

MES PTA General Meeting

May 18, 2023

PTA Meeting Notes

Date/Time	5/18/23 - 7:05
Location	The Commons & online

PTA Board Members Attending

Nancy Greene - President	Osnat Zemer Frysz- VP	Heather McClintock - Treasurer
Nikita Dighe- Communications	Nicole Appell – Membership/Secretary	Evita Hu - Enrichment
Sarah Morris - Fundraising	Benita Hsueh– Volunteer Coordinator	Jason Quehl – Nominating Committee Chair

MES Staff Members Attending

Kelly Walter, Principal	Toni Harmer, Teacher
Rachel Marks, Teacher	

PTA Members Attending

Attending in person	20
Attending virtually	22

Agenda Items

Topic	Detail	Owner
Call to Order	Time: 7:05	Nancy
Present current PTA Board & mission		Nancy
Reflection on 2022/2023 PTA accomplishments	<p><u>Reviewed the activities and initiatives from this year in the areas of community building and student/staff direct support.</u></p> <p><u>Community Events -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Popsicles in the park● Fall Festival● Family Picnic● Movie Night● Game Night● Popcorn Friday	Nancy/Osnat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spirit Gear ● Serendipity Social gathering <p><u>Funding for academic support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Assemblies (e.g., Book It!) ● Islandwood – partially funded. ● Support to school Welcome Back night & open house ● Coordination of volunteers (recess, lunch, classroom) ● Yearbook funding ● Enrichment/after-school classes <p>15 classes in 2023 261 students enrolled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NOTE: Registration fees go directly to vendors for the running each individual class, but the program cannot exist without parent volunteers. Volunteers help ensure classrooms are open, students are checked in and out of classes, and handle any logistics issues that come up in the moment.</p>	
Introduction of 2023/2024 PTA Board Nominees	<p>Nominees were listed according to the nominating committee submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTA Co-President: Osnat Zemer-Frysz & Sarah Morris (shared role desired) ● PTA Vice President: Benita Hsueh Baker ● PTA Treasurer: Heather MacClintock ● PTA Secretary: Nicole Appell <p>Attendees were informed they would be able to self-nominate right before the vote.</p>	Nancy
Staff Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This year we had some remaining funds from SPS Covid funding that will not continue next year. This funding helped with hiring additional tutors for the school, but new funding streams will be needed to continue this level of support next year. ● PTA was asked to support programming/teacher resources & the ability to provide differentiated instruction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For this year, that included training for classroom differentiation and funding for substitutes to allow teacher planning time 	Principal Kelly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next year, staff will get training for Project Based Learning, and teacher planning day. ● Next year, every student will be involved in Project Based Learning, which helps engage students of all levels and abilities. This is similar to the Orca Pods set up by Principal Katie at the start of the school, and which the students benefited from greatly. ● We will continue in Identity Work – right now and into next year, we are moving the focus from “me” (who am I as a learner) to “we” (what are our expectations and norms as a community) ● Intervention program - (SIPPs/tutors) – this year we’ve largely provided math enrichment and reading supports. ● Based on student data (MTSS 5 week review) – this year many students closed the gap created during the pandemic, and got to grade level due to the intervention program ● We are continuing to build out Tier 1 Instructional practice/Math 4 Love professional development <p>Focus for Next Year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to build school community. ● Magnetic Reading (iReady) will be a major initiative and we’ve requested significant funding from PTA to support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online supplemental curriculum allows for differentiation and personalization of reading materials according to the student level. It also provides the instructional supports and student materials that help build out a full supplemental curriculum. ○ Teachers track learning by individual student, and can then provide the directed supports ○ K-2 will focus on foundational skills/ Grades 3-5 focus on comprehension. ○ Adaptive Diagnostic Assessment – when students get a question right the level gets more challenging, when they get one wrong, less challenging. This meets students where they are and makes the testing less stressful. 	
	Specifics on i-Ready Reading program:	Toni Harmer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Harmer shares that in her 3rd grade 28 students class, at the beginning of the school year the student reading level ranged from K to 4th grade. The initial estimation provided by iReady allowed her to determine how to place students in small groups ● Saves teachers time to prepare curriculum tailored to each student’s level/needs, especially when the resources are limited ● Gives teachers a power point for every lesson ● Visuals for English Language Learners ● Extensions for Advanced Learners ● Classroom investment: 40 min/week – 2-3 sessions ● A goal is set for each student, determined by where a student is currently placed and what they should be working on. ● Teacher gets a flag if a lesson is failed twice, so they can check in with students who need assistance and provide exactly the help that is needed. ● Identifying needed skills – teachers can click on the skill and find more lesson plans specific to that skill. (saves teachers time) ● Toni’s class improved by 136% by January. This means that on average, the class surpassed their reading goals for the year <i>in January</i> and they’ll continue to make progress! It was this effort that encouraged the staff to scale this program across the whole school. 	
Fundraising	<p>MES PTA has a different fundraising approach than other schools, and that’s intentional. The school staff have asked the PTA to focus on equity and inclusion in fundraising strategies – we want fundraising efforts to always be accessible by all families, and to ensure we have no barriers to participation.</p> <p>(Note: there was some discussion on this topic. PTA explained we also want to make sure we’re not exacerbating inequity across schools by overfunding efforts at our school. Where possible, we are exploring opportunities to pool efforts with other schools.)</p>	Rachel Marks
Budget	<p>2022 – 2023 Budget Review</p> <p>Link to budget HERE</p>	Heather

The PTA spent less this year than projected, largely because we were in a build phase after a return to school. Therefore, there was no need to transfer from reserves this year. Given the ambition for next year we will need to dip into reserves in order to meet the budget requirements. The PTA is comfortable with this because a large portion of the budget ask (iReady) include one-time investment that won't be needed in future years.

