

Mosby Woods ES PTA Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

6:30-7:30 pm, MWES Library

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm

2. Report from Administration and Staff
 - Dr. Aste shared that Mosby Woods ES has received Purple Star designation for 2019. We are one of 14 schools in FCPS to receive such designation. This designation shows that MWES has been working hard to help support our military students and families in various ways, such as helping build and boost understanding and empathy for our military-connected families
 - The school's Student Government is now up and running. Class representatives have been selected. The Student Government helps vote on things such as Spirit Week and service projects
 - The 16th annual Walk for the Homeless will be on November 1st at 2pm. The walk is to raise awareness about those less fortunate. Students will bring in change to raise money for the homeless in our area
 - Unity Day is October 23rd and students will orange to school. Unity Day is becoming nationally recognized and stems from the anti-bullying movement in our country. The day is meant to highlight inclusiveness, kindness, and unity amongst our school community and beyond.
 - Digital Citizenship is next week (the week of October 21st)
 - On October 28th there will be a meeting for parents at Oakton High School for all five Oakton Pyramid elementary schools (Mosby Woods, Navy, Crossfield, Waples Mill, and Oakton). The meeting will focus on dealing with anxiety in our children as they head to high school. The movie "Angst" will be shown, and various mental health experts will be there to have a panel discussion after the movie
 - Family Literacy Night (October 11th) for our Kindergarten families and students had a great turnout and more Family Literacy Nights are being planned for other grade levels

3. Presidents'/Treasury Report
 - Budget approval vote held for the 2019-2020 School Year. The budget was approved with no objections
 - There was an audit of the previous fiscal year. The co-Vice Presidents and the Treasurer were the Audit Committee. The audit was very straightforward and the findings focused

on implementing better organization and structuring of information in the Treasury Binder. (One example was tracking things like checks that clear over the summer so that it stays organized and clear for the incoming PTA board/Treasurer)

4. Committee/Event Updates

- After School Program/Parent Run Clubs are underway—currently there are approximately 300 kids in after school activities. Updates include: reminding your child of the location of their club/activity, making sure parents have ID when picking up their child, and contacting the after school class coordinator or Parent Liaison (Mrs. Yanke) if your child is going to leave with someone other than his/her parent *or* will be missing a day of class
- The MWES Direct Donation goal is \$10K and so far \$7350 has been raised
- Spirit Wear orders are expected to be in by the week of October 21st

5. Guest Speaker: Mrs. Cox, Technology Specialist

- Digital Citizenship Week is next week (week of October 21st)
- The focus of FCPS is Media Well-Being and Balance
- FCPS has partnered with Common Sense Media and has adopted their Digital Citizenship curriculum, which can be found on the FCPS website
- The goal is to help parents with their kids' media use—to make sure parents know how to monitor what their children watch, be able to talk about it, and help their children make good decisions when online
- Ms. Cox showed a video made by Common Sense Media
- There was a discussion of media pros and cons—online/media concerns and strengths were discussed amongst the PTA meeting attendees
- Being conscientious of your child's digital media use is important
- Digital Citizenship is how you behave with regards to technology use, i.e. being responsible and having an appropriate online presence. It is important to be cognizant of the digital footprint your child is leaving, making sure they have balance in their media use, being aware of privacy issues, monitoring mental health issues/cyberbullying/hate speech, watching their consumption of news, and media literacy
- As it relates to media use, it is important to: monitor your child's sleep and health, school work, how they are connecting socially, are they actively pursuing their interests, and so on
- Tips on achieving media balance at home include: using media with your child; knowing what your rules are and sticking to them; rehearsing your rules and expectations; connecting media to real life; talking about digital citizenship; encouraging creation, not just consumption; talking about advertising and consumerism; talking about online privacy and security; and modeling good media use as parents

- Be wary of privacy concerns for the websites, games, videos, and social media your child uses
- Look for online educational content for your child and encourage your child to choose websites that match your family's values
- Common Sense Media has reviews for movies, games, etc. and other parent resources that can be accessed from the FCPS website
- Family Media Agreements are available for all age groups
- It is important to help tweens be more responsible in their online choices—keep an open dialog with your tween about what they are watching, viewing, saying online; use limits, not lectures about their media use; help them make good decisions online by modeling it and explaining your expectations for their online use/presence; be their “training wheels”, so that as they grow more independent, they are able to be responsible and safe online on their own
- To help encourage balance and to make sure your child does not feel addicted to media, parents can implement such ideas as “Device Free Time” or “Device Free Dinner” for the whole family
- As a last resort, there are tracking software that parents can use to help monitor their child's media use

6. Upcoming Events

- Oct. 16th: Restaurant Night at Freddy's Steakburgers
- Oct. 23rd: Unity Day—wear orange
- Oct. 26th: MCM Kids 1 mile Fun Run
- Nov. 15th: Direct Donation Fundraiser ends
- Nov. 15th: Chuck E. Cheese Family Fun Night in Fairfax
- Nov. 19th: AAP Meeting in Cafeteria at 6pm, PTA meeting at 6:30pm

7. New Business

- No new business