

## PTO Meeting

January 12, 2022

To begin: Superintendent Kenji Matsudo spoke.

1. COVID update: Adjustments are constantly being made. Monitoring staff absences is complicated, and they are watching it closely. Parents should know that our own MES parents are stepping up and substitute teaching. Feel free to email or call Kenji about health updates. They are trying to work through this day by day. The support received from the community has been incredible.
2. School Board meeting on 1/10/22:
  - a. Lots of students getting recognized in the school system for various, outstanding reasons. It is exciting to see our students excel!
  - b. Trish Niehaus retired.
  - c. Three school board members elected and recently sworn in. Rick Palmer was elected Board President.
3. Adding on to the Elementary building: The community approved the passage of the bond. Kenji and his team presented in front of Moody's system for bond rating. AA1 rating here for MES. We were the first district in OH that was in a position to go out to market. We did that before winter break, and the money has now been wired. MSA is the design firm we are working with. They will engage with parents on the design. Kenji will probably have more to share at the next PTO meeting. 12 classrooms on two stories are going in.
4. Student Mental Health study: It is a big concern and a priority. A study will be shared on 1/13/22.
5. Mr. Matsudo asks parents to provide an encouraging word to teachers to show your support!

Next, Principal Chris Flanagan spoke.

1. It has been great to be back from break. Benchmarking meetings during the first week and a half back. They are trying to develop Tier 2 interventions. Mr. Flanagan led grade-level meetings. This included a review of behavioral components, NY resolutions, and the word of the month is kindness.
2. As Mr. Matsudo discussed, there is a committee of teachers to look at future planning as the building grows. MSA is listening to the teachers and is putting those thoughts into the design. Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Matsudo, and others have gone to other schools in Cincinnati that have been in our situation to see how they accomplished the project.
3. He is meeting with his staff on how to manage the COVID process.
4. Report cards are coming out next week. Be on the lookout for report cards!
5. He thanked the PTO for the lunch that was offered to the staff.
6. Changing Hands Sale is coming up again on March 5, 2022. The impact of this sale is significant at MES. It raises so much money for the benefit of our school! COVID protocols will be followed for the Changing Hands sale. We always need volunteers!

7. A question was asked about the information that should be reported to the school regarding COVID, in case your child is a close contact or is actually positive. Feel free to call the school to ask any questions about what you should relay to the school.
8. Parents trying to be substitute teachers: you do not need to be a college graduate; \$95/day payment.

Next, Yoon Kramer, MES PTO President, spoke:

1. She wanted to make another plug about substitute teaching. It gives you a great perspective on what teachers go through. We so appreciate our teachers!
2. Amazon Smile purchases and Boxtops are so appreciated! They benefit the PTO and, as a result, they benefit MES.
3. Monday Munchies: 4<sup>th</sup> graders walk around with a cart to brighten the teachers' day.
4. PTO will soon be selling long sleeve tshirts and sweatshirts. Look in your emails soon for that.
5. Thank you for those helping with lunch duty and Veggie Tasting Tuesday.
6. PTO will be cleaning out the PTO closet in the month of January.
7. Changing Hands sale: We are thinking about selling tote bags for those shoppers that didn't bring a bag. If any parents know of a local business that would like to sponsor these totes, please contact Mr. Flanagan at [cflanagan@madeiracityschools.org](mailto:cflanagan@madeiracityschools.org) or Yoon Kramer at [madeirapto@gmail.com](mailto:madeirapto@gmail.com).

Additional Speakers:

- Andrea Harth, MES PTO Treasurer, spoke about the PTO budget. Little to report, except that Amazon Smiles, tshirt sales, yearbook sales, etc all help the PTO.
- Kristen Cline discussed the holiday lunch, which was postponed until 1/12/22. All of MES and the preschool staff got food from PotBelly's today. Also, a great thank you was extended to the room parents at MES.
- Kari Freudenberger spoke about a FORBES article that forecasts the implosion of the teaching profession. Instead of telling teachers to take care of themselves, we should be taking care of them. This would include taking something off their plate. Carrie would be interested in developing a system where the teacher could put a request out to the community, example- *I need 25 ovals cut out and laminated by [DATE]*.

**Next PTO meeting will be a joint meeting MMS and MHS PTOs on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am at MES, with the location possibly subject to change.**