Projected spending next year is greater than this year:

YTD spending: 62,157.22
22/23 Budget: 74,944.27
23/24 Budget: 100,775.00

Ways we are saving :

- PayPal – Zeffy cost less in transaction fees
- Lauren identified some additional ways to fund families in need next year, so the PTA contribution is lower
- District will provide field trip busses
- District will fund safety patrol next year

Other comments on our 23-24 budget:

- Reading curriculum costs more the first year. Will cost less in subsequent years & includes staff professional development
- We will fund a tutor & recess monitor (hourly position). Hiring a recess monitor will improve student safety and will free up staff time

Q&A:

Q: What about long term fundraising? Dipping into reserves each year will not be sustainable. A: (Sarah M) Cost of i-Ready will come down. More corporate matches, Fun Run, sponsorships, looking at different ways to fundraise.

Q: Why don't we do auctions? A: Want everyone to feel included in fundraising, and auctions are typically for the well-to-do. As noted above, if there is a barrier to participation, we won't pursue that event. This year all events have been free for everyone to participate. We ask those who can donate more to do so.

There is also quite a bit of administrative waste in planning and executing an auction. Our fundraising relies on members

	<p>of the community contributing directly. The hope is that as families understand what we are funding, they will contribute more.</p> <p>Q: What was the size of reserve at beginning of year ? A: \$70,000. Based on not transferring from reservers, we have a \$26,000 surplus over what we thought we would have at this point in the year. Currently/expected end of year reserves are \$105,000 – 106,000</p> <p>Question: Do we have benchmarks for our spending? Are there things we can't fund because we don't have the funds? A: Our budget is roughly half of our sister schools relative to size. However, the barrier this year has not been funding, but time and volunteer support (hence our underspend compared to budget). We expect a change in fundraising next year - We will not do a direct drive next year because a lot of people don't know what that means. Instead, we'll push for Big Give days., and spread out fundraising throughout the year.</p>	
Vote 8:15 pm	<p>Budget: 21 votes in favor, 0 opposed. Budget resolution is carried.</p>	Heather called, Nancy seconded
Nominating Committee/ Executive Board Vote	<p>Call for additional nominees (none)</p> <p>Co-president: Osnat Zemer-Frysz, Sarah Morris 19 votes in favor, 0 opposed</p> <p>Vice President: Benita Hsueh Baker 22 votes in favor, 0 opposed</p> <p>Treasurer: Heather MacClintock 22 votes in favor, 0 opposed</p> <p>Secretary: Nicole Appell 21 votes in favor, 0 opposed</p> <p>All nominations are carried.</p>	Jason/Nancy
Non-executive Board roles/call for volunteers	<p>The bulk of our PTA work is performed by non-executive board positions (or Chairs). Below are the chair roles for which we seek support – prioritized positions are identified with an asterisk.</p> <p>If any PTA member is interested in participation, please reach out to info@magnoliaschoolpta.org</p> <p>*Communication *Enrichment</p>	Nancy

	<p>*Events & Outreach (filled) *Fundraising (filled) *Assistant Treasurer (filled) *Volunteer Coordinator Room Parent Liaison IT Facilities Legislative Membership</p>	
Help needed	<p>PTA member support is still needed in the following ways for this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Help during recess & lunch ● *Need help in monitoring for student safety (Kelly) ● Culture Celebration 6/6 ● Fundraising ● PTA Survey 	
Q & A	<p>Q: Are we losing staff next year? A (Kelly): Although the district has cut funding for next year and increased class sizes, we have only lost one teacher. We have a teacher going on leave next year so none of our teachers are directly impacted by district funding cuts.</p> <p>Q: What is the expected kindergarten enrollment? A (Kelly): SPS has projected 41 students for next year based on birth rates, which means we will have 2 kindergarten classes for next year. MES currently has several students from students outside our boundary on the waitlist, but we don't expect the district to pull any of those kids in due to capacity at neighborhood schools.</p> <p>Enrollment is down across the district. MES enrollment has remained fairly steady compared to other schools in North Seattle.</p> <p>NEWS: Play structure will be here 8/8/23, according to the district. School staff and PTA reps were on a call with the city to select the winning proposal, which was selected almost entirely based on timeline.</p>	
Meeting concluded: 8:35 pm		

Submitted by:
 Nicole Appell

May 23, 2023, including edits by Nancy Greene and Osnat Zemer Frysz.