



**DRAFT VERSION**

PTA General Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

MES auditorium

- I. Call-to-Order--6:35 pm President Emily Fink calls the meeting to order.
  - a. Welcome and thanks to all volunteers. Overview of the proposed agenda.
  - b. 6:37 pm Donna Earley reminds the group that sign ups for family science night end at midnight.
  - c. 6:38 pm **Motion to adopt the proposed agenda by Heidi Muller.**
    - i. **Seconded**
    - ii. **Approved unanimously**
- II. 6:39 pm Secretary Matt Fox reviews minutes from the 8.21.19 General PTA meeting.
  - a. No corrections noted.
  - b. **Motions to approve the minutes from the 8.21.19 General PTA meeting by Donna Earley.**
    - i. **Seconded**
    - ii. **Approved Unanimously**
- III. 6:40 pm. Treasurer's Report by Susan Mapen
  - a. Review of current bank balances
    - i. \$158,000 in checking
    - ii. \$141,000 in savings
  - b. Reminder of the reasons for the balance moving forward.
    - i. potential replacement/enhancement of turf, playgrounds, garden and maker spaces at Inman and upon return to MES.
    - ii. Items we can use at Inman and bring back to the renovated MES for outfitting teacher workroom and break room/lunchroom.
  - c. Review of audit results
    - i. No evidence of misappropriation.
    - ii. Some recommended improvements, but Susan had already implemented most of them as this is an audit of the books that closed in spring 2019.
    - iii. Copies will be posted on the PTA website.
  - d. Review of budget v. Actual Highlights
    - i. Boosterthon--profits were above expectations, allowing us to renegotiate our contract with Boosterthon for 2020 to increase our percentage of the money raised.
    - ii. Halloween/Monster Bash--Event was a huge success with the lower ticket prices as we sold over 650 wrist bands. We expected to take a loss, but made a significant profit.
    - iii. Grants--money has even allocated, but not yet spent.
    - iv. Variety show coming Feb 23. Costs have increased, so we might take a slight loss.



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- v. 21st century innovation--we've bought 36 robots and iPads teachers are training for those now.
  - vi. Composting started 1.21.20
  - e. **Matt Fox moves to approve the audit.**
    - i. **Seconded**
    - ii. **Approved Unanimously**
- IV. 6:50 pm Fundraising report from Fabricio Moraes
- a. Fabricio replaced Sally Carroll when she moved to London.
  - b. Auction will be March 14, 2020 at the Stave Room
    - i. Silent auction, rather than an auctioneer, with fewer items we've had in the past. Being planned as more of a celebration.
    - ii. Aiming to raise funds toward some specific items for MES@Inman such as outdoor games, teacher enhancements.
    - iii. Details and save the date will come in this weeks digital dolphin.
    - iv. Volunteer opportunities will come soon.
    - v. If you, your company or friends have something they can donate, please start thinking about donations ideas.
- V. 6:53 pm MES@Inman update from Principal Audrey Sofianos and Brian Baron
- a. Continuing updates will come via the principal's blog, digital dolphin and coffee talks
  - b. Process is evolving constantly as the needs particular to elementary kids are already being explored. Current plans include:
    - i. All grade level classes will be inside the main building along with specials as Inman has dedicated and outfitted rooms for specials.
    - ii. EIP and GATE will be in the portable classrooms along with Spanish, Garden and likely one of the assistant principals or a counselor.
      - 1. GATE is in portables at MES now.
      - 2. Garden currently has no dedicated indoor space. MES@Inman will have an indoor garden. Inman has an existing (if overgrown) garden we will maintain or relocate.
      - 3. Looking for an area for a makers' space in the portables.
      - 4. 11 portables are at Inman now-5 will be removed. there are also 3 bathroom banks in the portable area at Inman now-1 will be removed.
  - c. Highlights of the Inman building
    - i. Dedicated rooms for band, orchestra and choir.looking for a good use for the choir
    - ii. Cafeteria is twice the size and the gym is full sized with storage areas, a stage and bleachers.
    - iii. Field of dreams across the street from Inman more for special events than daily use.



