

MES PTO OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

09 OCTOBER 2023 / 7:00 PM / MES MEDIA CENTER

Attendance: Kenji Matsudo, Dave Bergan, Chandley Bacher, Christine Loncaric, Amy Suit, Sarah Barker, Andrea Maxwell, Katie Compton Smith, Manda Voynovich, Katherine Scott, Stacy Radu, Sarah Peterson, Alison Lubert, Jessica Johnston, Jamie Purcell, Leah Hartwig, Melanie Spurrier, Jennifer Seppela, Alison Newton-Lopes, Heather Riggelman

Welcome: Christine Loncaric, PTO President

District Updates: Kenji Matsudo, Superintendent

- Thank you to Chandley, Dave B., Madeira Elementary teachers and support staff, and everyone who was involved in wrapping up construction of the new building in a mere 10 months!
- Our recent rankings on the *State Report Card* rank Madeira City Schools as:
 - One of the Top Ten schools in the state of Ohio.
 - One of only 8 out of 611 school districts to receive ALL five stars and the only district in Southwest Ohio.
- Other Accolades include being named in *US News & World Report* as a high-performing school district.
- Scholarships have been awarded to MHS juniors and seniors.
 - 2 National Merit Semifinalists have been announced.
 - 8 Commended students have also been announced.
 - 6 National Hispanic Recognition Awards have been awarded through the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program.
 - 2 National African-American Scholars have also been awarded.
- A District Mailer has been sent out to all Madeira residents to include recent district, staff, and student accolades.
- The *Planning Commission* has been in existence for 73 years. Currently, there are four studies being researched through through the commission:
 - Building Grade Level Transitions, specifically 5th (end of elementary) to 6th (start of middle school) and 8th (end of middle school) to 9th (start of high school), making sure we are retaining these students and ensuring their transitions from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school are successful.
 - Collecting Better Parent Feedback in specific areas using our culture playbook.
 - Staying competitive with other Teacher/Staff Salaries in the region.
 - Teaching Tech/Career Readiness: focusing on working with Middle School and High School students to foster the right mindset and skills needed for their future careers.
- Thank you to Stacy Radu and the entire *Changing Hands Committee* for a very successful sale!
- Our first “Family Fun Night” for the school year was a big success! Our main focus in doing this is helping Madeira families set time aside to do fun things together. We all know that our kids grow up too fast and we need to enjoy the time we have with them.
- Coming up, we will be adding an outdoor memoria at MES to honor our beloved Mr. Chris Flanagan. We will likely circle back to the PTO to assist with this.

School Updates: Chandley Bacher, Principal

- We have had a great start to the year after what was a challenging end of last school year and the addition of a brand new building! We still have about 10% more work to do to get everything up to speed in the new building.
- Our number one job at MES is to keep kids from Kindergarten through 5th grade feeling safe, supported, and loved while they are in our care.
- We are continuing to create and respond to a culture of expected student behaviors where we can celebrate individual successes and reinforce positive behaviors, while creating a fun but predictable learning environment. It is important that we maintain predictability to keep all students regulated.
- Thank you to the PTO for their work in updating the Teachers Lounge area. This has been widely enjoyed and it's nice to see the staff gathering together in this space.
- Personal Development and Curriculum Development remain huge focuses for MES as we dive into how we can best develop and support each child's specific learning needs in and out of the classroom.
- We just finished a large Reading assessment (Acadience Testing). We will use that data and more to understand who needs what interventions at every grade level.
- Conferences are coming up. This is a great time for teachers to partner with parents on fine tuning their child's individual learning goals.
- We continue to work on figuring out how 5th grade fits in as the top of elementary school versus the start of Middle school.
 - What ownership and leadership do they have here?
 - What adjustments need to be made given their new environment?
- We have reworked some of our committees and focuses to ensure we are allowing MES families to really see what goes on in this building.
 - What traditions do we currently have per grade that we want to keep?
 - What do we need to change now that we're a K-5 school?
- The "We Dig Our New Space" t-shirts from the PTO have been a big hit with teachers, support staff, and students. There is a big sense of community when we all show up wearing the same shirts. We're going to add some additional t-shirt days throughout the year.

PTO President News/Updates:

- The PTO Board has completed the following: MES Open Houses, Staff Coffee (Coffee Truck), Meet the Teacher Nights, updating the Teacher Lounge, providing Welcome Bags to new teachers, distributing "We Dig Our New Space" t-shirts to staff and students, and moving into a new PTO Closet.
- Next up, the PTO Board will:
 - Distribute new PTO magnets to teachers by the end of the week (10/13). Madeira Preschool will also be getting their own magnets.
 - Wrap up our Membership Drive by the end of the month.
 - Begin "Wednesday Teacher Snacks." Andrea Maxwell will spearhead this. An Amazon Wishlist will be created where teachers can request certain snacks. Can we get student leaders to help? Can we wheel a cart in and out?

