



Parent Teacher Council

Monthly Meeting
14 October 2022

Call to Order: Jessica Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:32. Dr. Brock asked for the gavel to run the meeting.

Attendance: Approximately 46 at its highest via zoom.

September Meeting Minutes Approval: Jessica asked to approve. Donald seconded. Minutes approved.

Deans' Report: Dean Orders discussed the availability of interim grades. He discussed the upper-school's grading policy. He discussed a variety of surveys with students and staff. The Anti-racist audit findings have been released and changes will be forthcoming to make MCPS more equitable.

Dean Heiftiz is excused for this evening. Ms. Kim Haden, filling in for Dean Heiftiz, echoed Dean Order's comments.

Andrea Levy asked about field trips. Discussion moved to problems with the home school. Dean Orders asked for those with difficulties with the home school to email him. Donald Whitfield, NAACP rep., noted that he spoke with an assistant superintendent recently about MVA's relations with the home schools.

Parent Vue: MVA Resource Counselor Natalie Thomas present on Parent Vue, a survey topic which rated highly. Ms. Thomas discussed the activation code and demonstrated how the MCPS account functions. Ms. Thomas discussed enrolling in sports and showed parents how to access student attendance. Later she discussed email on Synergy. Andrea Levy brought up advisory; Dean Orders asked that those with advisory issues contact him at the upper school or Dean Heiftiz at the lower school.

Technology Topics: Kimberly Haden spoke about a variety of tech topics. Ten topics of note.

Fundraising: Jessica summarized the state of the PTC with fundraising, including Ben and Jerry's and Amazon Smiles, and more.

Treasurer's Report: Liz Ryan presented the treasurer report. MTC has taken in about \$1000 for the first month. We started with \$700. Costs should be @\$725. Jessica continued by discussing the domain name and insurance. Volunteers are sought now.

Staff Appreciation: Teacher wish lists and teacher/staff appreciation discussed. Gift card donations of \$5 will be distributed during the winter holidays.

Board Member Seat Openings: Grades 3-5 Vice-President position is open. We have one good candidate and are requesting anyone interested to contact Jessica Sherman. New election will be held in November. If there is any interest, the High School Vice-President would like to be replaced as she has a middle school child but is willing to continue if no interest. Jessica Sherman is considering returning her child to in person school next year and is looking for a president-elect to work with her this year and take over next year, should her family return to in-person. A treasurer-elect is also sought as Liz Ryan's child has returned to their home schools.

NAACP: Donald Whitfield presented on challenges presented by the MVA. He is in contact with the assistant superintendent about MVA issues. Should MVA remain a program or its own school? Or perhaps both?

Special Education Committee: Andrea Levy spoke about her committee about students with special needs. They meet on the third Thursday of each month. She will be sending out the link soon. Andrea highlighted upcoming meetings.

New Business and Additional Slides: Jessica Sherman provided a brief overview and noted that the slides are available in English and Spanish on the MVAPTC website due to time constraints.

Adjourn: Jessica Sherman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Kim Haden seconded. Adjournment approved. Dean Orders provided his email address

Informal discussion: Continued after the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Brock
MTC Secretary