amendments to close out 23-24 financials.
- d. Denise Lippert asks about how PTA funds can be used to support STEAM initiatives at MES, Dawn Rutherford responds several categories in the budget could support funding, pending discussion with administration and clearer direction on priorities and vision with regard to STEAM certification and initiatives at MES.
- e. Motion to adjourn from Effie Antonakakis
 - i. Second by Fabricio Moraes
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 am