



# BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Mills Park Middle School PTSA

Student Services Conference Room

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*Date | time* 12/11/2015 9:33 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Daphne Stam

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## In Attendance

Christy Hanson, Jen Willis, Kim McKnight, Pin Pin Jong, Joanna Fiebich, Daphne Stam, Carla Kent, Robin Lundin, Lisa Burke, Elizabeth Vaughan. Quorum was met.

## Presentation of Minutes

Daphne Stam presented the minutes from 11/13/15. Kim McKnight motioned to approve, which was seconded by Jen Willis. None opposed. Minutes approved.

## Treasurer's Report

Report was distributed by Christy Hanson. No questions or discussion.

## VP/Committee Reports

**Communications:** Carla Kent reported that PTSA had to purchase a few extra email credits due to the large number of subscribers. She indicated that she would attempt to cull some emails that appear to be inactive or that Robin Lundin (membership) suspects belong to families that no longer attend MPMS. No newsletter will be sent the last Tuesday before Winter Break.

**Staff Appreciation:** Kim McKnight reported that teacher gifts (Expo markers and other supplies) are ready to be distributed.

**Copy Room:** Kim McKnight reported that a new system for work submission has been implemented by MPMS administration. The new system has improved operations in the copy room for the copy room team. She will continue to encourage administration to formulate a plan for the copy room for next year sooner rather than later.

**Ways and Means:** Jen Willis reported that we should expect a check from Harris Teeter for about \$900.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Events:** Elizabeth Vaughan reported Mr. Warwick and MPMS administration do not want PTSA to continue to provide 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Roll Breakfasts. 500 of the 578 8<sup>th</sup> graders were eligible for the Honor Roll breakfast last quarter and a concern was raised that rather than rewarding 500 honor roll students, the breakfast could be conceived as punishing the 78 students that did not make honor roll. Elizabeth had suggested we could provide breakfast to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as just a general end-of-quarter celebration, but Elizabeth said Mr. Warwick said that PTSA need not provide breakfast at all. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirt was also presented to the Board and was well-received; finally, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Dance theme was announced: Let It Glow!

**Reflections:** As reported in the PTSA newsletter, two students' Reflections Entries won at the county level and will be moving on to the State Reflections Competition (*Anaika Eledath* - 2nd place for Music, *Cami Mathews* - 3rd place for Dance). Two other students made it to the final round of the county competition and received Honorable Mention (*Lauryl Taylor* – Literature, *Ashlesha Mirajkar* - Visual Arts).

**Mills Madness:** Robin Lundin and Kim McKnight reported that the next Mills Madness meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The Mills Madness Event will be held March 4<sup>th</sup>.

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## President's Report

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### **Instructional Grant Proposals:**

Daphne Stam presented a spreadsheet put together by Cheryl Cleaton, Christy Hanson and Daphne Stam. As of 12/11/15, approximately \$560 remains of the \$2500 originally budgeted for Instructional Grants. Not included in the \$560 is a grant from Mr. Knox for \$250 (Triumph Learning) had been tabled from the November meeting. This information has not yet been provided.

1. Ashley Lawson requested \$225.00 for Conversation Builder app, wireless printer, headphones, and keypad cases for the 16 students in her class (autistic students in special education class). Daphne Stam reported that she had tried emailing Ms. Lawson twice for further details on her grant, since no invoices or breakdowns of item cost were provided. Jen Willis motioned to table this request pending further information. Robin Lundin seconded. None opposed. Grant request tabled.
2. David Knox requested \$18.84 for a set of 16 multi-colored Expo dry erase markers and a box of colored pens. Kim McKnight motioned to approve his request. Carla Kent seconded. None opposed. Grant request approved.
3. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading teachers (Coyne, Brooks, Salmon, Walski, McCoy) requested \$150-\$175 each for EOG test preparation books. The budget line item for Instructional Grants is exhausted enough that funding the total amount requested (approximately \$775) is not possible. An additional concern raised was that PTSA should provide materials for direct educational and student enrichment; and that paying for materials for test preparation is not in the spirit the PTA Mission: to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Motion to deny was made by Kim McKnight. Jen Willis seconded. None opposed. Grant request denied.

### **United Way Fundraiser / Sports Event Concessions:**

Daphne Stam reported that she was asked by 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal Shantel Summerfield to coordinate concessions sales for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance and MPMS basketball games in December. The proceeds of these concessions were to benefit the United Way as a part of a Wake County Schools collaborative fundraising effort. Money from the sales were deposited into PTSA's account, and after subtracting supply costs and petty cash, a check will be written to MPMS for them to then pass on to the United Way so MPMS gets the fundraising credit for Wake County. MPMS was able collect straight donations for the effort with Hat Day; but due to WCPSS money handling rules, MPMS would have to exhaustively detail inventory and sale prices for concessions sales, which is why they asked PTSA to handle concessions.

In retrospect, Daphne Stam said that handling concessions for this brief period was a good pilot program should PTSA wish to continue to sell concessions in the absence of an Athletics Booster Club. However, a dedicated person to purchase supplies and coordinate volunteers would be necessary to continue to provide concessions for

basketball games for the rest of the season. Daphne Stam will contact Brenda Hernandez to see if she would be interested in taking on that role.

A concern was raised as to the number of fundraisers MPMS runs for outside non-profit organizations: United Way and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation this fall, and the upcoming Jump Rope for Heart benefitting the American Heart Association just around the corner. Maybe MPMS should consider focusing fundraising efforts on fewer outside non-profits?... kids and parents seem like they don't know what they're raising money for anymore.

**New Business:**

Regarding the limited funds we have for Instructional Grants (\$2500) as compared to the amount PTSA spends to provide agendas to the student body (\$8000) – Daphne Stam suggested that PTSA no longer provide agendas for free to all students; rather have them pay for agendas if they want them and make them a fundraiser (like Spiritwear). This would free up a lot of money to help the school in other ways. Other board members supported this idea, saying many of their children never use the agendas provided by PTSA; students tend to use digital calendars or agendas they purchase themselves that they like better than the one provided by PTSA. Daphne Stam will inform Mr. Smith about this suggested change for next year.

Daphne Stam motioned to adjourn 10:45 am. None opposed. Meeting adjourned.

*Minutes submitted by Daphne Stam*