

# Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: September 11, 2018 - 6:00 pm

## Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

### Welcoming remarks

Thank you to Christ City Church DC for babysitting. The next PTO meeting date is Tuesday, October 2 at 6:00pm.

### 2018-19 Executive Board

The board was introduced to membership. All except Mr. Riddick were present.

- President: Julie Muir (PreK 4 parent)
- Vice President: Katy Thomas (1st and PreK 4 parent)
- Secretary: David Treat (1st and PreK 3 parent)
- Interim Treasurer: Ryan Cahill (PreK 3 parent)
- 3rd-5th Grade Teacher Rep: Ms. Katherine Unger (5th grade teacher)
- K-2nd Grade Teacher Rep: Mr. Christin Riddick (2nd grade teacher)
- ECE Teacher Rep: Ms. Tarren Cummings (ECE teacher)
- Principal: Mr. Bruce Jackson

### Special Election: PTO Treasurer

Candidates for Treasurer were introduced to membership. Mr. Cahill was the only candidate present.

- Ryan Cahill (Interim Treasurer, PreK 3 Parent)
- Markitta Jones (PreK 3 Parent)
- Sakiva M. Simon (K Parent)
- Tiffany Stokes (5th Grade Parent)

Members were instructed to submit their ballots to Principal Jackson before the end of the meeting.

### Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson

Miner's enrollment was 346 last year, with a projection 353 this year. Miner has already surpassed it's growth goal for this year (current 360 with 4 open PK seats vs. goal of 359).

Top-level PARCC scores for the past three years:

#### Math

3 Years ago (SY 15-16): 24%  
2 years ago Year (SY 16-17): 16%  
This Year (SY 17-18): 15%

#### ELA

3 Years ago (SY 15-16): 9%  
2 years ago Year (SY 16-17): 8%  
This Year (SY 17-18): 11%

There are a number of positive changes and developments already started or soon to come:

- Miner is now in Year 1 of an OSSE grant to improve the climate and culture via restorative justice practices
- Miner has applied for an OSSE grant to become a community school

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- Information is coming in next Tuesday's take-home folders about K-5 after school clubs and activities (Miner no longer has extended day)
- DC Scores Soccer has returned, including a new "junior" division for K-2
- Basketball for boys and girls is back after a hiatus last year
- DCPS will begin a K-5 playground and field improvement project using \$1.5M included in the city's FY19 budget. There is a kickoff meeting at 6pm on September 12, so please attend and provide feedback about the types of improvements you'd like to see.

### Upcoming events of note:

- Back to School Night is September 20 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Event will start in the cafeteria with a short presentation by Principal Jackson before moving to the classrooms.
- The first Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) meeting of the year is next Tuesday, September 18 at 5:30pm. The meeting is open to all.
- Term 1 midpoint is almost here already: Friday, September 21

School improvement: Before last year, there was low staff morale and only 48% of students reported in surveys that they felt good about Miner. Parents didn't feel welcome. Last year (Principal Jackson's first) the emphasis was on stabilization and improving the overall climate and culture in the school. Now the student satisfaction score is 86%, which is strong indicator of positive culture change. This year the top priority will be on instruction. A big part of that is making sure the teachers are supported in the ways they need to be.

K-5 playground construction: The initial stages of the project will be starting in September so that there is plenty of time for the development work to complete by the time school ends and is fully complete when school starts in August 2019. Membership was cautioned to temper expectations because DGS often completes projects behind schedule.

Parent volunteering: If a parents wants to chaperone ANY field trips, you HAVE to be cleared first by DCPS. For volunteering in the building during school hours, parents have one "free" volunteer opportunity before having to undergo the clearance process. The process is fairly quick: fingerprinting at 1200 1st St downtown, then TB test. The test could have a cost, so check your insurance. CVS offers inexpensive tests (\$10 or less). Clearance is good for two years. For those with a Federal security clearance, for this year only you can submit that in lieu of DCPS clearance. You must provide proper documentation at 1200 1st St. See the volunteer page on Miner's website for details.

## **LSAT Report**

Membership was provided a brief overview of the LSAT's purpose and membership: a group of parents, teachers, staff, and a community representative that advises the Principal on school priorities, tracks the school's Comprehensive School Plan (CSP), helps draft the school's budget, and makes recommendations on topics for which the principal seeks advice. The middle of the year (December - March) is "budget season" and some LSAT meetings may be closed to the public.

The LSAT meeting next Tuesday, September 18 from 5:00pm-6:30pm is open to the public - anyone and everyone is invited. Please feel free to come out, ask questions, and be a part of the discussion.

LSAT members present introduced themselves to membership. The Miner LSAT for SY18-19 is:

- Tiffany Brown (Teacher, 3-4th SPED) - WTU Building Representative

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- Shamayne Coles (Instructional Coach) - Teacher Representative
- Michael Robinson (PE Teacher) - Teacher Representative
- Kamilah Thorne (Instructional Coach) - Teacher Representative
- Katherine Unger (5th Grade Teacher) - Teacher Representative
- Charlene Stapleton (Office Manager) - Staff Representative
- Tammy Alexander - Parent Representative
- Hill Thomas - Parent Representative
- Sade Thomas - Parent Representative
- David Treat - Parent Representative
- Julie Muir (PTO President) - Parent Organization Leader
- Community Representative - TBD

### PreK Parent Committee Report

No formal representative of the committee was present to give a report. However, a committee meeting was held immediately prior to the PTO meeting. PreK parents who attended the earlier meeting reported that the committee decided to hold their monthly meetings the same day at PTO meetings, starting at 5:30pm in the Parent Resource Center (Room 103).

