



## *Parent Teacher Council*

### **Monthly Meeting 8 September 2022**

**Call to Order:** President, Jessica Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Secretary, Dr. Brock asked for the gavel to facilitate the meeting at 6:33 P.M.

**Deans' Report:** Dean Heifitz of the lower school introduced herself, and shared information regarding the lower school. It has about 500 K-5 students and about 100-150 students accessing math from their home schools. Majorie Cohen is working with other schools for this project. Elementary students have a fully synchronous day this year. Lower school has received and filled several new positions: reading specialist, math content specialist, and a resource specialist providing targeting instruction. Because classes are smaller, the time provided for instruction has been improved. Ms. Jeffcott, media assistant, has built a website to access online resources and digital content. Lastly, extra-curricular social activities have expanded in partnerships, including a Rainbow Club which supports LGBTQ students and parents. Another new club: Kids for Equity which will focus on social justice, formerly "Teaching for Tolerance." Jackie DeLucia, elementary coordinator, was introduced.

Dean Orders spoke about a new approach to grading, reporting, and feedback on a four-point scale as the school moves away from percentages to a more equitable way of grading. He spoke about the role of standards and moving toward standards in assessment to represent what students know and are able to do. MVA has a very diverse student population with many different needs. Counselors have been very busy with scheduling and are offering open Zoom sessions for student assistance and support. The upper school is also looking to expand offerings in the classroom and extra-curricular activities.

Donald Whitfield, the NAACP MVAPTC Coordinator, spoke about free-and-reduced lunch, and the need for parents to apply. He also asked about tutoring. Dean Heifitz spoke about tutoring ramping up for tutor both after school and during the school day. Per academic recovery, Dean Orders talked about the high school credit recovery.

**Meeting Minutes:** Donald Whitfield motioned for approval; Andrea Levy seconded the motion. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**Officers Report:** President Jessica Sherman noted the officers for the year. There are open seats for the President-elect and Treasurer-elect. If someone is available, the high school Vice President is interested in being replaced as she has a middle schooler. Jessica discussed the

desire to do more social activities. She provided an update on the 501(c)(3), which was approved in June.

Treasurer Liz Ryan presented the treasurer's report. Income for August 2022 - September 6, 2022 was \$700. Current Bank Account Balance: \$1,339 (Jessica needs reimbursed for the shirt purchase). Estimated operating costs: \$400 for spirit wear, \$20 domain name, and approximately \$300 for insurance. Requested approval of \$725 for operating costs. Balance after estimated operating costs is \$614. See slide presentation for additional details. Liz Ryan asked that the budget be approved for the year. Budget was voted on and approved.

**Fundraising Report:** President Jessica Sherman discussed the fundraising, looking at direct donations, t-shirts, and auction possibilities. Andrea Levy spoke about a craft fair on the 8 October.

**Special Education Committee:** Andrea Levy presented as chair of the special education committee. Meetings will begin in October and occur on the third Thursday of the month. She is working on getting a variety of speakers, including the Special Olympics to speak.

**Staff Appreciation:** Pizza Hut, Ledo's and Papa Johns all donated pizza to MVAPTC for a staff lunch at orientation. A teacher wish list was provided and located on the slide presentation.

#### **Upcoming Socials/Fundraisers:**

- **Filicori Zecchini - Park Potomac - Saturday, September 10th from 1-3 PM.** Food & drinks will be available for purchase. They will give MCAPTC 10% (please mention MVAPTC at purchase). Masking requested if moved indoors.
- **Ben and Jerry's - Rockville - Sunday, October 2nd from 2-4, in Rockville.** Food will be available for purchase. They will give MCAPTC 20% (please mention MVAPTC at purchase).
- **Fun Event - Lone Oak Brewery -** is holding an all county Back to School Food Truck Festival, on Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM where the school with the most school spirit wins \$500. Receive 10% off your purchases if you wear your MVA school shirt (available for purchase in the school office). Please note that this is not a formal organized MVAPTC social but just a fun event for your family to participate in to show your school spirit.
- **MVAPTC Craft Fair - October 8th at Earl B Wood located at** 14615 Bauer Dr, Rockville, MD 20853 from 12-5 PM.

**Committees:** We would like to have more committees. MVAPTC board is open to ideas, but we need others to lead.

**Membership:** Jessica spoke about membership. Everyone is welcomed! Several options for membership/dues available for pay what you can, staff/teachers, individual and family.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed on the FB site, website, fundraising, organizing social events, teacher appreciation, auction and more.

**Partnership:** Montgomery Connect is donating computers. Jessica gave the specifics about the event on registration and pick-up. Jessica asked to keep the information within this group at the MVA.

**NACCP:** Representative Donald Whitfield spoke about advocacy for all students and working with the school about measures of academic performance. He spoke again about the free and reduced meals; also, connectivity through Comcast for free. He mentioned he has an interest in supporting families of children with special needs and to let him know if assistance is needed.

**Adjourn:** Jessica moved to adjourn; Donald motioned. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Brock  
MVAPTC Secretary