



Parent Teacher Council

MVAPTC Monthly Meeting 12 January 2023

Attending: Jessica Sherman, Steve Brock, Steve Orders, Cassandra Heifetz, Liz Ryan, and 20 more attendees.

Call to Order: Jessica called the meeting to order at 6:32.

New Business: Jessica spoke about the following new business items:

- 1) Next MVAPTC Special Education Meeting is Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Topic is Transitions: What does it mean to transition to the next school level? Contact Andrea Levy at andreallevy@yahoo.com for more information.
- 2) Next MVAPTC meeting is Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Special Presentation: Restorative Justice
- 3) Need Volunteers for Lower School supply distribution, auction, staff appreciation & organizing social activities.
- 4) Seeking parents and teachers/staff to form a subcommittee of the MVAPTC to make recommendations to the MVA regarding policies pertaining to attendance, grading, student engagement, schedule, improve parent/teacher communication, innovation, and more.
- 5) Seeking donations for the MVAPTC Spring Auction to be held late February/early March.
- 6) Seeking donations of t-shirts, drinks, snacks and dessert for staff & volunteer appreciation.
- 7) Thank you for the membership dues, staff appreciation gift cards, and Amazon Wish List donations!

Meeting minutes: Jessica moved to approve. Brock seconded. Minutes approved.

Helpful Information: Jessica spotlighted a variety of activities.

College Applications: Kenny Sholes of Foundry Admissions discussed his background and the importance of a “good fit” for college admissions. Applying to a college can be stressful. Parents don’t know what to do. Sholes noted what colleges are looking for the following from students: GPA, a challenging course load, extra-curriculars, ACT/SAT scores, and demonstrated interests. He then presented the components of the application process: explorations in the summer, GPA, college essays, deadlines, early admission, teacher recommendations, and demonstrating interest. Discussion turned to the college list with a variety of data points; try to narrow to 12 schools. His organization will provide a timeline of activities to occasion admission. Sholes shared where juniors should be now vis-a-vis the admissions calendar. 9-10 graders should work on study skills, establish relationships with teachers, and read books outside of school. Lastly, he shared universities where his Foundry students have been accepted, including the University of Minnesota. Sholes opened the floor to questions. PSAT is usually taken in grade 10; SAT/ACT in the junior year. He recommended taking the ACT as well as SAT. Jessica asked about AP classes. AP are mainly offered junior and senior year. Students are recommended to find a mix between the number of AP classes and their success in them. Jessica asked about sports and clubs. Sholes noted that activities can be “broad.”

Deans' Updates: Lower-school Dean Ms. Heifetz gave updates about a Google Form for families to return to the MVA, complete the form, and follow the process. Material distribution is for K-5 only; sign-ups are now for 25-27 January. Breaking news: 27 January will be picture day; packages for photos start at \$12. The end of the marking period is coming soon. Families who wish to return need to make an application on ParentVue by 2 Feb. Ms. Weaver will lead the MVA yearbook; both upper and lower schools will be represented.

The Upper-school Dean Order is excited about photos on 27 January. The new application process is online. Next Tuesday, 17 Jan., from 6:30-7:30 is a parent-night, which families can attend. Open mic sessions once a month will be beginning again. Student MCPS Board candidates will come and chat at the virtual cafe. Watch the newsletter for details!

New Business Redux: Jessica repeated many of the announcements done earlier at the beginning of the meeting for those who arrived late.

Treasurer's Report: Liz Ryan presented on the 501C3 status. Income from dues, donations, and Amazon Smiles, the upcoming auction. The organization is on solid footing. Liz and Jessica want more volunteers to host social events, staff appreciation, the auction; Jessica noted that we have insurance. Total income this year: \$1,265 Balance carried over from last year: \$639 Total funds: \$1,904. Balance at end of December 2022: \$1,904 Operating Costs to date: ★ Logo fundraising start-up costs \$195 of \$400 to start school year (Note: Reimbursement in process) Upcoming Expenses: ★ Domain Name: Approximately \$25 ★ Insurance: Approximately \$300 Estimated Operating Costs this year: \$725.

Adjournment: Jessica moved to adjourn. Brock seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Brock
Secretary