

Mosby Woods ES PTA Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

6:30-7:30 pm, via BBCU link (Online)

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm

2. Report from Administration and Staff
 - Dr. Aste congratulated our Assistant Principal, Ms. Haroutunian on giving birth to her first child, a baby boy
 - Dr. Aste noted that our school has had near 100% attendance from our students, which she remarked was very impressive for a school of 1000+ students. Dr. Aste thanked parents and staff for their help in this achievement
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Unity Day is Wednesday, October 21st—students and staff are asked to wear orange as part of the national anti-bullying movement and Bullying Prevention Month. Wearing orange shows that we are united against bullying and will stand up against bullying.
 - MWES Spirit Week is the week of October 26th—students can dress up each day if they choose:
 - 10/26: Hat Day
 - 10/27: Famous Person/Character Day
 - 10/28: Holiday Day
 - 10/29: MWES Spirit Day (wear MWES spirit wear or blue and white)
 - 10/30: Pajama Day
 - A virtual assembly will be held on November 9th called Mad Science
 - Dr. Aste thanked the PTA for the September care packages for MWES staff (teachers and staff received Bundt cakes). There will be another staff appreciation care package for October.
 - Dr. Aste spoke about equity in MWES and shared part of our SIIP Plan (School Innovation and Improvement Plan)
 - MWES has always strived to have a Caring Culture and has been focusing on Equity in our SIIP. Our student population represents 40 different countries, so equity and celebrating diversity has always been an important part of building a strong school community
 - There will be a School Equity Audit by our School Equity Team in the next few weeks. Hopefully this team will include both parents and school staff
 - Our goals within the Shared Equity Audit include: students' home culture and texts are validated and affirmed in school; and, that school materials reflect the

perspectives of diverse groups (our library has been a big part of this, and our Librarian, Ms. Brown, has been working diligently to achieve this)
-Strategy Two in our SIIP includes: having critical conversations, using strengths-based language, having professional development, and having families engage in virtual community-building opportunities (i.e. parent coffees)

3. National School of Excellence via the National PTA (presented by Co-President Mary Ann Linder)

- MWES is aiming to become a National School of Excellence this year, which is a school that is recognized for having a strong PTA/School relationship that works towards improving the educational experience for all students
- A survey was sent out for MWES families to fill out to help us figure out what goals we as a school community should focus on—not as many families filled it out as hoped (approximately 39), so results were based on a relatively small group
- Ms. Linder presented the results of the survey
- The PTA is looking for volunteers to go through the results of the survey and decide what we as a school want to focus on. This has to be done by November 15th
- Achieving this recognition will help make us a stronger school community and will work to better families' relationship with the school itself

4. Committee Event/Updates

- The PTA has a new Treasurer, Paridhi Maheshwari. There was a vote via email/MemberHub and she received 43 yes votes.
- Our Virtual Enrichment Program launched—however, due to low participation, some programs were cancelled and others were combined
- MWES is participating in the Marine Corps Marathon—there is a \$20 registration fee
- Volunteers are needed for the School of Excellence survey task, organizing virtual school activities, and organizing Staff Appreciation events
- The next Restaurant Night will Thursday, October 22nd from 5-9pm at Flippin' Pizza in Fairfax

5. New Business

- No new business

6. Update on the FCPS Return-To-School plan, presented by Dr. Aste

- Plans are constantly changing, so nothing is official or permanent as of yet—all of the following dates are tentative
- FCPS will be sending out an email either at the end of this week or early next week, asking parents to update their choice of whether or not they would like their kids to return to school or remain virtual.
- Once all of the family responses are in, MWES will then be able to plan based on the results
- Some teachers need/want to stay virtual, some want to come back in-person, so this will be a factor in what happens going forward
- Dr. Aste will try her best to keep kids with the teachers they started the school year with
- Head Start and Kindergarten will start in-person learning the week of November 16th—it will be two days in school, three days at home. The days of the week that kids go back will be determined by the alphabet.
 - Kindergarten will be 10-12 kids at a time, socially distanced 6 feet apart; masks will be required for all students and staff; the school environment will be as safe as possible, following CDC and VDH guidelines, and will use a special cleaner to kill germs
- 1st and 2nd grades will return the week of November 30th
- 3rd-6th grades will return the week of January 4th
- FCPS is currently piloting “concurrent learning,” which is when the teacher is in class and is teaching both the in-person students and the students who are still learning virtually (Dr. Aste is not sure MWES can do concurrent learning)
- Parent Questions/Answers
 - The timeline for grade levels returning to school only applies to parents who choose in-person learning
 - If you choose in-person learning, it would be two days in school and three days of asynchronous
 - Community spread of COVID-19 has to be at a certain, safe level before anyone can return to school and there are other metrics that need to be met before kids are allowed to return to school
 - The 3rd-6th grade timeline may end up moving up to an earlier date
 - Dr. Aste is not sure if we will know whether or not concurrent learning will be in place/used before families are asked to make their decision about whether or not to send their kids back to school
 - Dr. Aste said families will not know whether or not their child’s teacher has decided to return to school or remain virtual before they make their decision about whether or not to send their kids back to school
 - Kindergartners with an IEP will still get their allotted time with their resource teacher when they go back to school—and they will still have access to their resource teacher on the asynchronous days as well

7. PTA/School News & Mentions

- Co-President Mary Ann Linder shared that Dr. Marcie Beigel will be the guest speaker at our next PTA meeting in November. She will be speaking about how to help your kids and family cope with change, among other topics
- Dr. Aste mentioned that one of the MWES staff's current goals is finding different ways for our kids to do more off-screen activities