**PTO Meeting on 9.14.22**

Maria Schwaller started by introducing Dave Bergen, Assistant Superintendent.

1. Mr. Bergen provided a construction update, including schematics. He discussed the basic timeline, including plans of the interior projects.
2. Mr. Flanagan, Principal, spoke next. He reminded families of Spirit Fridays, so wear blue and yellow. This Friday is the Homecoming parade (at 5:30) and the football game.
   1. Picture Day is Tuesday, 9.20.22. He reported that 9.21.22 is Walk to School Day. The playground structure will be shut down that morning. Friday, 9.23.22 is an in-service day with no school.
   2. Donations are being accepted at the football game and during the homecoming parade. Also, there will be bins at MES.
   3. The lunch line process has changed in that there is now a “credit card” (it is not a credit card) that the kids swipe for their account. This has helped to expedite the lunch line.
   4. PikMyKid App has been a big success. Thanks to all families that have downloaded it. He discussed the possibilities of the app that MES is not yet using, but hopefully will someday.
3. Amy, PTO Treasurer, presented on the PTO budget. She reported that expenses have been increased. With that, fundraising may have to be increased.
   * Changing Hands Sale went as expected, according to budgeting.
   * PTO membership is another fundraiser for the PTO. It costs $30 for your family. Besides writing a check and getting a tshirt, there is no other requirement for membership. You can also get an extra shirt for $10.
   * These two mentioned fundraisers are done in lieu of selling door to door, walkathons, etc.
   * You can set MES as your charity on Amazon Smile. You would have to make all your purchases at smile.amazon.com. If you set MES as the charity and shop at smile.amazon.com, the PTO gets paid.
4. Maria Schwaller re-capped some of the PTO programs:
   * Beginning Buddies. This year, we had about 16 new students partnered with a child in their grade to see the school and learn some names.
   * Welcome Back Coffee Truck for teachers and staff, including pre-school teachers and staff.
   * There is a volunteering opportunity on Picture Day, Sept 20th, from 9-2:30.
   * Room parent reminders. Check emails for info from the Room Parents.
   * SHAC Jr. Committee: 4th graders can submit an application through Google classroom. Their focus is on physical and mental health. 2 students from each classroom will be selected. The Committee is looking for parent volunteers for helping with bulletin boards. More info on that parent volunteer is forthcoming.

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