### President & VP Report

ECE playground: The newly-renovated playground would have opened this week if not for the weather, which has delayed installation of the final components (access gates). It is hoped it will open next week. Also to be installed are a large shade structure and a water fountain. Discussion was also held regarding safety issues/concerns. The PTO is aware of the concerns and is working together to come up with a position.

The PTO will lead the process for finding parent members of the Master Site Planning team, the kickoff for which is Wednesday, September 12 at 6:00pm.

The PTO's annual fall fundraiser kicks off tonight! The PTO is raising money for the "Bear Paw Fund" and the goals are to raise \$15,000 and have 50% family participation. The theme this year is to "Explore! Excite! Expand!" The major priorities for funding by the PTO this are field trips for all grade levels, classroom technology, teacher and grade-level "mini" grants, family engagement and staff appreciation events, and facility upgrades and repairs. Visit Miner's website for details on the Bear Paw Fund and how you can contribute.

### Treasurer Report

Cash Summary from June 5, 2018 through September 7, 2018:

Balance as of June 5, 2018:	\$21,041
Plus: Income (June 5 - September 7):	\$3,699
Less: Expenses (June 5 - September 7):	\$(15,516)
Balance as of September 7, 2018:	\$9,224

2017-2018 Budget to Actuals:

- PTO expenses were significantly less than budgeted in 8 categories

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- PTO expenses were about equal to budget in 2 categories
- PTO expenses were significantly higher than budgeted in 2 categories

Overall, PTO expenses for SY17-18 were \$53,775 on a budget of \$67,429

For 2018-2019, the budget highlights (i.e. major spending priorities) are:

- \$5,500 for field trips for all grade levels
- \$5,000 for additional classroom technology
- \$7,000 for teacher and grade-level “mini” grants
- \$3,000 for family engagement events
- \$2,500 for staff appreciation events
- \$4,000 for additional facility repairs and upgrades

These priorities were developed in consultation with Principal Jackson and the LSAT. The detailed SY18-19 budget is still in development and pending final approval by the PTO Executive Board, so please let PTO leadership know if you have any ideas or suggestions. The final approved budget will be presented to membership at the October General Meeting.

### Teacher Representative Reports

Nothing additional to report.

### Special Topics for SY18-19

PTO leadership wants to know what topics that membership is interested in hearing about at General Meetings this year. The PTO will send out survey with a list of last year’s topics for membership to prioritize, as well as suggest new and different topics.

### Committee Reports

The PTO’s new “The PTO This Month” newsletter will be used to communicate the work of the PTO’s committees in lieu of formal committee reports at the General Meetings. Paper copies will be available at each General Meeting, and then it will be posted on the school website and emailed out to the PTO list the day after the PTO General Meeting. Copies of the newsletter will go home in student backpacks the Tuesday following the General Meeting.

The committees reported the following at the meeting:

- **Appreciation & Recognition:** seeking volunteers
- **Communications:** also seeking volunteers, especially a graphic designer. The committee will be seeking feedback on new products for the Spirit Store, as well as guide the school’s re-branding process.
- **Community Engagement:** seeking a chairperson. This committee’s focus is on advocating for MINer at DCPS and city level, and with our peer schools. One of the current big, widespread issues is a lack of classroom technology.
- **Facilities & Grounds:** maintains a tracking list of issues to work with the school administrators, as well as push DGS to complete.

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- Family Engagement & Events: seeking volunteers. Planning Oktoberfest on Oct 31 - meeting September 12 at 5:45 in the Parent Resource Center (103).
- Family Support: the School's social workers have identified uniform sizes that need replenishment, so the PTO will be purchasing these.
- Fundraising & Grants: no additional report

If you are interested in joining any of the PTO's committees, please add your name and contact information to the sign up sheets.

### Upcoming Events, Reminders & Opportunities

Reviewed the list of upcoming events as displayed on the main page of the school's website. Previewed Walk-to-School-Day, which will be held Wednesday, October 10 in Lincoln Park.

### Reminders & Opportunities

Community Engagement Committee is seeking for a permanent chairperson and someone to serve as Miner's representative to the Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO).

Communications Committee is seeking a Graphic Designer

Requirements for volunteering during school hours: DCPS clearance required, consisting of application, fingerprinting, and TB test (free testing at HOYA Clinic at DC General [hoyaclinic.som.georgetown.edu/](http://hoyaclinic.som.georgetown.edu/))

### Special Election Results

Thank you to Derek Herr, the PTO's Treasurer for SY17-18. And thank you to all the candidates. Ryan Cahill is elected treasurer. Congratulations Ryan!

### Open Comments/Discussion

The turnout for the Grandparents Day breakfast was four-times what was expected. The school received around 25 RSVPs, they planned food for 50, and more than 100 guests attended!

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.