



# BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Mills Park Middle School PTSA

Student Services Conference Room

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*Date | time* 2/10/2017 9:33 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Jen Willis

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## In Attendance

Jen Willis, Cheryl Cleaton, Lisa Burke, Kim McKnight, Colleen Gregg, Carla Kent, Daphne Stam, Christine Hanson, Jennifer Middleton, Amy Georges, Sharon Baartmans, Beth Graff, Donna Kapner, Mary Jan Reyes-Ford, Mrs. Poitras, Mrs. Walton, Mr. Milner, Mr. Smith. Quorum was met.

## Presentation of Minutes

Cheryl Cleaton presented the business minutes from 1/13/2017. Kim McKnight motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Jennifer Middleton. None opposed. Minutes approved.

## Principal's Report

Mr. Smith discussed the county system messenger change. The county surveyed parents on how they would like to get school information, and email or text was preferred. Sometime in February they will switch to new school messenger. They will be collecting parent email addresses. Going forward calls will be for a more serious matter. 8th grade is getting ready for Panther Creek. Open house was last night. Today is the last day of counselor appreciation week. We have 5 counselors in total, Mr. Milner for 8th grade, while the other 4 are split amongst 2 grades. Students are helping; NJHS did a video, there was a support sheet in hallway.

Mr. Smith showed a sheet of apps that the Department of Justice suggests parents to be aware of. Very informative sheet. Lots of issues come into the school and it's difficult to have it not affect the school environment. Bullying affects kids so profoundly. We will make this available to parents, but we don't want to give kids ideas. In a couple of weeks will be bus driver appreciation. Students will do a video to thank them. Mr. Warwick will organize the breakfast. WRAL looked into teacher absentness. Mr. Smith wonders how they handled maternity leave. It's normal to see third quarter blues, usually a drop-off of academic grades. It's a long time with no breaks and it's tough on everyone. Teachers will contact parents if grades go down a letter grade.

Mr. Smith was looking for feedback on the open house before school starts. We obviously need it for 6th graders, but 7th & 8th graders know the building and the layout, so maybe it's more of a social event for them. Parents discussed the benefits for all grades: kids enjoy it, teachers wish list, supplies, parent info, etc. Mr. Smith thinks that a lot of that can be done electronically. Kim talked about how the high school spreads out over 4 hours and there's not as many kids. There is something beneficial for all grade levels. Mr. Smith also discussed how math drives the school schedule. Possibly revamp the teams in 7th grade next year, maybe structure it more like 8th grade. They are playing around with some ideas, nothing decided yet.

**Faculty Report:** Mr. Milner and Mrs. Walton came to discuss kNOwmore, a program that focuses on cyber safety for children, teens, and parents. Mrs. Walton's mom heard of it being used in the Charlotte area schools and suggested it for MPMS. We had a conference call with the founder and presenter, Susan Wind. She has over 20 years experience in criminal justice and is called as an expertise witness in court cases. She works with schools in NC, SC, and FL. She offers 4 different products, and we are interested in all 4:

- Online web based tutorials on social media awareness for students. School can also incorporate their technology/social media policy within the course modules. \$450 for the entire student body.
- There is a 90 minute seminar for parents only rated R (no children allowed) that costs \$500. This helps parents set limits and feel empowered instead of overwhelmed.
- There is a different seminar geared for middle school children on bullying and consequences for the entire school.
- She also offers workshops that total 3 hours over weeks/months, to certify kids so they can brand themselves positively on social media and have clean accounts for college. She also trains the kids on how to be safe on the Internet. This is \$35 per student. She can have 50 students max for the workshops. She covers Instagram and snapchat, standing up to bullies, video gaming in the workshops. She does not enable kids, she helps them develop a clean digital footprint because colleges are looking at everything.

Everyone thought this was an important program and very necessary. Kids today face so many different challenges than when we were in middle school. And since we didn't go through it, it can be difficult for parents to navigate. Mr. Milner thought this was extremely important, something we have to be more on top of. Mr. Milner will be the contact person with Susan and will communicate with Lisa Burke. He would like to start in April with the online tutorials. Discussed the possibility of doing 8th grade only workshops as a trial run to see how it goes. Then do 6th & 7th graders next year.

