

# Miner PTO Meeting

March 7, 2017

# Agenda

**6:00 - 6:05** Welcome

**6:05 - 6:20** Principal Report

**6:20 - 6:35** Special Guests & Topics

**6:35 - 6:45** President & VP Report

**6:45 - 6:50** Treasurer Report

**6:50 - 7:00** Teacher Rep Reports

**7:00 - 7:10** Committee Reports

**7:10 - 7:15** Coordinator & Liaison Reports

**7:15 - 7:20** Partnership & Special Project Reports

**7:20 - 7:25** LSAT & ECE Parent Cmte Reports

**7:25 - 7:30** Open Comment

# Welcome!

- Babysitting
  - Provided free of charge (including dinner) by The District Church
- Refreshments & Light Dinner
  - Suggested donation of \$2 per pizza slice
  - Please let any PTO officer know if you'd like to contribute food for future PTO meetings - or donate money so the PTO can purchase food

# PTO General Meeting Dates for SY16-17

Generally the first Tuesday of each month.

Meetings start at 6:00 pm in the Miner Cafeteria.

April 4

May 2

June 6

# Principal's Report - Ms. Mial

# Special Topic: Sodexo (Food Service)

**Special Topic:  
DC STEM Network  
David Yarmchuk**



# Goal-Setting for STEM Excellence



## Parent & Community Survey

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and opinions about how to improve STEM programming at Miner Elementary School. The purpose of this survey is to gather input from families and other community members to help set priorities for improvement. This survey is anonymous.

Rank the following school-based changes in order from most important (1) to least important (5) to you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ STEM training for teachers
- \_\_\_\_\_ More time during the school day devoted to STEM teaching and learning
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cross-curricular STEM activities (ex. math & social studies, science & ELA, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Project-based learning that addresses needs in the community
- \_\_\_\_\_ Focus on STEM-skills such as creativity, innovation, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication

Rank the following activities in order from most important (1) to least important (4) to you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional two-way communication between teachers and families about STEM coursework goals and activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ More opportunities for families to contribute their expertise to STEM-related activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family-based STEM events where families can participate in STEM learning activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM (students of color, girls)

Rank the following community partnerships in order from most important (1) to least important (3) to you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate STEM partnerships that can provide technical assistance and field trips to STEM workplaces
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community partnerships (universities, museums, etc.) that can provide technical assistance and field trip opportunities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exposure to STEM careers through guest speakers

(Please continue on the other side)



Do you work or have experience in a STEM-related industry? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what field? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe what you think a strong STEM program in schools should look like:

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What does the term “project-based learning” mean to you in terms of how students are learning?

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If there is anything else you’d like to suggest to improve STEM programs at Miner, please share it here:

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*Thank you for your input!*

# President & VP Report - Dave & LaTasha

- Thank you!
  - Ms. Fisher & Ms. Davis - Cupcakes & Canvas
  - Ms. Noakes - Parent University: Move This World
  - Ms. Noakes - Thrilling Thursday & Fabulous Friday
  - Parents & staff who supported Miner's Open Houses
  - Parents & staff who participated in Miner's vision statement development
  - Parents & staff who participated in the LSAT budget priorities survey
  - ECE parents who read in their child's classroom in honor of National Reading Day (Dr. Seuss' birthday!)
  - Dan Harper for organizing Miner Dads' Happy Hour!
  - Matt Renaud & Lindsey Jones-Renaud for fruit tree donations!
- Welcome new PTO leaders!
  - Co-Secretary - Ms. Brown (ECE teacher)
  - Chair of the Communications & Outreach Committee - Mariana Jones (parent)

# Vision Process Update

- Our commitment:
  - Miner ES and the Miner PTO are committed to reaching as many members of the Miner Community as possible. We want all voices to be heard!
  - A Vision cannot be authentic if it comes from a small group of people. We must seek authentic, representative feedback to determine our future, together.
  - Everything we seek to do during this process will be open, transparent, and accessible by all community members.