- Assign volunteers to help put together “Word Work Mats.” This will be completed by the end of October.

PTO Committee Updates:

- The *PTO Membership Drive* will remain live on the website through the end of October. Stephan Dixon is our lead tech support who is helping us manage all updates on the website.
- *Lunch Duty Signups* will now switch from Monthly to Quarterly signups. We also need to create a reliable backup list of volunteers in case a parent cannot make a certain day and time.
- *Room Parent Selection* has been made. We will ask room parents to send out an email to remind parents that the PTO membership drive is closing soon.
- Our *Beginning Buddies Program* went very well this year. We sent out a signup sheet last Spring to capture any interested students. We plan to do the same this Spring. Having this lead time built in made it easier to coordinate volunteers ahead of getting the names of new students.
- All *School Supply Kits* were organized and ready for Open House. The committee did a great job of keeping costs low while fundraising \$1,600.
- The *Yearbook Committee* is already working hard on setting up this year’s yearbook, which will now include 5th grade (64 pages).
 - They could really use a MES staff liaison to help coordinate with vendor sales reps, make it easier on volunteers, compare different yearbook vendor pricing etc.
 - The committee wants to study how Madeira Middle School organizes their yearbook as they have created a truly streamlined process.
- The *After School Programs Committee* will send out an email or flier soon to advertise the open spots available in the *ArtSpark* program. Registration for this program will be closing soon. They will work with Stephan D. to allow more than one student per family to sign up for After School Programs.
- Our *Changing Hands Sale* was a great success! Interestingly, the majority of shoppers and the top vendor are from outside of Madeira. We are always looking for ways to speed up the checkout process, but raising \$14,000 dollars in “just a few hours” is pretty amazing!
- The *Got Art Committee* is looking for one lead volunteer per grade to help coordinate transitions between activities, communicate with teachers, and generally help with the various grades. They are meeting with Chandley this week to discuss maybe streamlining the schedule and activities now that we have around 900 students at MES.
- *Meals for Teachers* will be provided on the first full day of conferences for each grade level.
 - Conferences are being held October 24 & 26 for grades K-2 and October 17, 18, & 19 for grades 3-5.
 - Snacks will then be offered for the remaining conference times.
 - Madeira Preschool has been given a \$120 gift card to cover their conference meals.
- Per the *MES Library Liaison*, Venus Moose, Librarian, would like to start a monthly “Birthday Program” where students could be celebrated each month in a special way. She would also like to send out a sign-up sheet to gather Media Center Volunteers twice per week.
- Our *Support Staff Liaison*, Jamie Purcell, will be making t-shirts at cost for all MES Educational Aides (EA) this year.
- The *Preschool Liaison* is wondering if we can also make t-shirts or do some sort of appreciation gift for the Preschool EAs as well. The PTO Board will look into this.

PTO Treasurer Update:

- Our *Changing Hands Sale* remains our top fundraiser for the PTO. It brought in \$14,000 this year!
- On the flipside, our second biggest fundraiser is our PTO Membership Drive.
 - As of right now, we are only 50% to our goal of signing families up. We need to reiterate to parents that signing up to join PTO is not a time commitment and helps keep other school fundraising efforts out of the mix.
 - It was suggested that we include a QR code/easy signup sheet at “Meet the Teacher Nights” next year as a way to get more members signed up early on.
 - As membership is getting ready to close at the end of the month, we will implement the QR code idea during grade level conferences over the next few weeks.
- We have an annual PTO budget of around \$40,000, which covers all of the things we’ve already mentioned during today’s meeting in addition to many others, like covering buses for Madeira Singers’ field trips, Teacher Appreciation events, etc.

Introduction by Assistant Superintendent, Dave Bergan

- Dave introduced himself to all meeting attendees and reiterated that his “door is always open” for any questions or concerns.

PTO Basket Raffle & Starbucks Coffee Card Drawings:

- The Winner of the “PTO Basket Raffle” (drawn for all names currently signed up as PTO Members) is: Meredith Tilow. As she is not in attendance today, the PTO will notify her of her winning.
- The Winner of the Starbucks Coffee Card is: Manda Voynovich. Manda is in attendance and accepted her gift card.

This Meeting is Adjourned.