Mrs. Poitras came to discuss the smartboard used in her class. It's difficult because the students try to use the smartboard, but their bodies block the screen. The Media Center has one off the ceiling. They should have set her room up like they did the Media Center. She asked what her options were, and was told this was the solution. It is a Wake county approved company. She has raised \$800 through parent funding and fundraising. She is asking the PTSA to pay the difference. It will be used multiple years, and she doesn't think her room will change since she has the kitchen and laundry machine. All grades age 11 to age 16.

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## Treasurer's Report

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Christy Hanson passed out the updated report. The basketball game concessions were over \$800 in sales, Mary Jane talked about how they closed them down at half time for boys. Spiritwear has done better than budgeted. She discussed Student Enrichment and the 6th grade poetry speaker was cut short because of the snow days. There are 3 days that he missed, so he's going to comeback for the survival writing piece that they're on now. He has been paid. 7th grade poetry slam... trying to get a final invoice. We received our NC Dept. of Secretary of State Charitable Solicitation License, so we can ask for donations.

**Vice President:** Grants were presented.

**Instructional Grant Proposals:**

1. Mrs. Poitras requesting Epson Powerlite 570 Ultra Short-Throw Projector to help make the smart board in her class usable. Cost is \$1736.82 minus the \$800 she has raised. Daphne Stam motioned to approve up to \$1000 if no other possible funding was available from WCPSS or the State, which was seconded by Jennifer Middleton. None opposed. Grant approved with stipulations.
2. Wilkinson requested \$500 for cardboard 3-D viewers. Lisa Burke did a lot of research and found lots of complications with the smartphone viewers. She found that Salem bought Android phones just for the viewers, since those are the best phones for this feature and you have to take the phones out of their protective cases. It was decided that these phone/viewer sets will be housed in the Media Center for all grades to use. Kim McKnight motioned to approve up to \$500 for as many complete phone/viewer sets as possible, which was seconded by Christy Hanson. None opposed. Grant approved with stipulations.

Ms. Ellis submitted a grant request on behalf of all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teachers for a presenter. Mr. Morris is an actor and playwright in African American studies. The cost is \$500. We all agreed that this should be treated as Student Enrichment instead of a grant request. Since it's not a grant, there is no need to vote.

Mr. Milner submitted a grant request for discuss kNOwmore online tutorials for all of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and possibly the entire school. Cost is \$450. We all agreed that this should be treated as Classroom Resources instead of a grant request. Since it's not a grant, there is no need to vote.

**Audit:** Pin Pin Jong had nothing to report.

**Nominating, Student Enrichment & Room/Team/Parent Liaison:** Amy Georges had nothing to report.

**Membership & Advocacy:** Daphne Stam had nothing to report.

**Communications:** Carla Kent had nothing to report.

**Spiritwear:** Jennifer Hartman had nothing to report.

**Mills Madness:** Colleen Gregg discussed Mills Madness coming up March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lots of discussion. Mr. Babson will MC. He will be here at 6:30pm, so that's fine because the games don't start till 7pm. Will have greeting on the green again! Just like last year. Student performances all set, no chorus this year. National anthem usually from chorus teacher, need to find someone to sing. Jenn will contact. YMCA is going to do games, Panther Creek will volunteer. NJHS will also help. She needs someone to work on coordinating the baskets. Amy will do basket coordination. Thanks Amy!! Will ask Officer Parker to tote our sign out for carpool to advertise.

**Vendor Fundraiser:** Kristi Guenther had nothing to report

**Spirit Events/Leopard Spot:** Ivy Linares had nothing to report.

**Staff Appreciation & Reflections:** Kim McKnight had nothing to report.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Events:** *Report submitted by Amy Montanus prior to meeting:*

- *We are doing a chaperone T-shirt this year for the 8th grade trip. It will look like the 8th grade shirt –but purple. I am waiting to hear from the 8th grade team on the final chaperone list so that I can order the shirts. We have set our deadline for ordering as Feb. 22nd. The teachers will be getting the purple shirt as well.*
- *Class picture will be taken April 3rd, 925am in the gym.*
- *Spirit rock is getting closer to being purchased and organized. Stay tuned for dates on when it will be at the school.*

**Board Advisory Council Representative:** Paulette Bekolo had nothing to report.

**School Improvement Plan:** Jennifer Middleton had nothing to report.

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### President's Report

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- Annual night of stars, send Jen an email with a recommendations.

Daphne Stam motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Carla Kent. Meeting adjourned at 11:46am.