



## *Parent Teacher Council*

### **MVAPTC Monthly Meeting 9 March 2023**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:** Jessica Sherman, Steve Brock, Andrea Levy, Cassandra Heifetz, Mattie Sanchez, Kim Haden, Steve Orders, and thirty others.

**Call to Order:** Jessica called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**Overview:** Jessica presented an overview of the upcoming agenda. Andrea Levy will lead a special education committee meeting next week. April's meeting will focus on Restorative Justice. Jessica asked for help with donations for the auction, social media, and teacher/staff appreciation. The auction will be after spring break. Jessica discussed the need for new board members for next year.

**Minutes Approval:** Jessica motioned to approve. Brock seconded. Motion approved.

**Dean's Report:** Lower-school Dean Cassandra Heifetz and Dean Orders introduced "Dialogue with the Deans," looking to hear from the group about school processes.

- **Testing:** Dean Heifetz discussed MISA, science testing, which will be happening soon. MCAP soon as well. Dean Orders praised Marjorie Cohen's work on testing at the upper level. Dr. Dacia Smith now works as acting middle school principal at Forest Oak Middle School. Dr. Nicole Reeves will be assuming the responsibility for testing. Interims should be available now.
- **Regular Order:** Dean Heifetz discussed establishing a space for learning, away from the bedroom. The MVA is focused on student success. Dean Orders noted the need for seniors to meet SSL hours for graduation. He echoed Dean Heifetz's comments about planning for student success. The interim marks for marking period three have been completed.
- **Future Planning with Parents:** What has been your experience? What could have made your experience better?
  - **Beginning of the year:** Communications sent out. Jessica discussed how pleased she was with having the counselors available over the summer for schedule changes. Andrea has seen improvement with the scheduling this past year. In SPED, Andrea liked the "specials" for art and music. Another parent from an Ipad wanted a "one-stop" site for information (for improvement).

- **Ways to share information:** Dean Heifetz discussed possibilities for communication. Newsletter? Website? One parent discussed an FAQ section on the website for help. Andrea spoke about the need to update the website, especially the newsletter. Andrea spoke about submitting the SSL hours.
- **Communication:** One parent discussed the increased use of Talking Points. Dean Heifetz also noted the app Remind and Class Dojo.
- **Schedule:** An elementary parent was supported by Ms. Haden reaching out to a student's home school. One challenge is the large amount of testing at different times.
- **Inclusivity:** The school is committed to an inclusive environment, even at the lower school.
- **IEPs:** Dean Heifetz noted some elements are challenging to implement in a virtual setting. One parent thought that could be improved.
- **Student Support:** Make attendance optional.
- **Academics/Instructional Program:** Where are the assignments? This concern has been noted by others as well. Canvas has some limitations.
- **IReady:** An online personalized intervention. MCPS has approved this tier-three math intervention. There are parent concerns about.
- **Really Great Reading:** Does not seem to work in conjunction with Dibbles, which children find overwhelming. Is reading instruction in MCPS problematic in its alignment vis-a-vis assessment. Dean Heifetz noted an early literacy parent night next week. MCPS is preparing to announce a new literacy system for elementary.
- **Certified Teachers:** Andrea desired more special education teachers.
- **New Students:** Dean Orders noted MVA has enrolled many students over the year.
- **Honor Roll:** One parent thought it would be helpful in motivating students.
- **Canvas:** Some teachers are not using that grade feature there.
- **Breakouts:** Teachers need more help in setting up productive ones.
- **Student support:** More opportunities are now available.
- **Tutor Me:** One parent complained about several "bad" experiences with scheduling and practice. He is looking for more oversight. Another parent asked about another school tutor. Jessica discussed her experience using Tutor Me.
- **Accelerated pathways:** In addition to MCAP, Dean Heifetz said many data points are used for placement.

**Non-profit 503 status:** Jessica showed the membership numbers, the insurance, and the group's non-profit status.

**Treasurer's report:** Jessica presented a written report as Liz Ryan had a microphone issue. Jessica motioned for \$250 to create hoodies. Andrea seconded. Motion approved.

**Fundraisers:** Plan is to do an online fundraising auction in April.

**Store:** Will be restocked after spring break.

**Appreciation:** Jessica thanked the staff, Pizza Hut, Seasons 52, Amazing Sushi, and an online printing company.

**SPED Committee Report:** Andrea discussed low attendance next week. Topic: what happens after high school. Jessica noted that Andrea is available for questions.

**NAACP Report:** None.

Jessica made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Brock seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Brock  
MVAPTC Secretary