**One Vision - One Voice - One Team -  
One School - One Miner**

# Vision Process Update

- Vision Statement - Parent, teacher, student statements complete
- Core Values - Completed as part of Vision Statement development
- Mission Statement - To be aligned with the DCPS Mission Statement
- Branding - In progress: logos, fonts, colors
- Needs Assessment - School has started a list of needs - PTO plans to survey parents about their needs
- Signature Program
  - STEM - established and growing!
  - Dual Language - awaiting DCPS. Investigating a dual language summer program.
- Building & Strengthening Community - in progress
  - PTO has started a “Community & Inclusion” team
  - PTO will explore instituting practices of an organization called “Kindred” designed to help school communities grow closer together
  - LSAT identified improving Miner’s “climate & culture” as a budget priority

# Treasurer's Report - Dan

February '17

## Miner ES PTO Treasurer Report

Date	Transaction	Debit
Feb. 1, 2017	Expense - ANC Grant - Check 279	-\$643.16
Feb. 9, 2017	Expense - School Logos - Check 280	-\$125.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>-\$768.16</b>

		Credit
Feb. 7, 2017	Income - Amazon Smile	\$28.61
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$28.61</b>

**Ending Account Balance** **\$25,794.91**

### Pending Transactions

Parent U.	-\$84.55
Library Arts/Humanities Trip	-\$100.00
ECE Field Trips Bldg Museum/Magic Ground	-\$130.00
Thrilling Thurs/Fun Friday	-\$222.98
STEM Fair	-\$200.00

### Effective Ending Balance

**\$25,057.38**

# Treasurer's Report - Dan

Each regular education classroom is allocated \$200. No application required. So by grade level, the totals are:

ECE	\$1,200 (6 classes)
K	\$600 (3 classes)
1st	\$600 (3 classes)
2nd	\$400 (2 classes)
3rd	\$400 (2 classes)
4th	\$400 (2 classes)
5th	\$400 (2 classes)

The following classes/programs are also allocated \$200 each. No application required:

SpEd  
Visual Arts  
PE  
Computer  
World Language  
Music  
STEM  
STEM Fair

The following are allocated \$200 each.

Mini-grant applications are required:

Clubs  
Sports

# Teacher Representatives

- Upcoming Schoolwide Dates of Interest
  - Friday, March 31 - no classes (end of term)
- ECE - Ms. Luttmer
- K-5 - Ms. Fashion
- Specials
  - Library - Ms. Williams
    - Book Fair & Literacy Week (March 20-24)
      - Book fair homepage URL:  
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/preview.do?method=preview#>
      - Volunteer sign-up page URL:  
<https://volunteer.scholastic.com/#/signup/SXZLTiuH0>
    - Field trip to AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring
  - Art - Ms. Davis
    - Panda Bear mural
    - Kennedy Center Partnership
  - STEM - Ms. Russey
    - Friday, March 10 - STEM Guest Speaker
    - Classes in the Peace Garden

# Fundraising & Grants Committee - Lindsey

- Submitted Grants
  - ANC6a grant to fix the pottery kiln / \$1,100
- Upcoming Grants
  - Capitol Hill Community Foundation for pottery supplies – March / \$350
  - OSSE PAY Grant + Playworks Program – March/April / \$10,000
- Other grant needs
  - Computer on Wheels + laptops
  - Cafeteria tables



## Playworks Program at Miner Elementary

There are two program options:

### **Option 1: Full Program - \$30,000 a year**

Funds a full-time youth development specialist at the school. This specialist is in addition to – and complementary to – the PE teacher; they do not replace PE. They oversee recess and support the following four activities:

1. Class game time: they meet with each class twice a month to do a social and learning curriculum via play
2. Afterschool leagues: they support clubs such as basketball, volleyball, etc., that are more developmental than competitive
3. Ongoing support to teachers: Throughout the school year working with teachers to shifting interaction from monitoring to engagement
4. Leadership program: Facilitates a leadership program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to lead and facilitate play and games with other students

*Pros/Cons:* This is the most robust program. It is less burdensome on current staff because it does not require a current staff member to add these duties to their workload. However, because it is led by someone outside of the school, it is less likely to be integrated into the climate and culture of the school. It is more expensive and more difficult to fund, and less likely to be sustainable because it would need to be funded every year.

### **Option 2: Partial Program - \$16,000 a year**

The principal will need to identify a teacher/staff member in the school who will be trained to facilitate and supervise recess. Playworks provides a site coordinator who will be on site at the school for one week a month to train and support the recess point person. The site coordinator will also provide training for other recess duty staff.

*Pros/Cons:* This program is preferred because it is more likely to integrate the playworks approach into the culture and climate of the school, making it a more sustainable option. However, it requires Miner to identify a staff member for whom playworks is their responsibility.