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- Might work well for field day, boosterthon, and monster bash.
- iv. Arrival and dismissal can be simultaneous. Buses will load and drop off in the back. walkers and carpool can arrive and depart simultaneously at the front (Virginia). Walker pad space and parking are being explored for the “faux” walkers. one major difference is that there is no Heygood-like parking lot nearby.
  - v. 3 teacher workrooms at Inman currently—MES has no dedicated teacher workrooms.
  - vi. Staff dining area off the cafeteria at Inman with teacher only restrooms.
- d. Brian Baron presents slides related to space planning and playground space
- i. Overall much more outdoor and play space available at Inman.
  - ii. APS will put the standard playground in the space closest to the building where several portables will be removed.
  - iii. PTA will supplement the playground, as necessary. Looking at things we can bring back rather than permanent play equipment.
- e. Question—will play spaces be gated? Many in the neighborhood likes to use the play space at MES on the weekends.
- i. Principal Sofianos expects that it will be gated due to the proximity to classrooms, but is Willing to discuss options with APS.
- f. Question—What about access to the space across the street?
- i. Audience members indicate that the space generally stays unlocked now.
  - ii. Reminder from the audience the John Howell ark is across the street from Inman with a playground and a field.
  - iii. Reminder that APS spends its funds for the betterment of the schools and to provide recreational opportunities for the students, not the community in general.
- g. Question—How are we communicating with the new neighborhood? MES@Inmn is in the heart of the SPARK district.
- i. Communication is being funneled through the adjacent church and the Virginia-Highland community association.
  - ii. A calendar of our expected events as well as our parking and carpool plan/timing will be punched out to the neighborhood this summer.
  - iii. Suggestion that we also work with SPARK parents and their PTA.
- h. Next steps
- i. Current MES staff visiting Inman during the February 17 teacher work day.
  - ii. Tours for families being planned for the spring.
  - iii. Also hoping to give a 4th grade tour this school year.
  - iv. The Administration will also reach out to the Virginia-Highland businesses that kids frequent as well to advise them of new hours.
- i. Question-Are we anticipating an increase in bus riders?
- i. Conversations and modeling have started. Probably 3-4 additional buses on top of our current 5-6.



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- ii. Administration has been working on transportation and will push out information as soon as it is available, but yearly bus routes generally aren't finalized until summer.
- j. Audience comment—Don't forget sunken garden is across the street from MES when looking neighborhood play space.
- k. Question—will the Inman restrooms be retrofitted for smaller kids?
  - i. Since Inman was originally built as an elementary school, the facilities are adequate and are substantially the same as what will be installed at MES during renovation.

VI. 7:20 pm. President Emily Fink—New business

- a. Nominating committee
  - i. Tony Moore nominated from the floor.
  - ii. One candidate was not present so he was removed from the ballot.
  - iii. **Vote for nominating committee takes place by written ballot.**
- b. Bylaws
  - i. Change presented to allow the last PTA meeting of the year and election of new officers to take place in either April or May where the current bylaws require these events in May.
    - 1. **Motion to approve made by Donna Earley**
      - a. **Seconded**
      - b. **Approved - 28 yes, 0 no**
  - ii. Change presented to add a sixth Vice President to the PTA Executive Committee to be called VP Community. Events that are true communicate builders will be shifted from the purview of the VP Enrichment and VP Fundraising.
    - 1. **Motion to approve made by Kathleen McDavid Harrison**
      - a. **Seconded**
      - b. **Approved - 28 yes, 0 no**

VII. 7:30. Emily Fink—Update on facility meeting held on January 15, 2020

- a. Current APS Planning Guidelines are 21 students per classroom (k-3) and 23 students per classroom (4-5) for new elementary schools with an ideal school size is of 450-600 students.
- b. Current Grady cluster elementary school capacity and enrollment:
  - i. Hope Hill Capacity 497 Enrollment 336 68% of capacity
  - ii. Mary Lin Capacity 693 Enrollment 708 102% of capacity
  - iii. Morningside Capacity 737 Enrollment 946 128% of capacity
  - iv. SPARK Capacity 693 Enrollment 782 113% of capacity
  - v. Total cluster capacity 2620 Enrollment 2772 106% of capacity
  - vi. When used as elementary school, Inman's Capacity will be 845. If it is used as a fifth elementary school, we would be at 80% capacity cluster wide using today's enrollment numbers.



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- c. Audience comment—no final decision has been made as to the future use of the Inman property after MES is renovated. The capacity of the Inman building is different for different uses. There are lots of opportunities to be heard if you have concerns about the future of Inman and APS says everything is on the table.
- d. The PTA and the MLPA are co-hosting a neighborhood meeting on 2.24.20 at Heygood to see if there is a consensus in the neighborhood. CAT team has a meeting that will include the research terms on 2.25.20 and PTA would like to be able to convey a neighborhood preference if one can be identified.

VIII. 7:40 pm **Results of nominating committee announced, as follows:**

- a. **Brian Baron**
- b. **Donna Earley**
- c. **Tony Moore**
- d. **Ginger Pusley**
- e. **Caroline Wainwright**
- f. **Lelsie Finley (alternate)**

IX. Meeting adjourned 7:41 pm