

**MES PTO**  
**January Meeting Minutes**

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

**Welcome: Christine Loncaric, PTO President**

**Attendees:** Kenji Matsudo, Dave Bergan, Chandley Bacher, Christine Loncaric, Andrea Maxwell, Katie Compton Smith, Jamie Purcell, Heather Riggleman, Ian Maloney, Sarah Peterson, Denise McClenathan, Morgan Lohbeck

**District Updates: Kenji Matsudo, Superintendent**

- January Annual Organizational School Board Meeting:
    - New board members, Brad Cunningham and Anne Ramos, were sworn in. New Officers, Ryan Lex was elected President and Steve Bernicke was elected Vice President.
    - Kenji thanked Rich Palmer and Paula Andruss for their years of service, and they both received commemorative bricks on the high school walk.
    - Athletic Trainer, Glenna Knapp, was also recognized for her 25 years of service.
    - The Board recognized close to 175 students, staff, and coaches for their achievements.
  - MES Updates:
    - Polar Express a great success - First graders loved receiving golden tickets from Kenj the Conductor, and enjoyed pizza and cookie decorating while watching the movie.
    - The 4 Modular Classrooms have been removed from school grounds due to now having space in our new building. The area where these units sat will soon be sodded and reseeded.
    - We will start working on Memorial for Chris Flanagan - a quiet reading and reflection space. Forest Hills has reached out and is also looking for ideas on how to honor Mr. Flanagan. Kenji and the District Office may reach out to the MES PTO to help with this endeavor.
  - MHS Updates:
    - A construction company has been hired to renovate the high school locker/athletic areas this summer. We will do bleachers and a new floor the summer after.
    - The baseball fields and dugouts at Sellman Park will also be renovated this summer.
- Kindergarten/Preschool registration went live today

**School Updates: Chandley Bacher, Principal**

- Want to start off this update with a thank you to all of you, the PTO. The teacher meals, events in the new lounge really help boost morale, help staff continue to make authentic connections with each other.
- Lots of fun activities happened over the last few months, such as:
  - “The Volume Museum” a collaboration from the 5th grade Math teachers, students, and parents who created a zoo of various animals with accompanying animal facts. The school aides helped the zoo travel around the school for all student to see.
  - Our Holiday/Winter Clothing Drive was a big success - plenty of hats, mittens, and winter gear collected to donate to those in need.
  - As Kenji mentioned, The Polar Express tradition was again a big success, and even included a new train track - the new building!
  - Macy’s Day Floats were created by 4th graders and vibrant murals by our 6th graders.
  - The “Shout-out Survey” has been a great way for our school families to recognize staff members they want to appreciate.
  - The Library Birthday Club has been really popular and a big success!
- Ongoing Goals remain to try to find more time for Personal Development (PD) Days where we’re focused on math alignment, as well as reading/writing awareness and how it naturally flows into our other subject areas.
  - We’ve met with Chris Walters to help teachers do some outside the box thinking using the data we have as it pertains to our Gifted Programs and overall curriculum development.

- Kindergarten Registration has gone Live and is quickly filling up! In March, we'll start communicating to Kindergarten families about placement decisions, etc.

### **PTO President News/Updates:**

#### PTO Board Items - Complete

1. Halloween Class Parties
2. October Conference Meals
3. Support Staff Appreciation (November - Jamie Purcell) - MES and MPS
  - a. We did breakfast treats at the Preschool.
  - b. Handed tee shirts out at elementary that included each person's name and title. The staff really loved these!
4. Holiday Breakfast for MES Staff (December) - a fun tradition that we hope to continue!
5. Winter Class Parties
6. Holiday Gift Crowds were generous as usual and distributed to staff on the last day before Holiday break.
7. Holiday Staff Meal (January) - took place the first week back to school. Received very positive feedback on restaurant/food selection from Blbibop.

#### PTO Board Items - Upcoming

1. Open PTO Positions for Next Year:
  - a. The Treasurer and VP Successor board positions are open for the upcoming school year.
  - b. We are also in need of a new Changing Hands Tech Person to maintain the back-end of things and graphic design pieces. Stacy Radu is the point person for this.
2. March Reading Challenge - Nurse Amy Mueller will lead the creative side, PTO will fund.
3. Lunch Duty Volunteers are still needed - this is a great way for parents, grandparents, etc to volunteer outside of the limited class party opportunities. Signups are now monthly on the PTO Elementary website.
4. Yearbook Liaison - We still need to find a staff member to fill this role.
5. 4th Grade T-Shirt Design Contest:
  - a. Contest will open in the spring to all 4th graders.
  - b. The winning t-shirt design will be available for anyone who purchases a PTO membership.
  - c. We may also provide t-shirts to all incoming 5th graders.
6. Open Items:
  - a. Still need to determine if there are any 4th & 5th Grade field trip needs.
  - b. What is something simple we can plan for 5th Grade Graduation?
  - c. We have funds available to replace playground balls as needed.

#### Committee Heads - Open:

1. Library Helper - Birthday Club - ongoing library volunteers are needed here.
2. GOT ART/AROUND THE WORLD Days -
  - a. GOT ART will be much more streamlined this year - a full day versus a week for Grades K-2, and then a full day for Grades 3-5,
  - b. Can we possibly do this event twice a year and combine learning about different cultures, or
  - c. Can we add little "cultural nuggets" in programs that we already have?
3. Conference Meals - Upcoming March dates:
  - a. We will do a full dinner on the first night of conferences.
  - b. Snacks/appetizers will be available on the second night.
4. Teacher Appreciation Week - May 6-10 - additional details to come.
5. Preschool Liaison - Christine L. remarked to Sarah P that we should offer a Holiday Meal for MPS next year.

6. Changing Hands Sale -
  - a. The next CHS is March 2nd- There's a big push for volunteers and consignors.
  - b. We are also looking for someone who would like to be in charge of the tech side of things, as Aaron Wagner is ready to move on. Everything is created, they would just need to know how to work the "back end" side of things. We also are in need of someone to maintain the graphic design piece - editing signs that are already created with current dates.
  - c. Can we communicate the above needs in Chandley's upcoming newsletters, Room Parents emails, etc.
7. STEM Day -
  - a. Looking ahead to next year's timing, could we do something in the fall?
  - b. Possible Programs include: The Cincinnati Museum Center (preferred), iSPACE, Jamie P. mentioned looking into a "pop-up planetarium" that her former school district had done.
  - c. How do we incorporate fun "STEM surprises" throughout the year, or do we plan bigger demos/activities per grade level?
  - d. Overall Budget is \$3,000 per year, although it's done every other year, so more funds are available if needed.
  - e. Instead of doing a STEM Day every other year, could we do a K-2 year and then a 3-5 year the following year?

#### **PTO Treasurer Updates**

1. Current Balance -
  - a. PLANNED TO SPEND \$39,000, but we currently have \$53,000 - still need to fund GOT ART, Reading Week, etc. .
2. Planned Income and Expenses this semester:
  - a. We have \$2,000 earmarked for a possible 5th grade field trip.
  - b. The Goal for the end of year is to have \$12,000.
  - c. Always like to have 10,000 in cash available

#### **Coffee Gift Card Drawing Winners**

1. Ian Maloney
2. Chandley Bacher