### **DC Physical Activity for Youth (DC PAY) Grant - \$10,000**

The DC Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) offers an annual \$10,000 grant for schools to increase their capacity to offer physical activity to students before, during, or after the school day. The 2017-18 grant cycle should open in March. We can apply for this grant to fund the partnership with Playworks, and then find other funding for the remaining costs.

# Fundraising & Grants Committee - Lindsey

- Continuing Fundraisers:
  - T-shirts and Yard Signs
  - Amazon Smile
  - Box Tops
  - Star & Shamrock
- Upcoming Fundraisers:
  - Spring Yard Sale – Saturday, May 6th
    - Lead: Holly Harper
    - Begin collecting your items to donate!
    - Possibly to be combined with “Spring Fling” family engagement event

## Communications & Outreach Committee (Mariana)

- Shared Google Calendar publically available:  
“[minerelementary@gmail.com](mailto:minerelementary@gmail.com)”
- Spring playdates for current & prospective families
- Need a volunteer to write a short monthly article about Miner activities for *Hill Rag*

## Volunteer Coordinator - Natalie & Tiffany

- Still planning to institute volunteer badges and log book
- Still planning for a “Grand Opening” of the Parent Volunteer & Resource Center

# Family Engagement & Events - Kristina & Ms. Dorsey

- Upcoming Events:
  - Friday, April 7 from 6-8 pm: Spring Dance
- Suggested Events:
  - Boys & Girls banquet (Miner tradition)
  - Family Nights (karaoke, yoga)
  - Fun Run/Walk/5K
  - Arts Showcase
  - Talent Show
  - “Spring Fling” (would be combined with Spring Yard Sale on May 6)

# Family Support - Heather

- PTO is assessing whether to establish a permanent “Emergency Pantry” of clothing and food items in case an immediate family need arises

# Teacher Appreciation - Sheryl & Blair

- Planning for Spring Teacher Appreciation Lunch is underway

## Civic Liaison - Tammy

- Miner-Maury cluster idea is **NOT** under active consideration by DCPS. DCPS is working to fully fund Maury's renovation/enlargement.
- Eliot-Hine School Improvement Team (SIT) is progressing. Two Miner parents are on the SIT.



# Partnerships

- Cub Scouts (Mr. Robinson)
- Cultivate the City (Mr. Robinson & Amy)
  - First Garden Work Day: Sunday, March 12, 9-noon
  - First Market Day: Wednesday, April 12
  - Carton2Garden contest
  - Possible Parent University: Container & Home Gardening
  - STEM classes in the garden
  - Donated fruit trees in the ECE Pollinator Garden
- Shrewsbury (Mr. Williams & Dave)
  - Tours of the Anacostia River Tunnel worksite, and Blue Plains Water Treatment facility
- Folger Theater (Ms. Hicks & LaTasha)
- Estonian Embassy (Ms. Hicks)
  - Planning Estonian Culture Day/Fair
- Kennedy Center (Ms. Davis)
- Summer Camps
  - Mr. Tony's Adventure Camp now enrolling
  - Potential: Language Stars

# Special Projects

- Community & Inclusion - Gloria Roberts Henry
- Playground & Recreational Spaces - Lolly Axley
- Yearbook - Amy Treat & Sarah Dennis

# LSAT - Kyle & Ms. Fisher

- LSAT budget priority survey found that parents strongly supported all four budget priorities from SY16-17:
  - Community School Model
  - Improving reading scores
  - Improving climate & culture
  - Reggio Emilia in ECE and K
- Additional priorities identified in parent & staff surveys:
  - STEM instruction
  - Improving math scores
  - Classroom technology (computers & projectors)
- Based on these inputs and LSAT discussions, Principal Mial developed 3 budget options.
- LSAT deliberated the options and provided a recommendation to Principal Mial
- Principal Mial submitted a proposed SY17-18 budget to DCPS
- Next LSAT meeting; Monday, March 20, 5 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room

# ECE Parent Committee - Matt & Dante

- ECE Parent Valentine activity was a great success. Valentines were created for ALL our ECE students. Thanks to all who participated!
- Thanks to the ECE department for a wonderful Black History Month program!
- Upcoming Events:
  - Thursday, March 9: ECE Parent Committee Meeting, 8:15 in the Parent Center
  - Thursday, March 30: ECE Parent Cafe, 8:30 in the ECE Common Area

# Thank You!

Any Joys, Questions, or Concerns that you'd like to share?