



MVAPTC Meeting Notes - January 11, 2024

Welcome & Call to Order:

- Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024
- Time: 7:06 PM
- Presided by Sylvia Moreno, President

Attendees on Zoom:

- Sylvia Moreno, President
- Cassandra Heifetz, Lower School Dean
- Jackie DeLucia, Acting Upper School Dean
- JiJo Jacob, Treasurer
- Andrea Levy, VP Middle School
- Approximately 63 attendees (including MVA staff & MVAPTC board members)

Agenda:

- **Call to Order; Welcome**
 - Sylvia Moreno, President, called the meeting to order and extended a warm welcome.
- **Upcoming Meeting**
 - Overview of the agenda for the current meeting.
- **Approval of December 2023 Meeting Minutes**
 - Postponed until February 2024 meeting.
- **Board**
 - Introduction of the 2023-2024 Board members:
 - President: Sylvia Moreno
 - Treasurer: JiJo Jacob
 - Secretary: Vacant
 - VP for High School (9-12): Tam Castillo
 - VP for Middle School (6-8): Andrea Levy
 - VP for Elementary School (3-5): Vacant
 - VP for Elementary School (1-2): Barbara Galasso
- **Volunteers**
 - Call for volunteers for various roles and activities:
 - Administrative help
 - Board Members

- Social Media maintenance
 - Translation & interpreting
 - Fundraising & Donations
 - Social Activities coordination
 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation
 - Advocacy
 - Spiritwear sales
 - Committees
- **Membership**
 - Overview of membership details:
 - Family: \$15
 - Individual: \$10
 - Teachers: \$5
 - Pay what you can/comfortable with: \$2
 - Emphasis on the importance of membership for voting status and board membership.
 - Dues continue to be collected on our Square Site: [MVAPTC Square Site](#)
- **Treasurer: Budget & Finances**
 - JiJo Jacob's detailed report on the 2023-2024 Income and Expenses:
 - Starting balance: \$3,498
 - Current balance (as of December 2023): \$4,050
 - Upcoming expenses: Insurance (March 2024): \$300, Yearly Website hosting fees: \$25
- **MVAPTC STORE**
 - Available items: Hoodies, Sweatshirts, shirts, necklaces & earrings.
 - Location: MVA Office, 15 West Gude Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850
 - Coming soon: Water bottles and Mugs
 - Payment at: [MVAPTC Square Site](#)
- **Committee Report: Special Education Parent Committee**
 - Andrea Levy, Chair, provided updates on the committee's activities and purpose.
 - 3rd Thursday of each month, January 18th.
- **Updates & Discussion with the Deans!**
 - Cassandra Heifetz (Dean, Lower School) and Jackie DeLucia (Acting Dean, Upper School) discussed the FY25 MCPS Proposed Operating Budget for MVA.
 - Deans encouraged families & staff to provide their input to the Board of Education.
 - Discussion included reduction of staffing, including administration, teachers, and other staff. Current plan suggests having one Dean (Cassandra Heifetz) and one Supervisor (Jackie DeLucia) for both upper school and lower school.
 - Funding from ESSR is being discontinued. There are increases in the MVA budget & MCPS is showing a commitment to funding the MVA. 149.7 positions are funded for next year.
 - BOE hearing is scheduled for: Tue, January 30 Operating Budget Work Session #3
 - Projected enrollment for 2024-2025 (enrollment waitlist still open, 85% of current families recommitted) - 2nd-12th - about a similar enrollment as this current school year.
 - Nancy Perry (5th Grade), elected facility staff representative presented on advocacy: She discussed a 50% cut in administration. Discussed that the MVA administrators

are involved with school improvement plans, master schedule, teachers, parents and students have what they need and much more. Teachers are concerned that the reduction of administrative staff will impact them. Would like to maintain the same administrative staff structure. They are writing to the school board, superintendent, etc. Julia Rogers (Upper School) discussed advocacy to call, write letters and talk to the Board of Education through public comments. Use the following link: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/participation/>
Or Email: BOE@mcpsmd.org

- Ms. Heifetz commented in chat “Middle school brick and mortar allocations for admin: 1.0 FTE per school. Schools projected to have 650 or more students receive a second assistant principal. Every effort is made not to remove the second assistant principal one year and have to restore it the next year and maintain administrative stability. If a school has a coordinator, subtract 1.0 FTE from this allocation.”
- Ms. Heifetz also commented “For HS: 1 Principal PLUS 2.0 Assistant Principals per school ≥ 3000 receive an additional 4.0 FTE 2550–2999 receive an additional 3.0 FTE, 2130–2549 receive an additional 2.0 FTE and 1600–2129 receive an additional 1.0 FTE.”
- Lower School newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/b1kuf>
- Upper School newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/hm0et-upper-academy-news-1-7-24>
- **Upcoming MVAPTC Meetings**
 - Overview of the upcoming meeting topics.
- **Meeting Minutes**
 - Approval of the minutes from MVAPTC December 2023 meetings.
- **Social Media Links & Contact Information**
 - Website: www.MVAPTC.org or <https://vaparentcouncil.godaddysites.com>
 - Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=montgomery%20virtual%20academy%20parent%20teacher%20council>
 - MVAPTC Discussion Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/530674078014807>
 - Special Education Parent Committee:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5366674693369093>
 - President, Sylvia’s Moreno email: presidentmvaptc@gmail.com
- **Adjourn:**
 - Thanked everyone for joining, inviting informal discussions after the meeting.
 - Sylvia made a motion to adjourn, Andrea Levy second motion. Motion passed. 8:11 PM meeting adjourned.

Thank you for attending and contributing to the MVAPTC meeting on January 11, 2024.

Completed by: Sylvia Moreno, President