

Mills Park Middle School  
November 14, 2014  
PTSA Meeting Minutes

1. **9:34 am Call to Order** (Daphne Stam):  
Attendance: Daphne Stam, Heather Ng, Robin Lundin, Carisa Eliason, Kim McKnight, Elizabeth Stavrakakis (Student Council Rep), Jen Willis
2. **Approval of October minutes** (Daphne Stam): One typographical correction (Fliason to Eliason). Kim moved to approve as corrected. Robin seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. **Student Council Representative** (Elizabeth Stavrakakis): Student Council is working on a holiday candy cane drive. Also they are collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and will participate in a volunteer event there on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Treasurer Report** (Elizabeth Vaughan, full report submitted electronically, presented by Daphne Stam): Instructional Grant budget is \$2500, PTSA has spent \$1351.65, \$1148.35 remains. Teacher Enrichment Grant budget is \$1500, PTSA has spent \$493.37, \$1006.63 remains.
5. **Membership** (Robin Lundin): A couple of membership forms are expected to come in each month. Membership down slightly from last year, but we are still very proud of this year's 100% staff participation.
6. **Principal Message** (Mr. Smith): MPMS Athletics had a really great year: Conference Champs in volleyball, football and soccer. Plans are moving forward for installation of mobile units, but there is no rush – despite overcrowded classrooms, teachers, staff and students are making it work. Big technology use changes on the horizon with possible Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) implementation.
7. **Staff Appreciation** (Kim McKnight): PTSA will purchase personalized Christmas ornaments for teachers and staff this year. Early release lunches have been well received by staff and well supported by parent volunteers.
8. **Programs** (currently vacant): Nicole Rotella has stepped down as Programs VP. Most of the work in planning Student Enrichment programs was completed by Nicole and Sharon Baartmans early this year, but we need another Programs VP in case of Board vote and to host Timothy Abell in the Spring.
9. **Eighth Grade Events** (Jeri Hasund, submitted electronically): As of Monday 11/10, 32% of eighth graders have paid their fees. Eighth grade t-shirts have been ordered and should arrive in the next few weeks. Eighth graders were given four

themes for the dance and voted next week. The theme for the dance will be kept secret.

10. **Technology** (Lisa Burke, submitted electronically): Lisa attended the first MTAC (Media and Technology Advisory Committee) meeting on Oct. 29th. A LOT was covered, but the biggest news is that schools will be getting lots of new devices and teacher training beginning in January 2015. The devices will be 3:1 (students:devices). The logistics are still being worked on, but it's going to happen, and all the existing technology at the schools will remain there, so this is all GREAT news for all of our schools! Also, the CTE labs are up for a refresh within the next year or two (?) and that will come out of another bucket of \$\$, and we'll probably get all those desktops to reallocate to other classrooms as well.
11. **Reflections** (Kim McKnight and Michelle Hannon): Kim reports that there were 15 visual arts, 1 musical composition, 6 literature, and 1 film submission for Reflections this year. Judging will occur in the next few weeks.
12. **School Improvement Committee** (Kim McKnight): Administration is looking at trends in grades vs. Case 21 test scores. Ms. Milligan (IRT) is providing technology training opportunities for the staff, which are much appreciated. Parents will be asked to complete a grading system survey to evaluate changes in grading policies from last year to this year. Specifically, the concern was raised that due to the changes, students are able to make up homework and tests at any point during the quarter, which takes the burden of responsibility off the student and onto the teacher, who may have to grade homework assignments from weeks prior and students are not penalized for missing deadlines.
13. **Copier Brigade** (Kim McKnight): A group of about 6 volunteers were trained this past week on use of the brand-new MPMS copier. A system has been implemented with Ms. Cogdill to provide reliable copier services while avoiding having teachers touch the new copier.
14. **Fundraising** (Jen Willis): Jen is looking into a fundraising opportunity in the newly opened Publix store, which involves enrollment in a Partner Card program. For every \$37,000 spent in Publix by Partner Card holders, Publix will automatically cut a \$250 check to MPMS or MPMS PTSA. Looking into how best to widely distribute the cards and publicize the program – maybe Mills Madness? Band/Chorus concerts? Drama/Dance programs?
15. **Vendor Fundraising** (Kristi Guenther, submitted electronically): Kristi submitted \$461.00 for the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> Box Top deadline (still pending verification). According to the website, checks will be processed and sent out sometime in December. There was a carry-over amount from last year of \$429.10 that will be included in the December check. The next and final submission deadline for this school year will be March 2nd. We plan to run another contest to maximize participation for the final submission of the year. As for HT, we have 260

participants with an earning so far of \$424.27. If we could continue to run the HT in-store sign-up in the newsletter that would be great. We have 218 less participants than last year. The # of participants seems a little low considering the number of students we have in the school.

**16. President Report** (Daphne Stam):

Mills Madness date set for March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Instructional Grants

Kleimeyer: \$41.15 for Expo Markers – Motion to approve (Robin). Seconded (Heather). Unanimously approved.

Williams: \$120.00 for Nearpod Software – Motion to approve (Robin). Seconded (Heather). Unanimously approved.

Teacher Enrichment Grants

Schaefer: \$97.00 for STEM education conference fees. Motion to approve (Heather). Seconded (Robin). Unanimously approved.

Cline: \$125.00 for NC Ties Conference fees. Motion to approve (Heather). Seconded (Robin). Unanimously approved.

**17. Meeting adjourned** 10:44 am

*Submitted by Daphne Stam, 12/3/14*